**SEIGHFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON 21 SEPT 2020**

Present: Cllr David Price (Chair) joined meeting during item 3

Cllr John Busby Cllr Mark Turnbull

Cllr Carole Allen

Cllr Neil Brown

Cllr Mark Hodgkins

In attendance: Cllr Jeremy Pert County Councillor

Cllr Mark Winnington County/Borough Councillor

Teresa Merchant-Murphy Clerk

1 member of the public

28/09/01: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES, RECORD ABSENCES

Cllr Ray Sutherland, Borough Councillor.

28/9/02: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

1. None were declared.
2. No written requests for dispensations had been received.

28/09/03: PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Mr Jacques again outlined the problem regarding visitors parking in Derrington for access to the Millennium Green, Duddas Wood and the Greenway with the loss of parking at the Red Lion pub. Mr Jacques requested that Cllr Sutherland confirm whether the rental of Cllr Busby’s land for car parking is being investigated and informed the Council that Cllr Farrington had been sent relevant information and was awaiting a response.

Cllr Winnington stated that until parking was made available the Borough Council would not consider putting white lines in the village.

The Chair joined meeting after encountering problems with Zoom technology.

Cllr Winnington agreed to contact Mike Clements and Ray Sutherland for an update.

The Chair thanked Mr Jacques for his continued input on this matter.

28/09/04: UPDATES FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Borough Cllr Winnington provided the following updates:

* Council’s business continues much as usual but we should expect a lockdown sooner rather than later
* The County Council las provided £300k for drainage issues, any gully or drainage problem please report to Cllr Winnington via the Clerk.

County Cllr Pert provided the following updates:

* Following a Covid outbreak in Stone the Parish Council are urged to think about what we would do in the event of an outbreak
* The end of October marks the end of furlough and with it brings serious economic impact. This will particularly harm those in unstable employment, for example zero hours contracts and the Parish Council are being encouraged to reach out to those members of their communities
* In order to avoid a serious ‘flu epidemic members of our communities should be encouraged to have a ‘flu jab. The Clerk agreed to put this message on the website
* As regards the County Council £2m funding is being provided for the problem of flooding of highways. This is a particular problem for Eccleshall Division and something that Cllr Pert has lobbied hard for
* Stafford Borough and Newcastle are currently trialling a Cycleways and EScooter scheme
* Councillors are urged to virtually attend the Parish Forum later this week where discussion will include the new Planning Framework and Local Government Re-organisation.

The Chair requested that some of the £2m funding be used for another grass cut across the Parish where grass is very long, is an eyesore and is a precursor to a future flooding issue. Cllr Pert assured the Parish Council that there would be an extra cut as requested and he would take this matter up and report back in writing in due course.

Cllr Winnington remarked that there are lots of drainage problems and it was necessary to lobby hard to get money into rural areas and the Chair reminded others of the huge deluge experienced in August so priority needs to be given to housing and businesses.

28/09/05 MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

1. The minutes of the meeting of the 28th July were accepted as a true record and would be signed by the Chair

The Clerk was thanked for her very comprehensive minutes

1. With reference to minute 20/07/08 d) inspection of playground equipment, the Chair had sought advice from Alan Dymond, Playground Inspector, as to the format of the inspection proforma. Once this has been adapted a roster for members will be drawn up and sent by the Clerk to the relevant Councillor and returned to the Clerk following said inspection.

28/09/06: PLANNING MATTERS

1. 20/32806/HOU – White Hart Farm, Eccleshall Road, Great Bridgeford. There had been no objection to this original planning application however this has been superseded by 20/32806/FUL – “Demolition of existing structure that have fallen into disrepair with new replacement structure and roof to match host dwelling”. Cllr Hodgkins commented that the building had been made 1.5 metres taller with cavity insulation for a 3-bay garage. The Chair said these were matters for Building Control and Enforcement but it was agreed that the Clerk would request more information for consideration
2. 20/32939/POTH – Occupation Bridge, Great Bridgeford. No objections had been raised and this was unanimously agreed
3. 20/32456/HOU – Worston Hall, Worston Lane, Stafford. No objections had been raised and this was unanimously agreed

28/09/07: CAR PARKING IN CHURCH LANE AND MEADOW LANE, DERRINGTON

Cllr Busby gave a report to the Council on the meeting he attended in Derrington on 14th August 2020 attended by 2 members of Stafford Borough Council, 2 other Parish Councillors and 2 residents. At the meeting Cllr Sutherland had outline six options:

1. Do nothing
2. To provide carparking on the Playing Field by removing part of the hedge
3. To provide carparking on the County Council land opposite the sewage works
4. To provide carparking on Duddas Wood
5. To provide carparking on the Millennium Green
6. To provide carparking on Cllr Busby’s land opposite the former Red Lion pub.

The Millennium Green Trustees Chairman stated that he would confirm in writing the Trustees’ proposals for resolving the carparking problem.

A total of 20-30 cars have been observed parked on Church Lane. The concerns of the residents are well understood.

28/09/08: CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

1. The Chair was pleased to report that the Derrington play equipment had been repaired, benches painted and weeding completed and that this was an excellent community effort which was to be congratulated. Thanks were given to Mr Wood, Mr Vincent, Mr and Mrs Sammons and Cllr Busby for their work and also to Cllr Busby’s men for undertaking the welding needed. Cllr Busby reported that the area was getting lots of use. Whilst the Great Bridgeford site is not ready yet the Chair reported that excellent work had been done by Cllrs Brown and Turnbull but that he had been unable to help due to his wife’s temporary incapacity
2. The Chair reported that the speed signs were installed in Great Bridgeford two years ago but recently once set of batteries was only holding the charge for 1-2 days instead of the 6-7 days previously. The French manufacturer has agreed to supply 2 more batteries free of charge and carriage free to be sent to Madeley Parish Council alongside their order. The signs could be converted to solar power at a cost of £550 with the devices needing to go back to France and the support posts would need to be changed. The Chair had found replacement batteries on Amazon for £53.99 each making a total of £107.98 with free delivery. This last proposal was unanimously agreed. The Chair reported that he would be looking to hand over the duty for the speed signs to another Councillor in December 2020
3. The Chair reported that the issue of The Green, Seighford and the S106 Agreement has been unresolved for 4 years. One email has been received from Mr Holmes after some chasing from Cllr Farrington
4. The Chair asked Cllr Winnington whether the Parish Council could independently ask for the services of the Speed Safety van once a week. Responding Cllr Winnington said that he has been trying to get one deployed himself but the circumstances do not fit the criteria, i.e., there has to have been a road traffic accident. Cllr Winnington said the protocol for engaging the Safety Road Partnership team was to make a joint application through the relevant County Councillor
5. Cllr Winnington stated that the full stretch of the Millennium Trail from Derrington to Gnosall has been mowed and asked for feedback on this
6. The Chair reported that last year Dr Jonathan Sturgess, webmaster for the Great Bridgeford site, was nominated for the SBC Community Awards. This year’s application form needs to be submitted by 23rd October and nominations are asked to be submitted to the Chair who will be happy to help with the application form
7. Following the circulation from Cllr Pert of the “New Volunteering Roles in Staffordshire” Cllr Turnbull had planned a Local Litter Pick on Great Bridgeford however this was prevented by the lockdown. The Chair asked whether anyone can organise a Litter Pick on Seighford and Derrington. Cllr Hodgkins agreed to ask those dog walkers in the village to take part and Cllr Allen reported that groups regularly do this in Derrington.

28/9/09 CLERKS REPORT

1. Laminated dog waste signs will be distributed to Cllrs Turnbull and Busby
2. A copy of the GDPR review completed by the previous Clerk has been found and appears to be in order
3. The new website was not progressed by the previous Clerk it is therefore a work in progress. The Clerk will draw up an Action Plan which can be published on the existing Great Bridgeford site along with further information of its ongoing development
4. A letter of thanks was sent to Mr Sammons for his work in securing and unlocking the playground. Thanks should also have been extended to Mrs Sammons
5. The Clerk has received no response from Parish Online concerning signing up for the 90-day trial. A further request will be sent
6. The Clerk has to date received no information regarding the noise nuisance created by the DriveMe site. Cllr Brown reported that the site had now changed hands.

28/09/10 PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORT

* Cllr Allen said an excellent job had been done by Cllr Busby and others on the play equipment and that the area is well used
* Cllr Busby said he had enjoyed the work and that play bark was going down on Wednesday 23rd. He raised concern over the removal of the post box at the end of Church Lane and how far the elderly would have to walk to another one. He had also received complaints about the state of the bus shelter
* Cllr Winnington said the post box had been removed by stealth and as Royal Mail were now a private company it is unlikely the decision will be reversed
* Cllrs Hodgkins and Brown had nothing to report
* Cllr Turnbull asked whether with regard to the criteria for the deployment of the Speed Safety Van whether “near misses” count. Cllr Winnington said they do not
* The Chair reported that dog waste was found on Great Bridgeford playing field. The matter was taken up with Stafford Falcons who use the field on Thursday evenings. None of the group had dogs present. The Chair has requested another grass cut on Eccleshall Road as the likelihood this will block drains. A complaint has been received regarding pot holes and loose stone at the junction of Main Road, Seighford and the Clanford Road. This complaint has been registered with the County Council.

28/09/11 CO-OPT COUNCILLORS IN LIGHT OF VACANCIES

Cllr Winnington asked the Chair for permission to leave. This was granted.

1. Cllr Busby suggested a letter drop, The Chair reported he could get some printed through the Church just for the cost of the paper and that he would draft something which could be dropped to the whole of Derrington ward, a total of 380 houses. This was unanimously agreed.

28/09/12 PARISH FINANCES

1. The Clerk had sent an update of expenditure to budget to Councillors. This was accepted
2. The following were submitted for approval for payment:
3. **Payments approved and made prior to meeting :-**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Details** | Total | VAT incl. |
| Staffs Parish Councils Assoc | Creating Accessible Documents Course – 11.08.20 | 40.00 |  |
| Kerry Turner | Salary for July 2020 | 133.02 |  |
| Autela Payroll Services | April – June 2020 | 60.24 | 10.04 |
| Teresa MM | Salary for 16/7/ - 31/8/2020 | 343.04 |  |

1. **Payments to be approved for payment :-**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Details** | Total | VAT incl. |
| Staffs Parish Councils Assoc | Councillor Fundamentals Course – 20.08.20 | 25.00 |  |
| Office Costs – Teresa MM | Zoom, stamps, mileage etc., | 58.51 | 4.80 |
| Salary Teresa MM | September salary plus back dated pay award | 254.80 |  |
| HMRC | PAYE for Qtr 2 | 136.40 |  |

All payments were unanimously approved

1. The Clerk reported that there had been a delay by Lloyds in changing over the Clerk’s contact details but this had now been rectified. The bank reconciliation was accepted.

28/09/13 CLERK TRAINING COURSES

The approval of the Budgets and Precepts course on the 29th September was approved.

28/09/14 COUNCILLOR TRAINING SCHEME

Cllr Allen undertook the Councillors Fundamentals training course on the 29th August and stated that the course was very good. Approval for this training course was agreed.

28/09/15 NEXT MEETING

1. Cllr Busby requested to add update on Seighford Hall to next agenda
2. The Chair stated that it was necessary to still meet virtually probably until Spring 2021. The next meeting is on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm. Cllrs were reminded about the on-line Parish Forum meeting this Thursday at 7pm.

28/9/16 MEETING CLOSE

As there was no further business the Chair thanked the Councillors and the Clerk and declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.