

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors M. Nott (Chairman), S. Cumella (Vice Chairman), P. Weddell-Hall, M. Rushgrove, M. Gardner, G. Wroe, S. Watt.

Also present: District Cllr B. Jones-Williams, Neil Pearce (Avon Planning Services) and 7 members of the public.

149.21 Apologies: Councillor R. Bray, Councillor J. Dale, County Councillor P. Grove.

150.21 Declarations of Interests: None.

Democratic Period/Public Time: The following matters were raised –

- Age UK is to set up a Dementia Meeting Centre at Nora Parsons Centre and would appreciate any funding contribution the PC could make. Formal application to follow.
- The Conservative Party Campaigner for Hallow Ward in May elections introduced himself as Scott Richardson-Brown.

151.21 Minutes of a virtual meeting held 1st February 2021: The minutes were amended as follows – (141.21.01) Cllr Cumella to do a draft response after the next meeting. The meeting also started at 7pm. Further to the amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Weddell-Hall, seconded Cllr Gardner. All agreed.

(At 7.40 pm the Chairman suspended the meeting to enable the removal of an additional x8 disruptive members of the public who had 'zoom bombed' the meeting. The meeting resumed at 7.45 pm)

152.21 County & District Councillor Reports: Reports were circulated and will be uploaded to the website. District matters raised were –

- Concern re the Fir tree in St Peter's Drive noted
- Council Tax 2021-22 – increase £5.00 per year at Band D
- Census 2021
- Business Support funding extended to end March 2021

153.21 Updates:

153.21.01 Recreation Field – the Football agreement is now fully signed. The Cricket agreement now needs to be progressed and the Clerk will draft and circulate to Cllrs Wroe and Gardner initially.

153.21.02 Burial Ground – there is a need to formalise the mowing agreement and the Clerk will obtain quotes for consideration at the next meeting. There has also been concern raised about dogs running loose on the site and the Clerk was asked to arrange signage to ask owners to keep dogs on a lead and pick up after them.

153.21.03 New Signage – R. Wilks is dealing with this for the PC.

Signed.....

Date

153.21.04 Website Photographic Competition: A number of images have been received this month and it was agreed that Councillors email the Clerk with their preferences asap.

154.21 Strategic Planning Matters: Cllr Cumella updated the meeting re the SWDPR meeting attached via MHDC. The revised version timetable has been put back due to Covid-19 and any submissions made to the previous draft will need to be resubmitted. Cllr Cumella explained the current situation and what the PC will need to consider prior to the deadline of October. The focus seems to be on development around transport hubs e.g., Strensham. The PC will need to produce comments on the sustainability appraisal which is a long and complex document. Cllr Cumella agreed to draft a response and circulate for comment.

155.21 Planning Matters:

155.21.01 Applications received / considered –

- 20/01963/OUT – land at (OS 7499 5981) Berrow Green Rd, Martley – outline application with all matters reserved (except for access) for the erection of up to 60 dwellings, including 50% affordable homes, up to 10 self-build plots and a doctor’s surgery together with ancillary works. The Agent for the Developer was invited to speak to the meeting and responded to questions raised by the PC. Comments submitted to the PC by the Public were also considered. It was then proposed by Cllr Cumella, seconded by Cllr Weddell-Hall that the PC objects to the development and that Cllr Cumella draft a full response to be circulated after the meeting for approval. All agreed. Objections to be based on –
 - Damage to an important and valued environmental asset.
 - The application would not constitute ‘sustainable development’.
 - There is no local need for this number of new dwellings.
 - The access road would constitute a traffic hazard.
 - The proposed new surgery is inappropriate.

(Cllr Watt to approve by email after the meeting due to internet failure.) D. Cllr Jones-Williams reiterated concern about the lack of crossing by the schools which had previously been raised with Worcs CC and which may need to be pursued again subject to any development approval.

155.21.02 Notifications received –

- 20/02028/HP – approval for proposed carport at 2 Church Steps, Martley WR6 6QA
- 20/01809/HP - approval for single storey front and rear extensions, fenestration alterations to first floor and render to front, at 14 Mortlake Drive, Martley WR6 6QU

156.21 Capital Projects: Cllr Watt reminded the meeting of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group, including remodelling and improving the sports pavilion. Pre-planning advice and public consultation are now needed to move forward, with the initial drawings to be done in the near future. It remains a challenge to find potential additional recreation land in the village and options were discussed re renting land from a local landowner. Cllr Watt also agreed to build links with the Chantry School re field rental options if needed.

157.21 Financial & Governance Matters:

157.21.01 Payments were agreed as per the schedule circulated by the Clerk with the additional payment to R. Wilks added and the payment to G. Griffiths removed. Proposed Cllr Gardner, seconded Cllr Wroe. All agreed.

157.21.02 Annual Parish Meeting – it was agreed that the meeting would be held on 3rd May at 7pm prior to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed.....

Date

158.21 Highways Matters:

158.21.01 The Lengthsman was asked to continue regular general maintenance tasks as the village seemed to be more untidy than usual. It was agreed that an annual maintenance plan would be drafted by Cllrs Gardner, Rushgrove, Cumella and Watt and that the Clerk should circulate an example of a plan prior to a walk-about being arranged.

158.21.02 Car parking along the main road by the recreation field and village hall – further to recent communication with Highways, the Clerk has arranged a meeting with Highways, Cllr Watt, Cllr Gardner and District Cllr Jones-Williams. Report to the next meeting.

158.21.03 Litter-picking community date to be arranged by Cllr Gardner. Cllr Nott has the equipment.

158.21.04 Road closure notices noted as circulated.

159.21 Parish Matters:

159.21.01 Community Speed Watch – the Clerk is to contact the Scheme Co-ordinator for further information about current criteria.

159.21.02 Village Hall White Lines – the Clerk is progressing with the Village Hall Committee re options via the Chantry School. Divisional funding of £700 had been received from County Cllr Grove who was thanked for the amount given towards this project.

159.21.03 School Crossing Escort – it was agreed that the Clerk should readvertise the role via Facebook and the website.

159.21.04 Skate Park – it was noted that it had been very busy lately.

159.21.05 Vehicle Activated Signage – the Clerk was asked to check re data download options via R. Wilks and suppliers.

160.21 Correspondence Received: A letter had been received via Cllr Rushgrove, which was noted. Cllr Rushgrove agreed to respond directly.

161.21 Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:

161.21.01 Cllr Gardner asked if the Clerk could look at pest control of moles on the recreation field.

161.21.02 Litter picking – the meeting discussed how best to do this during Covid restrictions, and it was agreed to ask residents to take part along the verges / hedges in front of their own homes. Clerk to place a notice in the Villager etc and report any hotspots to MHDC via the portal.

162.21 Date of next meeting: a virtual meeting will be held on Mon 5th April at 19:30

Meeting closed 21:05

M. Alexander
Clerk

Signed.....

Date