



Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors M. Nott (Chairman), S. Cumella (Vice Chairman), M. Rushgrove, M. Gardner, G. Wroe, R. Bray, S. Watt.

Also present: District Cllr B. Jones-Williams and 1 member of the public.

163.21 Apologies: Councillors P. Weddell-Hall, J. Dale, County Councillor P. Grove.

164.21 Declarations of Interests: Cllr Bray – all matters relating to land development at Kingswood Lane.

Democratic Period/Public Time: No matters were raised to the meeting.

165.21 Minutes of a virtual meeting held 1st March 2021: Cllr Cumella asked for 154.21 to read Parkway and not Strensham as minuted – agreed. The minutes were then agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Cumella, seconded Cllr Wroe. All agreed.

166.21 County & District Councillor Reports: Reports were circulated and will be uploaded to the website. District matters raised at the meeting were – MHDC Ward budget has been allocated and applications will be assessed according to criteria. There is still support for those self-isolating via MHDC and Central Government funding. 14th June sees the launch of a scheme to help tackle loneliness – this is a Worcs CC Public Health initiative – ‘Stay Connected Pledge’.

167.21 Updates:

167.21.01 Recreation Field –

- Cllr Wroe reported on an email received which complained about behaviour and car parking during football matches. The Clerk was asked to circulate the email to Members for information and to raise the matters in writing with the Football Committee asap. The F.A. may also be asked to intervene if matters did not improve. It was also noted that there were still sharp edges on the green container and the Clerk was asked to chase this up with the Footballers as well.
- The Council also noted an article in The Villager magazine recently relating to football usage on the field to which a response will be drafted for approval.
- The RoSPA report for 2021 was noted and matters will be raised with R. Wilks re repairs needed – Clerk to action.
- A request had been received from the Rounders Team, to use the field on Thursday evenings between 13th May and end August. The request was approved, and the Clerk was asked to confirm their agreement with them asap.
- The Cricket Club had asked for permission to raise their team flag on the flagpole and to site a small shed in the corner of the field for use as storage and a scoring board. The request was approved, and the Clerk was asked to confirm this asap with the Club.

167.21.02 Burial Ground – the Clerk had circulated a quote received from RJC Landscaping & Garden Services for burial ground mowing and maintenance. Despite requests to tender, no further quotes had been submitted. The Council agreed to give the contract to RJC, and the Clerk was asked to confirm this with them asap.

Signed.....

Date

The Clerk had arranged new signage for the burial ground in response to concerns about dog walking / fouling and these will be erected shortly. Cllr Bray suggested that in future the Council may wish to consider fencing off the consecrated ground to stop any dog fouling on graves.

168.21 Strategic Planning Matters: Cllr Cumella had circulated a draft response to the Sustainability Appraisal which was approved. Proposed Cllr Gardner, seconded Cllr Wroe, all agreed.

169.21 Planning Matters: There were no applications for consideration and no planning notifications. The Chair reported about an email received from Wichenford PC regarding some development proposed within our parish boundary and it was agreed that it should be monitored as no application had yet been received. Clerk to circulate the email to all for information.

170.21 Capital Projects: Cllr Watt informed the meeting that the group would be meeting with G. Coombey-Jones on 14th April re outline drawings for the pavilion. The Clerk has actioned the confirmation of his appointment as previously agreed.

171.21 Financial & Governance Matters:

171.21.01 Payments were agreed as per the schedule circulated by the Clerk with the additional payment of £31.10 for Scottish Power added. Proposed Cllr Gardner, seconded Cllr Wroe. All agreed.

171.21.02 Annual Parish Meeting – it was noted that the meeting would be held on 3rd May at 7pm prior to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk to advertise locally.

171.21.03 Clerks resignation – it was noted that the Clerk needed to resign due to unforeseen family commitments. It was agreed to draft an advert asap and send to CALC, The Villager and place on Facebook. It was agreed that the Staffing Committee is now Cllrs Wroe, Cumella and Gardner. *(Since the meeting, the Clerk has revoked her resignation by agreement with the Council.)*

172.21 Highways Matters:

172.21.01 Cllr Rushgrove reported a wasp nest at Hollins Lane, but it was agreed that this should be reported to MHDC Street Team as this was not a Lengthsman task.

172.21.02 The Lengthsman Scheme for 2021-22 was approved. Clerk to sign the agreement and return to Worcs CC. It was noted that the Council may wish to review the scheme in 2022-23.

173.21 Parish Matters:

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

173.21.02 School Crossing Escort – it was agreed that the Clerk should continue to re-advertise the role via Facebook and the website. No response to date.

173.21.03 Vehicle Activated Signage – the Clerk has asked re data download options via R. Wilks and suppliers, and it appears to be possible to get data from the vas to a laptop. Clerk to liaise with R. Wilks.

173.21.04 Village Maintenance Plan – Cllr Watt has collated all responses received to date and circulated to the Council. The Clerk was asked to post a thank you on Facebook to all those who have responded. The Clerk will separate out the comments made into who is responsible e.g., Highways, MHDC, PC etc. It was noted that The Crown remains an Asset of Community Value until 2023 and concern was raised about H&S and the lack of on-site progress currently. The car park has been used by parishioners for so long, is it now considered a ‘public space’? The Clerk was asked to contact the owner and ask for an update.

173.21.05 Website Photographic Competition – the Clerk will circulate all April images for consideration.

174.21 Correspondence Received: None.

Signed.....

Date

175.21 Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:

175.21.01 Cllr Cumella commented that the 'Walkers are Welcome' report which had been received from J. Nicklin, showed some very good work done by the Path-or-Nones across the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply and thank them for their work. Cllr Bray also thanked the group for the litter picking which had been done locally.

175.21.02 Cllr Rushgrove reported concern about parking outside the Village Hall by the Zumba group and the Clerk was asked to remind them to park considerately please. Cllr Gardner asked the Clerk to send a template 'Polite Notice' to all Members so they could be used on parked cars when appropriate.

175.21.03 Cllr Nott asked the Clerk to report an overflowing litter bin on the Ankerdine layby.

176.21 Councillor Resignations: The Chairman had accepted the written resignation from Cllr Janet Dale, with immediate effect, and asked the Clerk to notify MHDC accordingly.

The Chairman, Cllr Mike Nott, also gave his resignation to the meeting with immediate effect. The Council accepted his resignation and asked the Clerk to notify MHDC accordingly.

The Council thanked both Councillors for their excellent work for the community over the years and wished them both well for the future. It was agreed that Vice Chairman Stuart Cumella is Acting Chairman until the annual meeting on 3rd May when a new Chairman will be elected.

177.21 Date of next meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held Mon 3rd May at 19:00, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 19:30.

Meeting closed 20:40

M. Alexander
Clerk

Signed.....

Date