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Minutes

Minutes of the video conferenced meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday **January 18th, 2021** at 7pm.

Present

Cllrs Body (Chairman), Hipwell, Shaw, White, Wilkie and Vining. Also in attendance were District Cllr Godwin Pearson, County Cllr Filmer and the Parish Clerk, Mrs H Marshall. There were no members of the public present.

01/21 Apologies: None

02/21 The Chairman reported that Paula Winsor had resigned from the Council due to personal reasons. Members were saddened and shocked by her resignation.

03/21 Declarations of Interest None.

04/21 Minutes of the Video Conferenced Parish Council Meeting held on Monday November 16th 2020. Copies having been circulated, the Minutes were taken as read and approved as a true record. The January Records of decisions taken under the business continuity motion, having been circulated were taken as read and approved as a true record.

05/21 County Councillor's report Matters discussed included: High Coronavirus numbers locally; vaccinations and new site at the Bath and West Showground; Connecting Devon and Somerset have selected Truespeed to meet the provision of broadband throughout the County and District, Truespeed will not use the cables that Gigaclear installed; District Council staff duties have been reallocated to deal with the pandemic; need to exercise locally and follow the rules during the pandemic; the extended recycling collections are expected to be introduced during the next 18 months. It was discussed that members of the public are travelling to exercise dogs locally, County Cllr Filmer will investigate the regulations. The Chairman thanked the County Cllr.

06/21 District Councillor's report Matters discussed included: the importance of vigilance during the pandemic, and to ensure the vulnerable receive the vaccine; recycling centre at Highbridge is open for essential visits; a new period of grants for businesses, the District Cllr is trying to make a case to include the self employed without premises. The Chairman thanked the District Cllr.

07/21 Local government reform: It was discussed with the County and District Cllrs that meaningful consultation cannot take place during the pandemic. It was noted that the process may need to be online. Cllrs were concerned that the take up may be lower due to the demographic of the area and poor internet connection.

County Cllr Filmer left the meeting for the following item:

08/21 Planning application 20/03/00018 was discussed including: public and consultee responses; additional photos supplied by the applicant; similar development in the vicinity; no objections.

Resolution: Recommend support. Unanimous.

County Cllr Filmer rejoined the meeting.

Enforcement: An anonymous complaint was discussed. The recent decision by the Council regarding anonymous complaints was reviewed and a draft enforcement policy will be considered at the next meeting to address issues raised regarding anonymity and fear of reprisal.

09/21 Community matters: Coronavirus updates were discussed in items 5/21 and 6/21.

Census: The Council noted the importance of promoting the census to encourage as many people as possible to complete the census to provide complete information to support funding requests to ensure that groups get the support they deserve. **Request for a dog bin, Biddisham Lane:** matters discussed included anti-social behaviour, the importance of the correct location, proximity to homes, the cost, and the budget.

Resolution: A satisfactory location could not be agreed. There were concerns over the lack of resources. It was agreed that members of the public should continue to take personal responsibility for their dogs. Members will keep the matter under review.

Village design statement, stables, and equine development: The Council had been contacted by a neighbouring Parish regarding the approach to stables and equine development in the Parish. Cllr Hipwell will contact the neighbouring Parish Councillor and will report back. **RLT2 funds:** Following a request from the District Council to donate the remainder of the Parish RLT2 funds before the scheme ends, the Council considered instead supporting an application from the play area at the Schoolrooms in Badgworth which would benefit many children and would keep the funds in the Parish. **Footpath AX21/3;** National Grid contacted the Council in December to notify them of damage to the path near where they were working, towards the end of Biddisham Lane. The information was passed to the community. A letter subsequently received from a member of the public was circulated and discussed, National Grid had responded to the letter directly. The Council confirmed that the damage was reported to Somerset County Council, who in turn contacted the Environment Agency. The County Council and National Grid will update the Council in due course, and the Council will monitor the situation. **Litter pick 2021** The Council decided not to make arrangements for a pick this year due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. **Somerset Climate Emergency Fund:** the decision regarding the application for Biddisham Hall is delayed as the County Council focus on the pandemic. **Biddisham hall:** The hall Committee have generously responded to a request by the police to use the hall as a 'satellite stop' to work while they are in the area.

10/21 Highways Cllr Vining reported that the Drainage Board will not be able to take any action on the bridge on Biddisham Lane for at least 3 months. No further updates were received. It was raised that a security light at the top of Biddisham Lane is causing a problem for drivers exiting the lane. The Chairman offered to contact the owners of the light to bring the matter to their attention. The Clerk is to draft a letter.

Cllr White left the meeting.

11/21 Jubilee Field and Memorial Field Jubilee Field: No issues were raised at either field. The Covid risk assessment was reviewed and updated in light of the new lockdown. The Clerk is to contact the Schoolroom Management Committee to ask if they could report their safety checks to the Council as part of the Councils safety inspections.

12/21 Crime report and policing update: No matters were reported. Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

13/21 Planning: The Planning Report was reviewed. There were no updates.

14/21 Correspondence: All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council.

15/21 Finance

- i. The January financial statement, having been circulated, was approved as a true record. The refund of unspent grant monies in the amount of £37.50, and thanks for the grant, were received from St John the Baptist Church, Biddisham.
- ii. The Payments Schedule was approved.
DD Clerks Salary and Mileage November £443.67
Chq 828 Jon Sealey & Sons Ltd £189.00
- iii. The Switch banking offer was reviewed. The offers from Metro Bank and CoOp Bank were not available, as the Council did not meet the criteria for the Community Account offer. In addition, the Coop Bank were not accepting new accounts at the moment. The Council considered this matter closed and noted that the offer of money is not in itself a sound reason to change banks.
- iv. Grant requests were deferred to the next meeting.

16/21 Member's Points of Information: The matter of a blocked footpath in Biddisham adjacent to the A38 was raised. The access has been closed due to members of the public leaving the gate open. The County footpaths Officer has arranged to provide a Bristol gate but does not have the resources available to fit the gate. The Council discussed that the current situation is a safety hazard for users.

Resolution: To donate up to £100 for the footpaths officer to arrange for the gate to be fitted as soon as possible. Unanimous.

17/21 Items for the Parish Magazine/Social Media: None. The Council noted that Contact magazine is not running at present.

18/21 Date of next Meeting: 22nd February 2021

Meeting Closed at 21.33

Signed F Body (Chairman)

Date