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## Minutes

Minutes of the video conferenced meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021** at 7pm.

### **Present**

Cllrs Body (Chairman), Shaw, White, Wilkie and Vining. Also in attendance were District Cllr Godwin Pearson, County Cllr Filmer and the Parish Clerk, Mrs H Marshall. 1 member of the public was present.

Public participation was deferred to the Community Matters item to allow the County and District Cllrs to leave early to attend further meetings.

**19/21 Apologies:** None

**20/21 Declarations of Interest** None.

**21/21 Minutes** of the Video Conferenced Parish Council Meeting held on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. Copies having been circulated, the Minutes were taken as read and approved as a true record for signature at a later date.

**22/21 County Councillor's report** Matters discussed included: Coronavirus rates continue to improve, but government restrictions must continue to be followed, and caution was urged due to Covid variants; vaccination programs continue; the budget, the increase in adult and children's social care provision, a rise of 2% in basic Council tax; the upcoming Census and the need for the data to inform funding requests; an expected 8-week consultation phase on the transition to a Unitary Authority is expected in late February. There were no questions. The Chairman thanked the County Cllr.

County Cllr Filmer left the meeting to attend further meetings.

**23/21 District Councillor's report** Matters discussed included: The budget, which was signed off unanimously, a £5 increase on the precept and ring-fenced projects such as new generation projects, ASBs in Cheddar, and the Climate Emergency Fund; warnings about vaccine frauds – payment will never be requested, and council tax refunds – these will only be by letter not phone; the availability of funds by the grants committee. The Chairman thanked the District Cllr.

**24/21 Local government reform:** Consultation phase as reported by the County Cllr above.

**25/21 Community matters: RLT2 Funds and Outdoor Table Tennis Table** A member of the Badgworth Schoolrooms Play Area Committee discussed the following matters: the desire for a low maintenance table tennis table that could be enjoyed by different age groups and would contribute to the community enjoyment of the play area; the quote, the supplier and existing equipment at the play area; the construction of the table and the cost of more expensive alternatives. The proposal was outlined, and the Council's support was requested.

District Cllr Godwin Pearson left the meeting to attend further meetings but asked to be kept updated on the project.

Members discussed the project including the following matters: the grant conditions, the closure of the scheme and the funds available to the Parish; the quote, outlay prior to any grant funding being released and the funds available to the Council; a plaque marking the gift; confirmation that the committee would accept the gift outright; the proposed location, the quote and the suppliers of the existing equipment in the play area.

**Resolution:** To apply to the RLT2 fund to purchase and install the outdoor table tennis table. To gift the table to the Committee. To add a plaque, if possible, commemorating the gift. Unanimous.

An initial enquiry from a resident of Biddisham regarding a potential play area in The Memorial Field was noted. It was discussed that should the resident wish to take the matter forward, the field covenant should be consulted to see if such development were permitted.

**Coronavirus updates** were discussed in item 23/21. **Footpath AX21/3:** a closure notice from the County Council, due to the collapse of the path, was noted; **Badgworth Layby and anti-social behaviour;** continuing problems with the area being used as a toilet, most probably by lorry drivers parking overnight, are getting worse. CCTV was discussed, but not considered practical; littering of the hedges was noted, although the bins are not full.

Guidance from County Cllr Filmer to contact the director of environmental services at Sedgemoor has been actioned and a response is awaited. It was suggested that there must be other laybys with similar issues which may lead to a collective solution. **Thanks** from the footpaths officer for a donation towards the hanging of a gate to repair access to a parish path in Biddisham was noted. The **Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings Regulations 2020** regulations which cease on the 6<sup>th</sup> May were discussed including the following matters: face to face meetings, vaccines and the continued spread of the virus; holding the **Annual Parish Meeting** and protecting residents, need to be cautious; sense of responsibility; extension of the regulations.

**Resolution:** Hold the Annual Parish Meeting remotely in March. Contact our MP and request an extension to protect Cllrs Clerk and residents until we go about business as usual.

**Tarnock layby:** the wall has been rebuilt and appears completed. **Somerset Climate**

**Emergency Fund:** Further information requested by the fund manager has been submitted.

**26/21 Highways.** Temporary road closures on White House Lane Highbridge 8<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Upper New Road Cheddar 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, were noted.

**27/21 Jubilee Field and Memorial Field** No issues were raised at either field. Jubilee Field: The Schoolroom Management Committee will include the Jubilee Field in their regular checks and will copy the reports to the Council at the end of the year. The reports will take place at least monthly, issues will be reported to Council. The Council were happy with the arrangements.

**28/21 Crime report and policing update:** No matters were reported. Crime figures in the Parish were updated.

**29/21 Planning:** The Planning Report was reviewed. There were no updates.

**Resolution:** Delegate completion of the Model design Code consultation to Cllrs Hipwell, Shaw and Wilkie, the Village Design Statement group.

**30/21 Correspondence:** All correspondence was brought to the attention of the Council. Cllr Shaw and the Clerk will attend the Somerset Association of Local Councils Mental health event on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cllr Wilkie will attend the CPRE AGM.

Cllr White left the meeting due to the discomfort of attending by phone for such a long period of time.

**31/21 Finance**

- i. The February financial statement, having been circulated, was approved as a true record.
- ii. The Payments Schedule was approved.  
DD Clerks Salary and Mileage December 20 £443.67  
Rapide System Supplies Ltd £14.34  
DD Clerks Salary and Mileage January 21 £443.67  
Clerks Expenses February 21 £36.00
- iii. Grant requests were discussed, and it was decided not to make any further grants this year.

**32/21 Member's Points of Information:** Footpaths along the A38 were discussed. It was agreed that residents have made a real difference by cutting back hedges by footpaths.

**33/21 Items for the Parish Magazine/Social Media:** Vacancy for a Councillor

**34/21 Date of next Meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021; Annual Parish Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Meeting Closed at 20.42

Signed F Body Chairman      Date