

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020 at 7pm

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

PRESENT: Cllr Pat Woodfield (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Briggs, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Andrew Gough, Cllr Sophie Hopkin, Cllr John Newsome, Cllr Richard Pannell, Cllr Daniel Raynor, Cllr Colin Starke, Cllr Charles Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Helen Greensmith (GBC, part), Cllr Boyd Elliott (NCC, part), Averil Marczak (Clerk). 3 residents/members of the public observed all or part of the meeting.

4062. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Paul Berrisford.

4063. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No additional interests declared.

4064. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Sophie Hopkin and Richard Pannell to the vacant seats on the PC. The 2 new councillors accepted their office verbally and joined the meeting. The Clerk would arrange to collect the signed declarations of acceptance of office.

4065. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meetings held on 21st July and 14th August were approved.

4066. REMEMBERING GEOFF PARKINSON AND JOHN BOOT

The Chairman noted with sadness that 2 long serving and distinguished members of the Parish Council had died. Cllr Andrew Gough led the tributes, noting that both Geoff and John had been a great asset to WPC, and valued residents who would be greatly missed by friends and family. Geoff had brought his legal expertise to WPC's deliberations as well as a great sense of humour. John also served for many years as a Gedling Borough Councillor and his knowledge of the Borough Council's workings made him invaluable to WPC. WPC's condolences to both families were noted.

4067. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her hard work during an unusually busy summer.

4068. FLOOD SCHEME UPDATE

The Clerk had circulated a letter that Mark Spencer MP had received from the Environment Agency regarding flood mitigation and Cllr Charles-Jones explained further, following a lengthy conversation with an EA officer. The EA had successfully bid for funds to carry out a new appraisal of Woodborough to be completed by 31/3/2021, but noted that government funding for implementation would be limited due to the relatively low number of properties internally flooded. The EA hoped to start investigating project feasibility in October. Cllr Charles-Jones cautioned that although he was very encouraged to see Woodborough back on the EA's agenda, any scheme may take years to come to fruition.

4069. DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Greensmith recorded her own condolences following the death of John Boot, who had served GBC for many years as District Councillor.

Cllr Greensmith had circulated a report. She reported that application PC1102/GBC2020/0597 (for a change of use at the Methodist Church from place of worship to community gym) was unable to gain permission due to WPC's requirement that the owner of the Four Bells should agree to provide permanent parking spaces for the gym's clients at the pub's car park. The applicant was unable to secure such an arrangement. After debate it was agreed by majority vote to withdraw the comment.

Cllr Greensmith and Cllr Elliott agreed to liaise with Cllrs Briggs and Hopkin regarding the siting of a replacement dog bin on Lowdham Lane.

4070. COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Elliott gave some details regarding the impact of COVID-19 on NCC's budget. Cllr Elliott still had some funds available for parish activities and would consider any suggestions received. Cllr Elliott was asked to chase up repair of the potholes, which had been identified in March, and also to request a review of the pavement near the Meadows.

At 7.44pm Cllrs Greensmith and Elliott left the meeting.

4071. PLANNING

It was agreed to object to PC1103/GBC2020/0693, a revised consultation for proposed double garage with home/office above to plot 6, site of 147 Main Street, on the following grounds: over intensive development of this Conservation Area site; would negatively impact surface water drainage and increase likelihood of flooding on Main Street; the additional vehicle space would negatively impact highway safety; due to its scale and particularly height this building would overlook and overshadow neighbours.

4072. GREATER NOTTINGHAM STRATEGIC PLAN – GROWTH OPTIONS CONSULTATION

The Chairman had circulated a draft response. Cllr Pannell raised his concern that a potential building site for new homes off Bank Hill was included; it was noted that this field had been identified as the optimal location for the temporary storage of floodwater in the proposed EA flood mitigation scheme. It was agreed to submit the draft response to the consultation as circulated, but to include an additional comment that the site had been identified as the optimal location for a flood mitigation scheme and was unsuitable for building homes.

4073. ALLOTMENTS

It was agreed to defer consideration of the accounts and site security to October's meeting.

4074. GOVERNORS' FIELD

The results of the Survey Monkey consultation regarding selective removal of trees in the Governors' Field had been circulated. A majority of respondents disagreed with the removal of any trees. It was agreed to take no further action at this stage. It was noted that the budget required for maintaining the trees would increase over time.

It was agreed to consider the purchase of 2 additional benches at October's meeting. The COVID-19 cleaning routine for the play equipment continued and it was hoped that more volunteers would come forward to help.

4075. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Chairman recommended that a social media policy was adopted and would amend the model document for review at October's meeting.

4076. REQUEST TO USE PLAYING FIELD

It was agreed to decline a request to use the field for ladies' football training on Sunday, to protect the field for the established football and cricket teams. Cllr Wardle had taken delivery of the sign to explain that the field was owned and operated by WPC, and would install it on the gate.

4077. INSURANCE

2 quotes had been received. It was agreed to accept Zurich's quote for a five-year long term agreement, the cost for 2020/21 being £2034.46.

4078. HEDGE CUTTING

It was agreed to accept the quote of £350 from Gardenscape. It was agreed to ask the contractor to pay more attention to the shape of the hedges.

4079. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

The estimate of £500 from Peter Wiles to carry out the required work in accordance with NALC's guidelines was agreed.

4080. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Starke had produced a new risk assessment for the Village Hall including measures to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. A set of additional terms and conditions including COVID-19 guidelines had been drawn up, based on ACRE's template. Some regular users were planning a return to the Hall. Preschool were returning in greater numbers and the Clerk planned to initiate a conversation with them regarding hire charges.

The car park had been resurfaced and re-lined. Cllr Wardle reported that it had become evident in use that the parking spaces alongside the tennis courts were impractical. It was noted that drivers were using their initiative and ignoring the lines when necessary. It was agreed to leave the lines in place rather than attempt to black them out, and to install a sign saying parking was at the driver's/owner's risk.

Calverton Medical Practice had asked if they could locate a repeat prescription box at the Village Hall. Hitherto this had been located inside the Post Office. Cllr Wardle hoped that the owner of the Post Office would agree to have the box installed on the external wall. Failing this, it was agreed to offer to have the box installed on the external wall at the Village Hall.

4081. PAY AWARDS FOR STAFF

It was agreed to implement the 2.75% pay increase for all staff, backdated to April 2020.

4082. FINANCE

The Clerk presented the financial statement for August and September and 30 payments, totalling £8984.76 net, were approved for payment. Gross payments over £500: £680.21 LGPS (staff pensions, July), £680.21 LGPS (staff pensions, August), £504.00 Clearway (painting lines on car park).

4083. CORRESPONDENCE AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

An email had been received from a resident regarding inconsiderate parking on Park Avenue. It was agreed to monitor after the completion of works by Western Power. An email had been received requesting that a bench on Roe Hill be moved. Cllr Wardle agreed to investigate. A resident had enquired about the progress of flood scheme discussions and the Clerk agreed to forward the update given. An invitation to renew SLCC membership at a cost of £161 had been received. A UK Government consultation on planning, "Planning for the Future", had been published and the Chairman asked Cllr Pannell to review. Various GBC agendas and press releases were noted.

4084. SAM MIDDUP FIELD

Letters to update neighbours on the time frame for the footpath had been delivered on September 3rd. Cllr Charles-Jones reported that the field had been sprayed in anticipation of reseeding and the footbridge would shortly be installed. After the field had been cultivated the planned footpath would be reseeded.

4085. PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

Cllr Starke reported that the repair of the soft surface around the seesaw was still awaited, and the Clerk would chase the contractor. He had cross drilled and braced one of the seesaw uprights to prevent it splitting further. It was agreed that additional steels and bolts could be purchased for future repairs.

4086. WOODBOROUGH WEB

It was agreed to include: minutes, details of the new councillors, an update on flood scheme discussions, the tree survey results, a request to keep drains clear of leaves.

4087. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 13th October at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 9.22pm.