

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 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 Paul Berrisford, Cllr Margaret Briggs, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Andrew Gough, Cllr John Newsome, Cllr Daniel Raynor, Cllr Patrick Smith, Cllr Colin Starke, Cllr Charles Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Boyd Elliott (NCC), Cllr Helen Greensmith (GBC), Averil Marczak (Clerk). 2 residents observed parts of the meeting.

3986. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Smith declared a non pecuniary interest in item 9, proposal to progress permissive footpath on Sam Middup Field.

It was noted that the applicant for planning application PC1092/ GBC2020/0309 was a tenant of WPC; GBC's Monitoring Officer had confirmed that this did not constitute an interest.

3987. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April were approved.

3988. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that a resident had phoned to pass on thanks and appreciation for the decoration of the Governors' Field railings for VE day.

3989. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported with sadness that Cllr Jane Stone had resigned from WPC. She thanked her for her contribution.

The Chairman thanked all members for their contributions to the Woodborough Parish Annual Report, which had been published on the website in the absence of the usual Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman reported that from May 13th tennis was permitted between members of the same household, and the Tennis Club's chairman was liaising with Preschool to agree arrangements.

GBC had informed WPC of its eligibility to receive a £10,000 Covid-19 business grant and an application had been made.

3990. COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Elliott reported that a grant of £1,000 had been made to WPC to help pay for various projects within the village, including the restoration of the Lowdham Lane bench. Calverton Recycling Centre would reopen on May 18th with some restrictions regarding vehicle types/categories of waste. Cllr Charles-Jones urged Cllr Elliott to press for the centre to be open to all types of vehicles, to reduce flytipping. Lowdham Lane had been sided up and members expressed their appreciation, although there was some feeling that the work could have been done more neatly. Cllr Elliott continued to press for repairs to Main Street.

3991. DISTRICT REPORT

Cllr Greensmith had circulated a report. She hoped that GBC's Service Manager for planning would be able to attend a WPC meeting to listen to concerns and provide information. Most District matters were on hold. Cllr Greensmith had made the Institute and WCA aware of the business grants which might be available to them.

3992. PLANNING

PC1092/GBC2020/0309 for 6 semi-detached 3 bed affordable houses at 155 Lowdham Lane: after a discussion it was agreed by majority vote to object due to the detrimental effect of this development on the openness of the Green Belt.

PC1093/GBC2020/0329 for a detached garage with rooms above at Thorneywood House, Foxwood Lane: it was agreed by majority vote to object, as further building within the curtilage would erode the Green Belt.

PC1094/GBC2020/0345 for the raising of roof to form a dormer bungalow, single storey front and rear extensions at 1 Dover Beck Drive: it was agreed to object on the basis that the proposal represented overdevelopment of the site.

Clerk had responded to PC1091/GBC2020/0281PN for a change of use (agricultural buildings to dwellings) at Old Manor Farm under delegated powers, making no objection, but observing that permitted development rights should be removed. It was noted that PC1078/ GBC2019/1079, for 3 detached properties accessed off Private Road was on hold until GBC's planning committee convened a meeting.

3993. SAM MIDDUP FIELD

Cllr Raynor had circulated a report from the Sam Middup Field working party outlining the proposed permissive footpath. The recommended surfacing was grass, and a fence would be erected to stop users straying onto the agricultural part of the field. The PC resolved to progress the footpath, with works to take place in autumn 2020 at the same time as the resowing of the field. It was agreed that detailed plans should now be prepared and that residents sharing a boundary with the field should be consulted.

3994. VILLAGE HALL

It was agreed to instruct Thomas Bow to resurface the Village Hall car park at a cost of up to £17,500. Work would take 2 days and could possibly be completed during the lockdown period. A survey of the drains would be carried out on May 18th to identify whether any works should be done prior to the resurfacing. It was agreed that retiling in the kitchen, agreed in principle at the March meeting, should be carried out during lockdown and that cream tiles should be used.

It was noted that the UK government were considering restoring Early Years provision from the start of June, and that Preschool might start to return to normal. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Preschool regarding the numbers of children and their income/finances to understand whether charging for their use of the Village Hall could resume. It was agreed to discuss this again at June's meeting.

3995. WOODBOROUGH IN BLOOM

It was agreed to make the budgeted donation of £1250 to Woodborough in Bloom under S137.

3996. FINANCE

The Clerk had circulated a summary of the accounts for 2019/20 and invited any queries. The internal audit was scheduled for June 1st using Zoom.

The Clerk presented the financial statement for May and 19 payments, totalling £5979.50 net, were approved for payment. Gross payments over £500: £1250 (Woodborough in Bloom donation S137), £680.21 LGPS (staff pensions).

Following receipt in full of the precept, it was agreed to transfer £70,000 from Unity to WPC's Nationwide account to spread the funds, and benefit from the very modestly higher interest rate. It was agreed to increase the Clerk's homeworking expenses from £18 to £26 per month in line with government guidelines.

3997. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received: confirmation of the diversion of Arnold footpath, 7 and 8; inspector Chris Pearson's newsletter; GBC, various press releases. An invitation to apply to NCC's Lengthsman scheme had been received and acted upon.

3998. PLAYING FIELD

Emergency tree works had been required to remove a dangerous fallen willow tree. Cllr Charles-Jones had worked with a tree surgeon to remove the tree and make the area safe. The Chairman thanked Cllr Charles-Jones for his prompt action, and Cllr Newsome for identifying the danger.

It was agreed that the PC should discuss use of the playing field for use of outdoor exercise classes at June's meeting.

3999. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Berrisford thanked Cllr Charles-Jones for fixing the tap. It was agreed to allocate the empty plots to the Woodborough residents on the waiting list and ask them to liaise with Cllr Berrisford when they were ready to begin work.

4000. OTHER UPDATES

Cllr Wardle agreed to check the pinfold and propose a plan of action, as it was noted that ingress of flood water had caused silting and weeds to grow. It was noted with concern that the village post office and shop was operating sporadic opening hours, and concern was expressed that residents going to the shop were often finding it closed.

4001. WOODBOROUGH WEB CONTENT

It was agreed to include: the minutes; a notice that the Governors' Field remained closed until government guidelines changed; details of the Parish Councillor vacancy; a reminder to all dog owners to carry and use dog bags.

4002. NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Charles-Jones proposed that the PC agree a consultation to consider potential treeworks on the Governors' Field to remove every second Norway maple tree fronting Main Street. This had been a proposed discussion item for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

4003. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as 9th June 2020. The meeting finished at 8.44pm.