

## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 9.9.20

**Present:** Cllr P. Gilbert (Chair), Cllr L. Brindley, Cllr J. Rogers, Cllr K Turner and Cllr S. Wood and two members of the public

**Public participation:** the two members of the public spoke about speeding on Wilmore Hill Lane (20/106) and overgrown hedges (20/108)

**20/133** To receive apologies: apologies were received from Cllrs Wilkinson and Brown –Bullivant, Borough Cllrs Harp and Beatty and County Cllr Francis

**20/134 To receive Declarations of Interest:** there were no Declarations of Interest

**20/135 To consider Requests for Dispensations under the Localism Act 2011:** there were no Requests for Dispensations

**20/136 To consider and agree the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 5.8.20:** It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes. PROPOSED by Cllr Wood. SECONDED by Cllr Gilbert

**20/137 To consider the Clerk's report:** the Clerk's report was considered, following the order of the agenda

**20/138 To consider an update by a Borough Councillor:** no Borough Councillor was present. The Clerk had had a conversation with Cllr Harp to ask him when the new estates are likely to be adopted by SBC. He said that the decision would be based on whether all the problems were resolved. He said that there were outstanding issues. The Clerk to ask for a list of the unresolved issues.

**20/139 To consider an update by a County Councillor:** no County Councillor was present

**20/140 To consider progress on previous council decisions and resolutions:**

**20/106 To consider how to respond to the issue of speeding on Wilmore Hill Lane:** It was agreed to keep pressing the County Councillor about this issue. The possibility of getting children to draw posters to encourage motorists to reduce speed was considered.

**20/108 (Correspondence) Two gullies which flooded recently but had previously been flushed out:** A "reactive crew" has been out to look at the problem and a similar problem (flooding) outside the village hall and there is a realisation that work is required.

**20/108 (Correspondence) an overgrown hedge between Kings Drive and Lower Lane and related issues:** The overgrown hedge being referred to, belongs to one resident at the end of Kings Drive. The “related issues” refers to the fact that there are many stretches of hedgerows along Wilmore Hill Lane which are overgrown. It was decided that the pc should write to the owners of the hedges and ask them to cut them back. If the residents take no action then their cases should be referred back to Highways and if Highways takes no action, the parish council should remind them of Highways’ legal responsibility.

**20/123 To review the situation with litter and vandalism at the village hall:** There has been no vandalism but the situation with the litter still remains although to a lesser extent.

**20/ 141 To consider resolving to employ this year’s internal auditor for 2021/22:** It was RESOLVED to employ the current internal Auditor. PROPOSED by Cllr Gilbert. SECONDED by Cllr Brindley.

**20/142 To consider what sort of security system to install at the hall – wired in cameras or wi-fi cameras:** in reality, the 1st question to ask was: does the parish council want internet access at the hall? In general, Councillors were in favour of it and so the Clerk was asked to research costs.

**20/143 To receive a briefing from the Clerk concerning all of the Corona-virus related steps that the parish council has taken during the pandemic:** the Clerk said that she had already been asked this question by SBC and was going to be asked by the National Lottery “Reaching Communities” funding agent. It was important that everyone was “singing from the same hymn sheet”. She enumerated what we have done.

**20/144 To consider an update on the Business Interruption Grant that the parish council received and then had to pay back to Stafford Borough Council:** precepting authorities can now receive it There was a general feeling that it should just be kept and not spent for the moment. However, there was a decision that as soon as it arrives, it should go onto the next agenda.

**20/145 To decide what to do about replacing the portacabin:** We now know that the structural parts of the metal chassis are not corroded. The repairs can go ahead at a cost of £500 - £1,000.

**20/146 To consider the Wicksteed Leisure playground inspection:** the report condemned the toddler swings. The inspector said that some of the outer edges of the wetpour surface, are cracked. Councillors had seen the report. It was decided to replace the toddler swings and to get quotes

**20/147 To consider how the application for funding to replace the village hall could be changed / adapted, to fit in with the “post Covid landscape”:** Because a Business Hub and an Advice Centre had been mentioned in the past an application featuring these two things might be looked upon favourably. These ideas were premature as the Local Needs Survey has not yet been completed. Research is to be carried out as to whether a business hub in this area would be appropriate.

**20/148 To consider an update on referring the current electricity supplier to the Ombudsman (poor service):** The Clerk said that all the evidence has now been presented from both sides

**20/149 To consider a resident’s offer to have a village walkabout with Councillors:** the offer was gratefully accepted and was scheduled to take place the following Sunday.

**20/150 To consider an update on the Bovis Homes estate:** an email enumerating the problems (see the minutes from 5.8.20) had been sent to the property manager but nothing had been done. The Councillor who lives on the estate said that weed killer was being used and no-one knew where it was thus posing a risk to playing children. The problems need to be restated, including the new information about the play area and the weed killer, to the property manager.

**20/151 To consider progress on the Neighbourhood Plan** Progress is as follows:

- The NP Consultant has done a summary of the Government White Paper on planning and there is a conclusion that, if it were to go through, it will not be as damaging to the status of Neighbourhood Plans as was first thought.
- The latest grant application has been accepted subject to the resolutions below:

N.B. It was RESOLVED to formally accept the grant offer from Groundwork, to accept the terms of the offer and to agree to enter into a legal contract with Groundwork. All resolutions were PROPOSED by Cllr Gilbert and SECONDED by Cllr Wood.

**20/152 To receive an update from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee:** the update was given and noted.

**20/153 To consider and agree the way forward to pay for items electronically:** it was RESOLVED to go ahead with the business credit card application. PROPOSED by Cllr Gilbert. SECONDED by Cllr Rogers. It was RESOLVED to obtain electronic banking. PROPOSED by Cllr Wood. SECONDED by Cllr Gilbert.

**20/154 To note the Correspondence which has come in:** the correspondence was duly noted.

**Items 20/155 – 20/158 were confidential and concerned authorising this month's payments, noting Financial Statement 47, looking at the "six month rule" as pertaining to Hopton and considering a quote for tree work that needs to be carried out at the hall.** The payments were authorised, the financial statement was noted, the "six month rule" was discussed and the quote for the tree work was accepted.

**20/159 To set a date for the next ordinary council meeting:** the date was set for 14.10.20 but has since been changed to 21.10.20 at 7.30 p.m. as the Clerk will be receiving training on 14.10.20

**20/160 To confirm the date and time of Village Hall Meeting 13:** 17.9.20 at 7.30 p.m.