

MINUTES FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2020

HOPTON AND COTON PARISH COUNCIL

HOPTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr Gilbert (Chair), Cllr Brown-Bullivant (Vice chair), Cllr Brindley, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Wood and County Councillor Cllr Francis

There was a Presentation by Mr Alun Rogers, Chairman of the Local Enterprise Panel (A report of what he said follows these minutes)

Public participation: two people were in the public gallery

20/49 To receive apologies: there were no apologies

20/50 To receive Declarations of Interest: there were no Declarations of Interest

20/51 To consider requests for Dispensations under the Localism Act 2011: there were no requests for Dispensations

20/52 To look at a web site constructed by a local young resident in order to decide if HPC would like to use any of its features: the young person was not present and so the viewing of the web site was not possible.

20/53 To consider and agree the minutes of the meeting on 5.2.20 and the extraordinary meeting on 20.2.20: it was RESOLVED to accept both sets of minutes. PROPOSED by Cllr Brown-Bullivant. SECONDED by Cllr Rogers

20/54 To note the Clerk's report: the Clerk's report was noted following the order of the agenda.

20/55 Borough Councillors' update: there were no Borough Councillors present

20/56 County Councillor's update: Cllr Francis said that gully emptying in the county was done by two gully emptiers. There is a problem because fields are swamped and soil is running off the fields and blocking the gullies. When SCC took control in 2009 there were more employees and now there are four people. Cllr Francis recommends self-help for councils.

20/57 To consider an update on previous council decisions:

19/273 To assess progress with the Local Needs Survey: we have 157 completed surveys.

20/58 To receive an update from the chairman of the Village Hall Committee: an update was not possible because Village Hall Meeting 11 has not yet taken place.

20/59 To refine the plans for the Exhibition and Talk Day on Sunday 22nd March including publicity: The Urban Vision Consultant is going to be asked to arrive at 5.00 p.m. and give a talk at 6.00 p.m. thus leaving time for residents to absorb what they have seen and heard prior to filling in the Consultation Forms. It is hoped to recruit volunteers for the "Hopton and Coton Development Committee" during the event.

Concerning Publicity the Clerk has put up large notices all around the village and emailed interested parties. The Assistant Clerk has put notices of the exhibition etc. in three separate places on the web site.

- 20/60 To receive an update from the Bovis Homes Estate:** there are no problems at the moment except for the standing water at the children's playground – Chairman to follow up.
- 20/61 To look at the insurance renewal documents:** It was DECIDED to go for the cheapest comparable quote of £659.26p.
- 20/62 To make a final decision as to whether HPC will have a Facebook page and the format of it:** it was decided to go ahead with the parish council Facebook page. The Assistant Clerk will manage it and it will be for information only.
- 20/63 To note the result of the web site Accessibility Audit:** the Assistant Clerk explained why we had to have such an audit and what we have done about the results of the audit so far.
- 20/64 A report from a Councillor about the SBC "Issues and Options" Forum:** there is a report about this meeting at the end of the minutes. The deadline for responses to the Biodiversity Consultation is the 16th March. The NP Consultant put forward his ideas about what to say in HPC's response document. The Council accepted his suggestions.
- 20/65 To consider the fact that there is an "unsightly" fence surrounding one of the houses on Kings Drive:** The Vice-chair gave the background to this problem and told the council that some of the occupants of Kings Drive think that this is an illegal construction because there is a deed of covenant forbidding boundary fences. It was decided that the only action that the council will take is to give the residents the contact details of the SBC Enforcement Team
- 20/66 To listen to a progress report on bids for funding:** The Clerk said that she had submitted an Expression of Interest to the Big Lottery and that their response had been to forward many questions about the envisaged project which the Clerk will answer.
- 20/67 To decide the dates of the annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Meeting of the Parish:** It was decided that these should be on Wednesday 6th May and Thursday 7th May respectively. However, the Clerk has since discovered that Thursday 7th May is an election day so the hall is already booked. On the Tuesday of that week, the Garden Guild has a booking. THE CLERK SUGGESTS THAT THE DATES ARE CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:
- Monday 4th May – the Annual Meeting of the Council plus an Ordinary Council Meeting.**
- Wednesday 6th May – the Annual Meeting of the Parish**
- These dates will have to be confirmed at the next parish council meeting (1.4.20)
- 20/68 To consider inviting members of the public to attend the HS2 Presentation which is due to take place at the next meeting / to consider ways of disseminating the content of the talk:** It was decided to devote the whole of an evening to it and to advertise the event.
- 20/69 To note the correspondence which has come in:** the correspondence was duly noted

Items 20/70 – 20/73 were confidential: authorising payments, noting a Financial Statement, the change of use of a field & considering the next steps for the building of a new village hall

The payments were authorised. The Financial Statement was noted. There was no news on the change of use of a field or of the next steps for building a new village hall.

20/74 To confirm the time of the extraordinary meeting on 25.3.20: it will take place at 2.30 p.m.

20/75 To note the date of the next ordinary council meeting: the date was confirmed as 1.4.2

The meeting finished at 10.00 p.m.

A report on the “Issues and Options Consultation” on 10.2.20 and was attended by Cllr Brindley who made the following points:

- The meeting was well attended, particularly by members of parish councils to the north of Stafford which is where a lot of the proposed development is due to take place
- This consultation was for plans which will cover the period 2020 – 2040 and is on the SBC ws
- Once adopted (2022) it will replace the previous local plan which covered the period up to 2031 and it will cover the issues of Housing, Employment and Growth - 500 dwellings a year over the Plan Period with most of the new houses being placed on the edge of The Potteries
- There was no indication of any road improvements – these will be dealt with by “Highways”