

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 5.8.20

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

Public participation: one member of the public spoke about speeding on Wilmore Hill Lane **(20/106)**

20/111 To receive apologies: apologies were received from Cllr Wilkinson

20/112 To receive Declarations of Interest: there were no Declarations of Interest

20/113 To consider Requests for Dispensations under the Localism Act 2011: there were no Requests for Dispensations

20/114 To consider and agree the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 2.7.20: It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes. PROPOSED by Cllr Brown-Bullivant. SECONDED by Cllr Rogers

20/115 To consider the Clerk's report: the Clerk's report was considered, following the order of the agenda

20/116 To consider an update by a Borough Councillor: no Borough Councillor was present

20/117 To consider an update by a County Councillor: no County Councillor was present

20/118 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 (WHL): the Clerk said that she had reported this issue, requesting traffic-calming measures and a reduction in the speed limit and that she had already had a response from Highways, a summary of which follows:

- A costly feasibility report is needed but it is unlikely that Highways would agree to this
- It would be a lot of expense just because of one resident that speeds along WHL
- The only other option would be to report the problem to County Cllr John Francis

The council's reaction to that was to say that several incidences of speeding had come to light after the report had gone in. Apparently, every week someone drives along WHL at a speed which is not acceptable. The possibility of contacting the police to ask them to find out the cost of reducing the speed limit was discussed, as was the possibility of asking the police for the loan of a speed camera. In the end, it was DECIDED the Chairman would contact County Councillor John Francis to discuss the problem and then report back.

20/108 To consider the correspondence which has come in:

- **A damaged stile which has now been reported**
- **Two gullies which have flooded recently – someone from Highways will come out**
- **The pot holes at Mount Farm have now been filled in but the repair is temporary**
- **The overgrown hedge along WHL has now been reported to Highways**

20/119 To consider two Section 137 applications for grants. The grants were as follows:

A request for £100 from The Garden Guild

A request for £200 from the Douglas Macmillan Hospice.

It was decided to award both grants but just £100 for Douglas Macmillan because we have other grant requests in the pipeline

20/120 To consider making a financial contribution to Councillors who print off their own documents prior to a meeting. It was decided that if Councillors are still going to print their own materials, they should send a request to the Clerk for re-imburement who will then pay a standard amount of £10 per Councillor who requests remuneration.

20/121 To consider making a resolution to apply to NatWest for a corporate credit card: Following a previous decision, the Clerk had already put the wheels in motion to obtain such a card in order to pay for large items like subscriptions and large goods like a printer or a computer should the need arise. Everything was ready to send off for the application but the bank said that it required a resolution from the council, in order to proceed. This situation engendered a discussion about the security of credit cards and it was decided to abandon the idea and opt for paying by Paypal instead. The Assistant Clerk said that he would investigate Paypal. Finally, if the council is going to go down the Paypal route, the Clerk should ask Natwest to return all documents that have been given to them so far.

20/122 To consider planning application 20/3267/HOU at Audlem Road on the Redrow Estate. It was decided not to object to this application.

20/123 To review the situation with litter and vandalism at the village hall: the Clerk reported that the problems seem to have subsided. Nevertheless, it was decided that there should be a security system with the lengthsman from Colwich to erect the cameras – the idea being that the cameras will act as a deterrent. Also involved in the cost is a £40 license fee. Cllr Rogers said that he would research the cost of the cameras and report back to the Clerk who will, in turn, ask the lengthsman at Colwich if they are in a position to erect them on the roof of the village hall, and, if so, how much would they charge to fit them. Progress on this will be checked at the next parish council meeting.

20/124 To consider an update from the Bovis Homes Estate. Unfortunately there were many problems which the Clerk will be reporting to the Management Company

20/125 To consider progress on the Neighbourhood Plan: The NP Consultant wished everyone to know that on the date of this meeting, the government was bringing out fresh legislation which basically meant that it was going to be even easier for developers to build new housing estates. The newsletter which the parish council has decided to send out along with the NP questionnaires, is in the pipeline.

20/126 To receive an update from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee: Cllr Rogers said that both the playground (except for the toddler swings) and the village hall are now open with Covid-19 Risk Assessments in place. There was also a discussion about the portacabin and that it would cost £500 to repair it. The Clerk said that she hoped to get a grant and explained what opportunities would be available to us if there was a new portacabin. (After the meeting it was discovered that no grant will be available soon)

20/127 To consider how Hopton Parish Council could help anyone in the parish who has been affected by Covid-19: there seemed to be a general worry that some people have become very isolated since the lockdown. The Chairman then repeated his request that there are chat rooms created within the parish or at least, the possibility of holding Zoom meetings for people who cannot get out. In order for this to happen the parish council needs to appeal for volunteers to run these meetings / chat rooms. We need one volunteer from Hopton Village and one volunteer from the new estates. This appeal for volunteers must be put on the web site and on notice boards.

20/128 To consider how Councillors could help the Clerk sort out the newsletters and questionnaires into deliverable batches: Cllrs Rogers, Brown-Bullivant and Wood said that they would help if they are available.

20/129 To note the correspondence which has come in:

N.B. from the next meeting onwards, "Correspondence" will go into "Confidential".

One of the items of correspondence was a local resident voicing concern about some earthworks in a field off Brick Kiln Lane. This has been reported to the Enforcement section at SBC and an answer has already come back which is that no unlawful activity has taken place up to now with the advice to keep an eye on the situation.

Items 20/130 and 20/131 were confidential and concerned the approval of this month's payments and the noting of Financial Statement 46: The payments were approved and Financial Statement was noted.

20/132 To set a date for the next ordinary council meeting: This was set for Wednesday 9th September 2020.