

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 4th November 2020
via Zoom Video Conferencing**

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill - Chairman
Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Michael Kay
Cllr Jessica Rathbone
Cllr Jonathan Horton
Cllr John Fox
Cllr Wayne Hadley
Cllr Peter Tennant
Cllr Trevor Wills

Clerk: Franciska Giles

Public: 0

3006 Rules and Procedures of Video Conferencing

Cllr Clive Hill explained the rules and procedures of Zoom video conferencing.

3007 Clarification of Parish Council Meetings Held via Zoom Video Conferencing

The Clerk stated that the Coronavirus Regulations 2020 were passed by Government on 1st April 2020 and apply to meetings taking place before 7 May 2021. The regulations enable local authorities to hold meetings remotely including by (but not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming.

3008 The Public

None present

3009 Apologies

Cllr Kim Wallace and Carole Cox offered their apologies to the Clerk which were accepted.

3010 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

3011 Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 7th October 2020

Cllr Clive Hill asked the members if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr John Fox

Seconded: Cllr Jonathan Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record

3012 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Held Wednesday 7th October 2020

Minute no. 2981.1 - Memorial Oak Tree Planting Request

Cllr Clive Hill briefed the Parish Councillors that the memorial tree had been planted by the Groundsmen in Millennium Wood and that most of the Blackfirs Lane residents had been present. Cllr Karen Dunn asked where is the tree in situ. Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that it is located in the open area of Millennium Wood, behind the property Martynleigh, but a good distance from it therefore it is anticipated that no future issues are foreseeable in relation to tree growth and nuisance to the property.

Minute no. 2986 – Broadband

Cllr Jonathan Horton stated that Openreach had re-quoted to include all the Bickenhill properties in their fast broadband offer and presented any remaining villagers with an opportunity to sign up to the scheme. It is anticipated that the work will take 8-10 months but it seems to be straight forward. Mr Crutchley from Openreach is also working on a possible solution for Marston Green and shall inform the Parish Council in due course

Minute no. 2987 – Remembrance Day Service

Cllr Clive Hill stated that recordings of the organisations' wreath laying was completed and that the footage was to be edited. The recording was then be uploaded onto the Parish Council's website in the morning of the 8th of November. Prior notification of the event was to be posted by the Clerk on Facebook and on the Parish Council's website.

Minute no. 3002 – Parking Matters on Bickenhill Road

Cllr Clive Hill said that due to the ongoing parking issues on Bickenhill Road and to adequately accommodate cars parking on the Recreation Ground, M&BG has offered to quote for the extension of the Recreation Ground overflow car park. As soon as the quotes are received, they will be discussed by the Committees and the Parish Council.

3013 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting - Held on 19th of October 2020

Minute no. 1481 – Burial Plot P29

Cllr Clive Hill stated that the Parish Council received a request from Mrs Valerie Hayden asking whether she could sell back her pre-purchased burial plot P29 to the Parish Council as she no longer lives in the area. The plot is in a resaleable condition and position. The Clerk confirmed that the original selling price was £273. Cllr Clive Hill said that the Recreation Committee had consented to Mrs Hayden's request on the condition that the original purchase price to be returned. Cllr Michael Kay confirmed that the Finance Committee agreed to this suggestion.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council approved Mrs Valerie Hayden's request on the condition that the original purchase price, namely £273, to be returned for plot P29.

Minute no. 1482 - Wildlife Ways Banner

Cllr Clive Hill advised the Parish Council that SMBC Wildlife Ways requested permission to display a 2m long banner on lower Bickenhill Road advertising their ongoing works on Route D. The Recreation Committee did not have any objections and agreed to the banner being displayed on the Millennium Wood fence line, half way between the Burial Ground entrance and the last residential property on the Road.

CLlr Karen Dunn said that there are other banners displayed on Bickenhill Road and raised the question whether they require planning permission from the individual organisations. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to contact SMBC and enquire.

Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC and seek advice on the process required in relation to advertisement boards to be positioned on the highway and fence lines.

Minute no. 1486 – Halloween Trail in Millennium Wood

CLlr Clive Hill said that the Halloween Trail was a success and many people praised the initiative both on the Parish Council's Facebook page as well as in person. CLlr Wayne Hadley added that many local mums and children enjoyed the trail and had fun. Congratulation to Nikki Meek and Tony Head on a great initiative.

3014 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meetings - Held on 8th & 22nd October 2020

CLlr Clive Hill said that:

PL/2020/01498, The Dale, Catherine De-Barnes has been approved by SMBC on 25.09.2020. Prior to the decision, the Parish Council raised some valid questions seeking clarification on occupancy and safe-guarding etc., however SMBC did not respond.

PL/2020/01392, 58 Station Road, Marston Green has been approved by SMBC on 16.10.2020. The Parish Council has objected to this proposal on the ground of over-intensive development of the site especially considering its location and insufficient parking facilities for the amount of units proposed.

PL/2020/01729, 6 Land Lane, Marston Green, the application has been withdrawn

3015 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting - Held on 26th October 2020

3015.1 Minute no 629.1 (1478) Bench Removal Quote

CLlr Michael Kay stated that the Recreation and the Finance Committees had recommended a budget of £285 +VAT to carry out the bench removal work and asked the Parish Council for their approval.

Proposed: CLlr Michael Kay

Seconded: CLlr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council approved the £285 + VAT budget for the removal work of the damaged bench.

3015.2 Minute no 629.2 – (1480.1/2/3) Tree Work – Various Locations

1. SQ-718 at £450.00 (Pleck – 2 Lime & 1 Oak)
2. SQ-727 at £800.00 (Recreation Ground - 7 Birch & 1 Willow)
3. SQ- 745 at £500.00 (Donkey Path & Recreation Ground – 1 – 1 Oak)

CLlr Michael Kay stated that the Recreation Committee has recommended the Treefix quotations. The Finance Committee had discussed the liability and ownership of the trees, but agreed if this is a safety issue then the work should be carried out. Total cost: £1750. CLlr Michael Kay asked the Parish Council for approval.

Proposed: CLlr Karen Dunn

Seconded: CLlr Wayne Hadley

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council approved the Treefix quotations SQ718,727,745, total cost of £1750.00

3015.3 Minute no 619.3 – (1485) Changing Room Hire Refund Request

Cllr Michael Kay stated that the RFO had suggested that the Parish Council follows the same principle as this year, offering a discount on the changing room fee only, to the clubs returning to play at the Recreation Ground for next year's season. The Recreation Committee and the Finance Committee have agreed to this proposal. Cllr Michael Kay asked the Parish Council for approval.

Proposed: Cllr John Fox

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council approved offering a discount on the changing room fee only, to the clubs returning to play at the Recreation Ground for next year's season.

3015.4 External Audit PKF Final Approval

Cllr Michael Kay had stated that the RFO had circulated the Section 3 AGAR, Other matters re Notice of Public Inspection and the Public Right Notice of Conclusion documents to the Parish Council members and she had clarified that the Parish Council had received a clean bill of health. Cllr Michael Kay added that the application process should take approximately 10-12 weeks. Cllr Michael Kay asked the Parish Councillors to confirm that they have read the documents and that they are in agreement to have this matter ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Peter Tennant

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that the matter is ratified by the Parish Council

3015.5 Goodman Nash T&Cs

Cllr Michael Kay had asked the Parish Councillors if they have read the terms and conditions of Goodman Nash and asked for this matter to be ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Jonathan Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the matter is ratified by the Parish Council

3016 Parish Councillor Applicants

The Clerk stated that the Parish Council has received five applications for the position of a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council discussed the possibility of setting up an interview panel, however, it was decided to postpone the interview process until after the current lockdown. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to inform the applicants of this decision.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council agreed to postpone the interview process until after the current lockdown

Action item: The Clerk to inform the applicants of the Parish Council's decision

3017 – CIL Matters

No new applications

3018 – Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jonathan Horton said that it is believed that a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a viable opportunity for Bickenhill as there are a relatively small amount of issues affecting the village nevertheless these issues have a significant and potentially negative effect on the villagers. Cllr Horton and Cllr Michael Kay are currently investigating the risks and problems associated with a NP however it is believed that

the reason for such plan outweigh the negatives. The two Councillors are also compiling data for the NP application which when complete to be sent to Emma Tinsley Evans at SMBC for informal feedback. Once the analysis and application is ready to be submitted to SMBC officially, it will be presented to the Parish Council for approval as the Parish Council will need to be seen as the supporting body of the NP. Cllr Jonathan Horton and Cllr Michael Kay further stated that although there is a cost associated with the whole NP process, there are confirmed grants available to contribute to the project therefore it is anticipated that the Parish Council will not need to bear any charges.

The goals of the NP are to investigate and provide the:

- Map of the area
- Historical background of the area
- Aims & objectives of the process
- Management & funding options
- Assistance in order to deliver benefits to the local community
- Plan for the future
- Options as how to protect & preserve the area

Cllr Trevor Wills enquired as to why only Bickenhill is included in this NP initiative. Cllr Clive Hill said that the Parish Council did look at the possibility of drawing up a NP for Marston Green a few years ago however, the exercise proved to be difficult due to the complexity of the area involved. Each stage of the process needed to be validated by SMBC, the cost outweighed the benefits and the complexity of the area was too great. Cllr Clive Hill added that if the Bickenhill NP is successful then the knowledge gained could be transferred into drawing up a NP for Marston Green if that is what the Parish Council decides on.

Cllr Jonathan Horton asked the Parish Council for their agreement and consent for him and Cllr Michael Kay completing the draft Bickenhill NP application form and submitting to SMBC for informal feedback.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Michael Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council consents to Cllr Jonathan Horton and Cllr Michael Kay completing the draft Bickenhill NP application form and submitting it to SMBC for informal feedback.

3019 Finance – Approval of Invoices for Payment

The proposal was to authorise the payments detailed in the October expenditure reports.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Michael Kay

All in favour

It was resolved to accept the expenditure payments detailed on the reports

3020 External Committee Reports

3020.1 Village Hall

Cllr Clive Hill said that it is anticipated that the contract of the Village Hall sale will be completed on the 27th of November. The developer's intention is to build houses in the front of the land so that the Scout hut can remain at the rear.

3020.2 Parish Hall

Cllr Clive Hill advised that a meeting of the Parish Hall Trustees had taken place this week. During the meeting, the Parish Council's decision, namely the return of the CIL money, was discussed however many counter arguments against it were presented. In addition, a new chairman has been voted in at this meeting, namely Mr Ray Mosedale. Cllr Clive Hill said that since the meeting, he has received a letter from the hall manager agreeing to returning the money to the Parish Council in the form of a cheque and hoping for a fresh, clean work relationship with the Trustees.

3020.3 HS2

Nothing to report

3020.4 Airport

Cllr Jonathan Horton stated that the airport is going through a tough time. The airport is currently discussing a new noise level agreement which is to come in play in 2021.

3021 Date of the next meeting - Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing

Cllr Clive Hill closed the meeting at 8:45 p.m.