

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 3rd March 2021
Via Zoom Video Conferencing**

Present:

Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Michael Kay
Cllr Jonathan Horton (Chairman)
Cllr John Fox
Cllr Wayne Hadley
Cllr Peter Tennant

Clerk: Michael Kay (Acting minutes)

RFO: Not present

Public: 0

3082 Rules and Procedures of Video Conferencing

The Chairman explained the rules and procedures of Zoom video conferencing.

3083 Clarification of Parish Council Meetings Held via Zoom Video Conferencing

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.

3084 The Public

None present.

3085 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Trevor Wills and Clive Hill.

3086 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

3087 Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Held on 3rd February 2021.

The Chairman asked the members if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

It was **Proposed by Cllr Peter Tennant, seconded by Cllr Wayne Hadley** that the minutes be approved.

All in favour

It was resolved that both minutes were a true and accurate record.



3088 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Held Wednesday 3rd February 2021.

Minute no. 3080. 1 (653.1) –

The matter was ongoing and was nearly complete.

3089 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting.

Draft minutes had been circulated by email at 17.43 on 3rd March 2021.

The issues addressed were,

1. The request for funding from the Baptist Church.
Further information has been requested. The committee will consider this matter at their next meeting.
2. The quotation form Fairways for the grass cutting was recommended for renewal. No other quotation had been received. It was agreed that this would be submitted to the Finance Committee's next meeting for consideration.
3. Calling of the next meeting to be at least one week prior to the Finance Committee meeting on 22 March 2021.

3090 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting of 22nd February 2021.

668 Zurich Sums Assured Increase.

It was reported that the sum assured had been increased, due to the basis of inflation having been changed by the insurer, without extra cost to the Parish council. The matter was noted.

669 Fees schedule.

The fee schedule proposing a nil increase was recommended. It was proposed by Cllr Michael Kay, seconded by Cllr Karen Dunn that the recommendation be approved.

All in favour.

It was resolved that the recommendation be approved.

670 MGCC Invoice.

The committee recommended a 50% discount for the invoice for the hire of the bar of £4,000 to be taken from the COVID-19 fund from SMBC.

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Kay, seconded by Cllr Peter Tennant that the invoice for £4,000 be discounted by 50% on this occasion.

All in favour.

It was resolved that the recommendation be approved.

Approval of the Finance Approval list.

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Kay, seconded by Cllr Karen Dunn that the expenditure transactions list be approved.

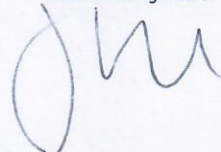
All in favour.

It was resolved the list be approved.

3091 Matters arising from the Staff Committee.

Peter Tennant, chairman, reported.

- I. The committee has obtained guidance from Debbie Merry of SMBC on procedural matters relating to councillors and employees of the Parish Council.
The findings were. The Parish Council have no authority to investigate the actions of fellow councillors. This is a matter for SMBC. The Parish Council is responsible for its employees and must deal with them in accordance with the law and best practice.



- II. A letter thanking Carole Cox for her invaluable assistance over recent weeks had been circulated to all councillors. The letter had been sent to Carole Cox where it had been well received.
- III. The committee have reviewed the working arrangements for the groundsmen and recommended that they should now resume normal working, from the current week on week off, from 8th March 2021. This would enable the groundsmen to take part of their holiday entitlement and would result in both groundsmen carrying forward one week of holiday entitlement to next year. The recommendation was agreed.

3092 Matters arising from Planning Committee of 25th February 2021.

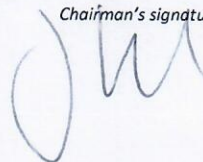
- I. Planning application at Prologis Site.
Cllr Jonathan Horton reported that a letter of objection has been sent to SMBC. Cllr Bob Sleigh is not supporting this application and will take the matter up on behalf of the village. Mr Cobb has been briefed to represent the Parish Council in the event the matter goes forward. The applicant has also made a further application for this site which the Parish Council have objected to.
- II. It was understood that a pre application relating to Ivy Lodge had been made to SMBC. This involved demolishing part of the property on the site and building a facility for a respite home. The formal application is to be lodged at which time the Planning Committee will consider it.
- III. SMBC have published their future plans comprising circa. 150 pages. It is available if required.

3093 Recommendation of the Interview Panel re Co-Opting of New Councillors.

Cllr Jonathan Horton reported.
There are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council.
The vacancies were advertised and there were five candidates sort listed.
The committee recommended that the following candidates be invited to become Parish Councillors.
Sue Rogers
Carole Pearce
Mark Knoblet
It was proposed by Cllr Peter Tennant, seconded by Cllr Jonathan Horton that the above candidates be invited to become Co- opted to the Parish Council.
All in favour.
It was resolved that they be invited.

3094 Recommendation of the Interview Panel re Appointment of New Clerk.

Cllr Peter Tennant reported.
The Panel had taken advice of a HR firm regarding the contract of employment for the clerk. A new contract has been written.
There were several applicants, the Panel recommended Julie Brennan.
It was proposed that the Clerk would assume the RFO duties and therefore in due course the hours required to carry out all functions will be discussed with the candidate. Pay and hours will be in accordance with the Government guidelines.
It was proposed by Cllr Peter Tennant, seconded by Cllr Wayne Hadley that Julie Brennan be invited to be appointed Clerk.
All in favour.
It was resolved that the proposal be approved.
When the offer has been accepted the other applicants will be informed.
Cllr Jonathan Horton wished to record his thanks for the work undertaken by Cllr Peter Tennant in regard to this matter. This was endorsed by the Parish Council.



- 3095 Approval of Donation – grass cutting St Peter’s Church Bickenhill.**
It was proposed by Cllr Jonathan Horton, seconded by Cllr Kim Wallace that the donation of £550 for grass cutting be approved.
All in favour.
It was resolved that the proposal be approved.
- 3096 Chairman’s Business**
Cllr Jonathan Horton proposed that once the new Clerk was in post that all Councillors be asked to provide a CV in order that their skills can be better utilised. The proposal was agreed.
- 3097 Other Business.**
Cllr Kim Wallace reported that the hedges outside the vicarage required attention. It was agreed that action would be taken to trim the hedges.
- 3098 Date of the next virtual meeting – Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**
The chairman closed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

