

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 5 May 2021
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Present:

Cllr Jonathan Horton - Chairman
Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Michael Kay
Cllr Sue Rogers
Cllr John Fox
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Trevor Wills
Cllr Clive Hill

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 1

4017 Rules and Procedures of Video Conferencing

Cllr Horton reminded everyone that the rules and procedures of video conferencing had been covered at the start of the Annual Council Meeting.

4018 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 meeting remotely including by (but not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast and live interactive streaming.

4019 Guest Speaker – Tammy Rowley

Tammy Rowley introduced herself and explained her role as Streetcare Manager following a restructure at Solihull MBC. She confirmed that it was best practice to report all issues that need input from SMBC to the Contact Centre in the first instance as this would provide a tracking number and allow the Clerk to provide feedback on any tickets raised. Cllr Kim Wallace asked why the pathways on Coleshill Road had not been cleared of leaves for over 18 months and Tammy agreed to look into this. Cllr Clive Hill noted an issue raised at the Recreation Committee regarding damage to pathways during the works carried out by Wildlife Ways. Tammy asked for this matter to be raised via the Contact Centre but said she would let the relevant people know that a ticket would be coming through to them. Cllr Jon Horton asked if SMBC were still fixing pot holes, sweeping roads of leaves and clearing drains given a number of problems within Bickenhill. Tammy asked Cllr Horton to email the details to her and said she would contact Ed Bradford who was the manager responsible for these issues. Cllr Horton thanked Tammy for joining the meeting and, with no further questions, she left the meeting.

4020 The Public

Linda Poulson noted the comments relating to pot holes which were also an issue in Elmdon Lane but stated that she had no specific issues to raise.

4021 Apologies

Cllr Jonathan Horton confirmed that apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Wayne Hadley.

4022 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None.

4023 Peter Tennant's resignation

It was noted that Cllr Peter Tennant had resigned from the Parish Council with effect from 30 April 2021.

4024 Approval of the Parish Council Meeting minutes – held on 7 April 2021

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

Proposed: Cllr. Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

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

4025 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021

4004 – Skills Matrix - has been sent out and will be covered at item 16.

4009/680 – Asset register – Cllr Michael Kay confirmed that the Clerk and Groundsmen would check that the items listed were physically present and noted that a review would be undertaken of the insurance values in particular in relation to the properties.

4013 – Emergency payments procedure – to be covered as part of the review of finance procedure by the Finance Committee.

4015 – Village Hall Planters – the Clerk confirmed that she had written to the developers asking if they would be willing to donate the planters to the Parish Council and would follow up by email.

4026 Matters arising from the Staffing Committee held on 13 April 2021

Cllr Horton confirmed that Cllr John Fox had been voted in as Chair of the Staffing Committee following Cllr Peter Tennant's resignation. Cllr Fox confirmed that the Committee planned to review staffing, consider appraisals for the new clerk who is in a probation period and the Groundsmen and look at what training was required.

4027 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee meeting held on 19 April 2021

Cllr Hill outlined the matters arising from the Recreation Committee noting:

1518 – Baseball Club sign – now installed.

1532 – CIL application from the Baptist Church – paperwork mislaid so the Clerk has apologised and asked for a new application to be submitted.

1517/3 – CIL application from Marston Green Cricket Club – application to be considered at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

1519/1 – Burial Ground Fence Repairs – Clerk has now met with Esso and they do not have a problem with the fence being replaced but do require that one of their representatives attends on the day when the section three meters either side of the pipeline marker is replaced.

1520 – Request from Maria Killeen to replace a memorial bench – Clerk in contact with Maria Killeen to confirm the size of the replacement bench.

1521 – Burial Ground pre-purchase enquiry from Keith Fuery – Clerk to contact Mr Fuery and explain that no out of area interments are permitted.

1522 – Replacement pickup truck – ongoing pending consideration of Groundsmen's role and what is required from the pickup.

1523 – Bickenhill Pond – ownership of the pond was awarded to the Parish Council in the 1970s but it has never been legally assigned.

Action item – Cllr John Fox's report to be sent to the Parish Council for consideration at the next meeting. Cllr Michael Kay to work with the Clerk to get the legal position formalised.

1525 – Football Season – the extension of the car park to be investigated and Paul Tovey at SMBC to be contacted to request the restriction of parking on the bend of Bickenhill Road opposite the Recreation Ground.

1533 – Soil removal from Burial Ground – Clerk to seek three quotes to remove soil from the Burial

Ground.

1534 – Marston Green Infant Academy 50th Anniversary tree and time capsule – request for £500 budget has been submitted to the Finance Committee to pay for a tree, time capsule and £50 in vouchers for prizes.

1536 – issues with path edging at the allotments – the issues with the path edging were noted but no further action was agreed at this time. It was noted that a large amount of plant cuttings, brambles etc had been piled up on one plot near the entrance to the allotments and this was an eyesore and needed to be removed.

1538 – Village Traffic Islands – it was noted that SMBC had confirmed that they would not entertain the idea of the Parish Council taking over responsibility for planting the traffic islands in the village. They had agreed that the Parish Council could pay for the planting but that the choice of plants would remain with SMBC.

1539 – Millennium Wood Wild Flowers – Cllr Wayne Hadley was working on this and the matter was ongoing.

1540 – Scouts using Millennium Wood – the Scouts had requested to use Millennium Wood for their activities and this had been approved.

1541/2 – Red Phone Box in Bickenhill – it was noted that the Clerk was seeking a quote for further shelves to be installed. Matter ongoing.

- 4028** Cllr Trevor Wills confirmed that he would need to leave the meeting at this point and asked to raise two issues, one regarding the speed bumps that had been installed on Coleshill Heath Road and another regarding the questions on section 2 of the Councillor Skills Matrix. It was also noted that Cllr Sue Rogers had been experiencing internet problems and had let Cllr Jonathan Horton know that she was unlikely to be able to reconnect. She had sent her mobile number via Cllr Horton so that Cllr Karen Dunn could contact her to discuss HS2.

4029 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 26 April 2021

Cllrs Michael Kay and Cllr Karen Dunn had declared an interest in this item as they are both governors of the Marston Green Infant Academy.

Cllr Kay noted that many of the matters covered in the Finance Committee had already been covered in earlier items on the agenda. Cllr Kay highlighted the request for a budget of £500 to be allocated to cover the cost of providing a tree, time capsule and £50 in vouchers in support of the Marston Green Infant Academy's 50th anniversary. Cllr Horton requested a proposer and seconder.

Proposed: Cllr Michael Kay

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was Resolved that the Parish Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Parish Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure to provide a tree, time capsule and £50 in vouchers for Marston Green Infant Academy. .

4030 Matters Arising from the Planning Committee held on 27 April 2021

Cllr Horton confirmed the Richard Cobb had been engaged to speak at the SMBC Planning meeting on 16 June on behalf of the Parish Council and that Bob Sleight was also due to speak.

Cllr Karen Dunn stated that approval had been given for the development of the upstairs space at 51 Station Road into three studio flats without comment by the Parish Council as the notification had not been picked up. It was noted that a lot of development was underway in Marston Green including HMOs and care homes. The development of 2 Alcott Lane into a Class C2 care home for 4 adults with learning and physical disabilities was highlighted dated 17 June 2020.

Action item: Clerk to circulate the details of the 2 Alcott Lane development to the Councillors.

4031 Approval of Finance Approval List (circulated by email)

Cllr Horton confirmed that the Finance Approval List would continue to be approved via the Parish Council

meeting in the immediate future but a new process was being considered by the Finance Committee.

Proposed: Cllr Jonathan Horton

Seconded: Cllr Michael Kay

All in favour

It was resolved to accept the expenditure payments detailed on the report.

4032 External Committee Reports

4032/1 Airport Matters

Cllr Karen Dunn had emailed a video showing HGV lorries parked up on the bus lanes on Bickenhill Lane and the road down towards the Little Owl which could be due to the inland port located on the car park at Birmingham Airport. It was agreed that the Clerk should raise the matter with SMBC.

Action item: Clerk to alert Solihull MBC of the lorries parked on the dual carriageway and send the videos to them.

4032/2 HS2 Update

Cllr Karen Dunn confirmed that there was very little to feedback on at the moment but she had become aware, whilst watching a programme on the mayoral candidates, of a plan to create a Health and Innovation Campus Hospital which would support 27,000 jobs at the proposed new town called Arden Cross at the Interchange Station. Cllr Clive Hill noted that the additional housing would almost double the current size of the Parish Council potentially making it a Town Council.

4033 Councillor Skills Matrix

Cllr Jonathan Horton summarised the aim of the Councillor Skills Matrix and the timeline for completion. After debate, it was agreed that the questions on page 2 would be removed and the Clerk would send out a new version including the questions on page 1 only.

Proposed: Cllr Jonathan Horton

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved to remove the questions on page 2 and circulate a new version of the Councillor Skills Matrix including the questions on page 1 only.

Action item: Clerk to circulate a new version of the Councillor Skills Matrix including the questions on page 1 only for completion. Councillors to return the completed matrix to the Clerk within 10 days.

4034 Correspondence

DCMS Rural Broadband Consultation – the Clerk confirmed that a request had come through for feedback on improving broadband connectivity and asked if the Council would like to respond. It was agreed that a Zoom conference would be set up to look at and respond to the questions. Cllr Jonathan Horton, Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr John Fox and Cllr Michael Fox all agreed to join the Zoom meeting.

Action item: The Clerk to set up a Zoom meeting for Cllrs Jonathan Horton, Karen Dunn, John Fox and Michael Kay

Cllr John Fox queried if there were sufficient councillors to enable the Finance Committee to meet with the minimum number of 4 councillors. It was agreed that both Cllr John Fox and Cllr Sue Rogers would be invited to attend this meeting pending the allocation of councillors to committees following the completion of the Councillor Skills Matrix exercise.

Proposed: Cllr Jonathan Horton

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved to invite Cllr John Fox and Cllr Sue Rogers to attend the next Finance Committee meeting.

Action item: Clerk to invite Cllr John Fox and Cllr Sue Rogers to attend the next Finance Committee meeting.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 21:35

4035 Date of next meeting 2 June 2021 at 18:30 at The Recreation Ground, Bickenhill Road, B37 7ER