

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 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 Wayne Hadley  
Cllr Peter Tennant  
Cllr Mark Noblet  
Cllr Carole Pearce

**Clerk:** Julie Brennan

**Public:** 1

**3099 Rules and Procedures of Video Conferencing**

**Rules and procedures of video conferencing**

Cllr Horton explained the rules and procedures of Zoom video conferencing. He welcomed everyone to the meeting noting the attendance of the new clerk, Julie Brennan and three new councilors, Sue Rogers, Mark Noblet and Carole Pearce who would be co-opted into the Parish Council at agenda item 6.0. The Chair invited each attendee to introduce themselves which they did in turn.

**4000 Clarification of Parish Council Meetings Held via Zoom Video Conferencing**

The Coronavirus Regulations 2020 were passed by Government on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Cllr Horton confirmed that from 7 May 2021 the Council were unable to meet via Zoom and due to the Covid-19 guidelines, could not meet in person until after 22 June 2021. Cllr Horton asked the Clerk to contact WALC to obtain clarification on the Covid-19 guidelines that would need to be observed to enable the Council to meet safely in June.

**Proposed:** Cllr Karen Dunn

**Seconded:** Cllr Wayne Hadley

**All in favour – Cllr Jonathan Horton, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Michael Kay, Cllr Peter Tennant.**

**Action item:** The Clerk to establish what steps would need to be taken to ensure a Covid-19 safe meeting in June and to feed back to the 5 May 2021 meeting.

**4001 The Public**

Linda Poulson asked if the Parish Council had any information relating to a rumor that she had heard that the Marston Green Tavern had been sold for development. The Chair asked if any of the Councilors had hear anything, but no one had heard anything. Lynda also let the Council know that Cllr Bob Sleigh had

let her know that the Solihull MBC were likely to refuse the application for parking on Black Firs. The Chair thanked Lynda for the information and noted that the Council would remain vigilant for Solihull MBC decision.

**4002 Apologies**

Cllr Jonathan Horton confirmed that apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Clive Hill and Cllr Trevor Wills.

**4003 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations**

None.

**4004 To co-opt new members, Carole Pearce, Mark Noblet and Sue Rogers following the recommendation of the interview panel**

Cllr Jonathan Horton proposed that Carole Pearce be co-opted to the Council.

Seconded by Wayne Hadley

**All in favour – Cllr Jonathan Horton, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Michael Kay, Cllr Peter Tennant.**

Cllr Jonathan Horton proposed Mark Noblet be co-opted to the Council.

Seconded by Kim Wallace.

**All in favour – Cllr Jonathan Horton, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Michael Kay, Cllr Peter Tennant.**

Cllr Jonathan Horton proposed Sue Rogers be co-opted to the Council.

Seconded by Wayne Hadley.

**All in favour – Cllr Jonathan Horton, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Michael Kay, Cllr Peter Tennant.**

The Clerk held up the declaration forms in turn for Carole Pearce, Mark Noblet and Sue Rogers who each confirmed their signatures were shown on the form.

**It was resolved** that Carole Pearce, Mark Noblet and Sue Rogers be co-opted to the Council.

Cllr Jonathan Horton stated that he would like to understand the strengths and interests of each of the councilors in order to match them to the appropriate project/committee. He proposed that he work with the Clerk to design a form which would be sent to each councilor for completion a week ahead of the 5 May 2021 meeting for discussion at that meeting. Cllr Hadley confirmed that a Versatility Matrix was available from the WALC website which might be a useful starting point.

**Proposed Cllr Jonathan Horton**

**Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** that Cllr Horton and the Clerk produce a form to send to each councillor for completion to record their strengths and areas of interest ahead of the 5 May 2021 Parish Council meeting.

**4005 Approval of the Parish Council Meeting minutes – held on 3 March 2021**

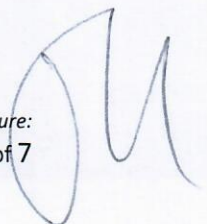
The Chairman asked members if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

**Proposed: Cllr. Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr John Fox**

**All in favour – Cllr Jonathan Horton, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr John Fox, Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Michael Kay, Cllr Peter Tennant.**

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



**4006 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 March 2021**

**3097 Other Business**

Hedges outside the Vicarage requiring attention. Cllr Kim Wallace said that the hedges still required attention. Cllr Kim Wallace also noted that the paths around the park on Coleshill Road needed to be tidied up as they had not been attended to for some time.

**Action item:** Clerk to check if SMBC should be required to cut back the hedge around the Vicarage and to attend to the paths in the park off Coleshill Road.

Cllr John Fox noted his concern that Solihull MBC had asked for a parishioner to log an issue himself with the contact centre at Solihull MBC rather than through the Parish Council. Cllr Wayne Hadley and Cllr Jonathan Horton both noted that Tammy and Solihull MBC had been a big help in the past in relation to issues brought to their attention but it was agreed that the process was not consistent. It was therefore agreed that Tammy Rowley be asked to attend a future meeting to confirm the process for raising concerns to Solihull MBC.

**Proposed: Cllr John Horton**

**Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley**

**All in favour**

**Action item:** The Clerk to invite Tammy Rowley to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to provide her usual update and clarify the process of notifying concerns to Solihull MB.

**4007 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee meeting held on 15 March 2021**

*Cllr Wayne Hadley thanked Cllrs John Fox, Michael Kay and Karen Dunn for their help on the Recreation Committee whilst Cllr Clive Hill and Cllr Trevor Wills had been absent.*

**1517 CIL Matters**

Cllr Kim Wallace asked Cllr Wayne Hadley to ensure that the infant and junior schools were clearly identified rather than referring to them both under the heading 'primary school'.

**4008 Football Season at the Recreation Ground – Implications of extending the season**

Cllr Wayne Hadley let the Council know that the football clubs had asked if it would be possible to extend the season by up to eight weeks due to limited on play as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. Concerns have been highlighted including issues with parking as it is not possible to facilitate all the clubs playing at the same time, Football, Cricket and baseball without serious issues arising with car parking, which extends to the main road forcing pedestrians to walk around cars in the road. Cllr Karen Dunn pointed out that it was also necessary to protect people attending football matches from play on the cricket ground. It was suggested that mid-week games could be facilitated with the cooperation of the groundsmen but working around the cricket practice on Thursday evenings and with the caveat that evening matches do not create traffic/health and safety issues.

Also, to be noted that this is a one off for the year due to Covid -19. The Council discussed the options for parking control on Bickenhill Road and the difficulties obtaining sign off for this from SMBC.

**Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley**

**Seconded: Cllr Peter Tennant**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** that the football clubs be advised that mid-week games could be facilitated providing that traffic issues were avoided and health and safety issues were considered.

**4009 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 22 March 2021**

**674.1 (1524) Grass Cutting Contract**

Cllr Michael Kay noted that approval was sought to accept the quote from Fairways for the Grass Cutting Contract.

**Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace**

**Seconded: Cllr Peter Tennant**

**All in favour**

*It was resolved that the Grass Cutting Contract be awarded to Fairways for the next three years commencing 1 April 2021.*

**679 Chairman's Allowance 2019/20 – Chairman Frank Bunce**

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet**

**All in favour**

*It was resolved that the Chairman's Allowance of £350 be paid to Frank Bunce.*

**680 Asset Register**

Required approval but has not been circulated so this will be carried over to next meeting.

**Action item:** Clerk to circulate the Asset Register and include this for approval at the 5 May 2021 Parish Council meeting.

**681 Bickenhill Church & Land**

Cllr Michael Kay and Cllr Jonathan Horton outlined the situation regarding the potential development of the Church Hall in Bickenhill and the request for a payment of a maximum of £1,000 towards the cost of legal and valuation fees. After discussion, it was agreed that further information and consideration was required before proceeding with this request.

**4010 Matters arising from the Staffing Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 21 March 2021**

Cllr Peter Tennant highlighted the 7 Nolan Principles which were included in the minutes from the 9 March 2021 Staffing Committee and which he would email out to all Councillors shortly.

**4011 Role of the Clerk and RFO**

Cllr Peter Tennant reminded everyone that the RFO was due to leave the Council on 13 April 2021 and proposed that the new Clerk would take on this role as a combined Clerk and RFO. He let the Council know that John Crossley had confirmed that combining the roles was an acceptable practice and that he would evidence this at the next Staffing Committee.

**Proposed: Cllr Peter Tennant**

**Seconded: Cllr John Fox**

**All in favour**

*It was resolved that the RFO role be combined with that of the Clerk to be undertaken by the new Clerk, Julie Brennan, with effect from 14 April 2021.*

Cllr Jonathan Horton asked the Clerk to locate the risk assessment undertaken by Franciska Giles. If it was not on file, Cllr Peter Tennant said that he would provide a copy to the Clerk.

**4012 Matters Arising from the Planning Committee held on 25 March 2021**

**Petition against car parking spaces on land skirting Blackfirs Lane**

Cllr Karen Dunn raised the issue of the planning application by IAC (Prologis Building) for 388 car parking spaces on a bund and recreation land skirting Blackfirs Lane. She noted that a petition against the application had been started by Alison Rolf and asked for approval to highlight the petition on the Parish Council's FaceBook page and website.

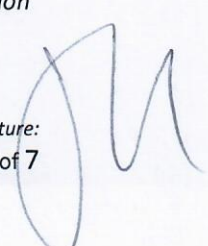
**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace**

**All in favour**

**Action item:** Cllr Karen Dunn to provide the details of the petition and wording for post to the Clerk to upload to both the FaceBook page and the Parish Council's website.

*It was resolved that the Council's Facebook page and website be updated with details of the petition against the creation of 388 car parking spaces on land skirting Blackfirs Lane.*



**4013 Approval of Finance Approval List (circulated by email)**

Cllr Peter Tennant queried the cost of the replacement street lighting which he felt was higher than expected. It was noted that the Parish Council had to use Solihull MBC for this work due to legal constraints (Highways).

Cllr Peter Tennant also queried why the new John Deere lawn mower required a new front bumper and asked the Clerk to clarify this.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace**

**All in favour**

**Action item:** The Clerk to look into why the new John Deere lawn mower required a new front bumper and let the Councillors know the reason for this.

Cllr Michael Kay noted that he was uncomfortable approving expenses which had not been seen by the Finance Committee and which he had no knowledge of. The Clerk suggested the payment for the John Deere bumper had been made using emergency powers which meant that approval from the Finance Committee was not required. Following discussion, it was decided to review the emergency powers currently in place.

**Proposed: Cllr John Horton**

**Seconded: Cllr John Fox**

**All in favour**

**Action item:** The Clerk to confirm the current emergency payments procedure and report back to the next Parish Council meeting on 5 May 2021.

Cllr Jonathan Horton confirmed that the resolution was that the expenditure payments detailed in the report were approved subject to clarification on the payment relating to the John Deere bumper.

**Proposed: Cllr Peter Tennant**

**Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** to accept the expenditure payments detailed on the reports subject to clarification of the monies spent on the John Deere lawn mower.

**4014 Approval of Annual Subscription to WALC at £1181.00**

Cllr Jonathan Horton confirmed who WALC were and how they supported the Parish Council. He asked for approval of the annual renewal of WALC membership which was now due at a cost of £1181. The proposal was to authorise the payments to renew the WALC subscription.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** to approve the £1181.00 cost of renewing the WALC subscription.

**4015 Correspondence**

**Email Madelaine Richardson – Village Hall Planters (sent by email 11/03)**

Cllr Jonathan Horton read out the email from Madelaine Richardson in which she asked for the planters located at the Village Hall to be salvaged by the Parish Council and resited, either in the village or at the Memorial Garden. Cllr Wayne Hadley noted that this subject had been discussed at the Recreation Committee and he was in the process of identifying the developer with a view to removing the planters if they agreed to this.

**Proposed: Cllr Peter Tennant**

**Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** to contact the developer to establish if they would be agreeable to the Parish Council

salvaging the planters for resiting in the village at a location to be agreed.

**Action item:** Cllr Wayne Hadley to approach the developer to establish if they would be happy for the Parish Council to salvage the planters.

**Action item** – The Clerk to respond to Madeleine to let her know that the Parish Council were investigating the options to salvage the planters and we would keep her informed.

**Infant School**

Cllr Karen Dunn noted that the Infant School would be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year but celebrations had been limited by Covid. Cllr Karen Dunn suggested that the Parish Council donated a tree to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary which would have a plaque attached noting the donation by the Parish Council and a time capsule which would be buried under the tree. She also suggested donating a £10 voucher per year group for the winners of a competition to create a picture or montage to celebrate the anniversary. Cllr Wayne Hadley offered to liaise with Cllr Karen Dunn and Cllr Kim Wallace to move the suggested donations forward and to investigate whether seeds and bulbs could also to be provided.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** to donate a tree and £10 per year group as a competition prize to the infant school.

**Action item:** Cllr Wayne Hadley to add an item to the Recreation Committee agenda to progress the donation plans and to investigate whether seeds and bulbs could be sourced from local businesses for the school to use.

**HS2**

Cllr Karen Dunn – Balfour Beatty in conjunction with the Princes Trust were offering 30 places to people in the 16 to 24 age group to apply to them for placements to work with them. Cllr Karen Dunn asked for approval to upload information on how to apply on the Parish Council’s Facebook page and website.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** that the Council’s Facebook page and website be updated with details of the work placements being offered by Balfour Beatty and The Princes Trust.

**Action item:** Cllr Karen Dunn to provide the details of the work placements and wording for post to the Clerk for uploading to both the FaceBook page and the Parish Council’s website

**Survey regarding remote meetings** – WALC – thoughts on physical/hybrid/remote meetings – survey done by individuals or parish council, do you want her to form a group to complete or do it under the staffing committee next week’s meeting. Anyone not on the Staffing commieett welcome to go along. Survey in by 17 June 2021.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** for the Staffing Committee to complete the survey at the Staffing Committee meeting on 13 April 2021.

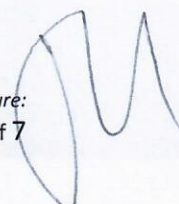
**Roadworks at North Island** – Cllr Karen Dunn outlined plans for works to be undertaken at the island by Melbicks Garden Centre from Monday 12 April 2021 which would include road closures and diversions. She asked for the information to be uploaded to the Parish Council Facebook page and website.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Kim Wallace**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** that the Council’s Facebook page and website be updated with details of the



**Action item:** Cllr Karen Dunn to provide the details of the roadworks and wording for post to the Clerk for uploading to both the FaceBook page and the Parish Council's website.

**Resignation of Cllr Peter Tennant**

Cllr Peter Tennant let the councilors know that he would be resigning from the Parish Council shortly as he planned to go travelling over the coming 12 months and would therefore not be available to attend the Parish Council meetings.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20:45

**4016**    **Date of next virtual meeting** 5 May 2021at 18:30 via Zoom

