

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors Present: T Howse (Chair), A Driver (Vice Chair), R Green, J Marley & J McDonagh.

Also present: Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh. 3 members of the public were present.

Attendees were informed that the meeting was being held using an online virtual platform and would be recorded.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Wheeler.

2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interest as it arises

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

3. Public Participation The meeting was temporarily suspended to hear representations from the public.

Mr S Mathers asked for the Council's permission for him to repaint in CDC approved light grey, a bench seat that is located on the verge opposite his property on Ganborough Hill. In addition, permission to carry out pruning to copper beech tree that was adjacent to the bench was also sought. This matter would be discussed under item 11ii on the agenda.

Mrs P Mathers had raised a question regarding the co option of a new councillor, and the Chairman confirmed that the Clerk was seeking guidance from the Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils and as soon as a response was received, Mrs Mathers would be notified so that she could include the information in the next published version of The Link.

The meeting then resumed.

4. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July were approved unanimously.

5. Any Matters Arising from the last meeting

- i. **Update on installation of Broadband by Gigaclear** – The Chairman reported that he had met with representatives from Gigaclear who had been most co operative in providing full information on remedial work which had now either been carried out, or was scheduled for the near future. The Chairman outlined the work undertaken to date as well as work outstanding, including confirmation that work to the ground around the War Memorial would be given priority to ensure that it was completed before the Remembrance Day commemorations that take place in early November. It was also noted that work was also planned by Gigaclear to remove any loosened tarmac that had contributed to drainage issues on the road running into the village by the Pub and the War Memorial. The Chairman also asked Councillors to notify him as soon as possible, if they had identified any additional remedial work so that it could be communicated to Gigaclear.
- ii. **Councillor training** –The Clerk reported that GAPTIC had suspended all contact-based training events until Government guidance in accordance with Covid restrictions had been relaxed. However, webinar training was being considered to be rolled out to local councils as soon as possible.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Stowe was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Beale was unable to attend the meeting.

8. Correspondence

- i. **Email from a resident concerning speeding on Moreton Road** would be considered under item 12ii.

9. Finance

i. **Monthly finance reports and approval of payments for August and September 2020**

The monthly financial reports were considered and noted. Payments for August and September were approved unanimously as follows:

- August -Mrs J Walsh, salary and expenses – (data protected)
- August – HMRC, £28.00
- Sept - Mrs J Walsh, salary and expenses – (data protected)
- Sept - HMRC, £42.00

ii. **Approval of expenditure for replacement bench at the village playground**

Two benches situated on the playground were in need of replacement due to normal wear and tear. Cllr Green reported that a recycled plastic bench would cost in the region of £400 and whilst a wooden one would be less costly, the life expectancy of a plastic equivalent was much longer. It was agreed that Cllr Green should obtain a firm quotation for a plastic bench at a cost not exceeding £400. Consideration of a second bench would be made in the new financial year.

iii. **Approval of expenditure for replacement bridge unit at the village playground**

Following a report from Cllr Driver it was agreed unanimously to accept a quotation of £795 for a replacement and installation of the bridge section in the multi-play unit.

iv. **Report on national pay award for Clerks - 2020**

The Clerk reported that a pay settlement had now been agreed of 2.75% which would be backdated to April 2020 and that the existing budget plan could sustain the increase without need of a review.

v. **Renewal of CPRE subscription**

It was agreed to renew the annual subscription for 2020/21 at a cost of £25.

10. Planning/Licensing

- i. **Planning/Licensing Applications received: 2002160/FUL –Stowbridge House, Stow Rd:** Proposed single and two storey extension. **No objections** recorded from the Parish Council.
20/02504/FUL-Windy Ridge, The Crook, Longborough: Demolition of two existing residential flats and office building and the erection of two new residential dwellings; creation of new vehicular access and creation of new door to existing pump house.**No objections** recorded from the Parish Council.
20/02370/LBC -Mullion Cottage, High Street, Longborough: Retrospective permission sought for a flue to comply with Listed Building regulations. **No objections** recorded from the Parish Council
- ii. **Planning/Licensing Application Decisions:** There were no decisions recorded.

11. Repairs and maintenance

i. **War memorial maintenance**

The Chairman reported that he had received two quotations for re-painting of the lettering on the memorial. Following discussion, it was agreed to place an order with Simply Stone Ltd at a cost of £960 including VAT with a view to the work being completed in time for the Remembrance Day service. This expenditure would be taken from the Council's reserves.

ii. **Routine maintenance**

Following a request raised under public participation, the Council granted Mr S Mathers permission for the repainting of a bench and pruning of an adjacent copper beech tree located on Ganborough Hill near to his property. Permission would be subject to Mr Mathers obtaining any necessary Planning Permission prior to work on the tree, and that the proposed work would be at zero cost to the Council and would be carried out by the current Sezincote contractor. The Chairman extended the Council's thanks to Mr Mathers for volunteering to undertake this work and for meeting the costs associated with the bench repainting. It was noted that pruning back of the hedge between the pub and the village school was scheduled during October half term. Cllr Green agreed to circulate council members with details and photographs of other trees/shrubs around the village that he had identified were potentially in need of maintenance, with a view to a decision being made on any necessary actions once ownership and responsibilities had been identified for the areas in

question.

iii. Repairs and replacements at the village playground

This item was discussed under Item 9 -Finance.

12. Highways

i. Highway defects list – report on meeting with GCC Highways on 14th July 2020

The Chairman reported on the above meeting with Rhodri Grey and Harry Roberts of GCC Highways. Mr Grey had now confirmed in writing that the following action had been taken/planned:

- Old Rectory Gardens had been jet patched and full resurfacing would be scheduled in the new financial year.
- Investigation work with a jetting lorry and CCTV of the drains to establish what and where any drainage problems existed on Chapel Lane near to the Coach and Horses PH.
- Conversations with Longborough Village School and GCC Highways were on-going regarding safety measures outside the school entrance.
- Work to repair debris and rocks that were falling into The Ashwell, in addition to re-building up the area where vehicles had caused damage to the drainage pipes on the edge of the pavements was on programme in the new financial year.

ii. Speeding in Longborough

An email received from a resident of Plum Tree Close which expressed concern about speeding on Moreton Road had been circulated. The resident had also contacted the local Police and some spot checking of speeding in the area had subsequently been carried out. Cllr Howse referred to a toolkit on road safety and speeding that had been produced by GCC which contained some useful suggestions on strategies to lower risks and it was agreed that this document be circulated to all Councillors for reading. Cllr Howse also reported that he had spoken with Mr Mathers and Mr Nevin, Chair of the Speed Watch campaign in Longborough, who had confirmed that he hoped to re-instate the scheme in October of this year. Mr Mathers was invited to comment on speeding and road safety in general for the village and he explained that he felt a broader and more holistic approach was needed that covered the wider issues and not just speeding. It was agreed that the Chairman would establish a meeting with himself, Cllr Wheeler and members of Speed Watch with a view to a report being provided at the next LPC meeting.

13. Review of Parish Plan

The Chairman explained that despite circulating the questionnaire on this topic to residents in a wide variety of mediums, a very low response of 14 replies had been received and that 90% of respondents favoured a update of the existing plan rather than embarking on a new one, or a neighbourhood plan. Of the respondents, only 6 expressed an interest in being actively involved in meetings.. Following discussion, it was agreed that the best way forward was to establish a working group and to communicate proposed changes with residents in the coming months. The Chairman, Councillors McDonagh and Driver, together with the Clerk, agreed to be part of the working party.

14. Arrangements for the Annual Parish (community) Assembly

The Council agreed that it would still work towards an Assembly being scheduled for Spring 2021, but this would be subject to government regulations at the time.

15. Review of Council policy on liaison with the Press

A revised draft policy had been circulated to all councillors and was adopted as set out.

16. 2021 Calendar of meetings

Councillors noted the dates for 2021 meetings of the Parish Council which would be posted on our website in due course. Meetings would remain via a virtual platform until government restrictions on gatherings & use of meeting halls etc had been relaxed.

17. Any other business and councillors' requests for items for consideration at future meetings

Cllr Driver asked that Councillors make a diary note for attendance at the Remembrance Day Service on 8th November.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman's signature

Date

The next meeting shall be held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.30 pm.