

Up Hatherley Parish Council: Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting, held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 5th May 2020, at 7.30 pm.

1130 Members Present

Chair: S. Bamford; also present, P. Worsley, D. Willcox, J. Wells, R. Whyborn, A. Ponting, D. Young, A. Houlton, R. Johnes, J Furley, A. Bamford, S. Gutteridge and S. Hodges

Also, in Attendance: Clerk Kathryn Oakey, and one parishioner.

1131 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present to the first virtual meeting of the parish council. She asked that members indicate if they wish to speak to ensure a smooth running of the meeting.

1132 Questions from members of the public

No questions were raised.

1133 Apologies for absence

N. Holden, B. Wilcox

1134 Co-option of new members

There was no further update on any expressions of interest in joining the council at this time.

1135 Declaration of Members' Interests

None were declared

1136 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th March 2020

All were in agreement and the Chair signed the minutes and initialled the pages. Matters arising are either on the agenda or will be discussed under the Action Tracker later in the meeting.

1137 Finance:

- Annual Governance Statement – this had been circulated and the Clerk clarified that this was an annual requirement to ensure that we were meeting our statutory duties and had appropriate governance arrangements in place. All were in agreement and the Chair signed the paperwork.
- Statement of Accounts – these are presented on standard paperwork to be sent to the external auditor. In addition the Clerk had circulated the final outturn position for the Council. Queries were raised on some of the year on year variances and the Clerk explained that the exceptional items generally explained the variance. Cllr A. Bamford highlighted that we did have high reserves and were in a healthy financial position. All were in agreement that the accounts be signed, and the Chair signed the relevant section.
- Accounts for Payment – these had been circulated prior to the meeting, and included the following four payments:

01 Apr	CPRE	£36.00	subs
01 Apr	GATPC	£1,765.31	subs

15 Apr	Booth & Bomford	£247.57	hall electrical works
15 Apr	GPFA	£100.00	subs

1138 COVID 19:

- Community resilience in parish – the Chair informed members that a virtual meeting with the borough council was taking place on Thursday as they want to know our plans. To date as members are aware, we have distributed a flyer to try and identify vulnerable residents and in general the outreach has been positive. Cllr Young noted that the Police are taking steps to be more visible to help particularly around domestic violence.
- Contribution to Mayor’s Fund for Food banks – it was agreed that we make a contribution of £1,000 initially, and if necessary, a further contribution could be made if the situation continues.
- Annual Parish Meeting / Climate Change – the Annual Parish meeting is on hold, so the Chair has put a piece on the website and invited members to read it when they got the opportunity.

1139 Planning process during lockdown

Cllr A. Bamford reported that surprisingly we had 9 planning applications during the lockdown period. Legislation has not been amended meaning the borough council still need to meet statutory timelines on the decision process.

All but one of the applications was non-controversial. The one in question related to the Oaks and the extension of the garden into wasteland along Up Hatherley Way. Unfortunately views of neighbours cannot be sought at this time and a site visit won’t take place.

Cllr Whyborn warned that developers could take advantage of the lockdown situation and put in controversial plans, so we need to remain vigilant. Cllr A. Bamford will circulate any that appear to be of concern.

Working Group Reports

1140 Policy and Resources

Action Tracker

Cllr A. Bamford went through the Action Tracker:

- Parish Survey – Cllr Holden is liaising with GRCC so will shortly start on the design phase.
- Parish email addresses – done, all now on new addresses.
- Digital mapping – no further action.
- Greens – Clerk still liaising with Ubico as they are very slow to respond. One cut has been carried out but still waiting on cost for taking the cuttings away.
- PROW – no further update at this time.
- Trees – saplings are available should we have somewhere to put them. Suggested that we liaise with Chris Chavasse at the borough council re suitable sites. The Chair will progress. Also suggested that we put a general message out on the website re availability of the saplings should any parishioners have a suitable location for planting.
- Pathway Caernarvon Park – will cover under Highways Group
- Mile a Day – Clerk to send email on to Cllr Young so that he can liaise with the school re accessing the funding.

- Upgrade to Caernarvon Park – on hold due to lockdown.

1141 Police and Community Safety Update

Cllr Young reported that statistics are not available at the current time due to the lockdown. Regarding other actions he reported the following:

- Neighbourhood Watch – will restart once lockdown ends, but maintaining contact with Simon & Bob by email.
- Bicycle Marking - Following the success of the January 2019 & 2020 events, recommended that another event is scheduled for 2021.
- Parent Parking at Lakeside School - On hold until the school fully reopens.

Cllr Young informed members that:

- Police engagement vehicles will now be regularly parked at Morrisons offering private support and advice in relation to domestic abuse.
- Police are giving additional support to victims of fraud and cyber-crime during the Covid-19 pandemic. A team of officers has been put in place to reassure and help members of the public who have reported fraud to the force.
- The Police are currently receiving a higher level of reports including a variety of fraud related to Covid-19. People in the county have fallen victim to con artists pretending to be from charities asking for money to help vulnerable people during the outbreak, people advertising rental properties they don't own asking for down payments because of the outbreak
- Emails falsely claiming to be from the Government and asking for bank details. You may receive an email from a government department, letting you know that you can claim financial help if you click on a link. When you do you are directed to a fake website designed to look like that of the genuine organisation, but which is actually collecting your personal and financial information. You will not get a payment and your computer will be infected with malware as a result of clicking on the link.
- Many people are receiving a recorded message offering a chance to obtain face masks. They ask you to press 1 on the key pad, taking the caller to a fraudulent payments department.

1142 Village Hall and Communications

All groups are currently suspended, and no cleaning is being carried out, although the Clerk is regularly checking on the hall. A revised cleaning specification has been prepared and Mrs Reay has confirmed that she would be happy to pop in early in the day to ensure the hall is clean for groups once they start back. Obviously, this will be kept under review.

The sign painting is on hold pending the ending of the lockdown.

Cllr Wells asked for a copy of the electrical inspection report so the Clerk will forward. Cllr Johnes confirmed that he will carry out a fire safety inspection once he can gain access. The boiler / gas inspection is on hold until the lockdown ends, however the Clerk is in touch with the engineer.

1143 Footpaths and Open Spaces

A discussion took place on how to keep the gym Equipment clean so that it can be used following the lockdown, so some rules possibly need to be developed.

Cllr A. Bamford reported that several local fields had been ploughed making them very difficult to walk across. The Clerk will send the link to the PROW site where complaints can be lodged.

1144 Highways and Transportation

Cllr Whyborn informed members that a virtual meeting is to be held with the new highways officer and our agenda is unchanged. There is some good news in that several roads in the parish have been patched / repaired.

Cllr Whyborn has also received a survey on speed in the parish so will circulate the map to members. Our main hotspot was as expected at Heron Close.

1145 Any Other Business

Cllr Whyborn informed members that Morrisons should be commended on their efforts to make food delivery available to vulnerable residents including setting up a phone line for those with no access to the internet. They have also made regular donations to the food bank each week.

Cllr Whyborn also encouraged those present to post on Nextdoor and direct residents to the website to increase its usage.

1146 Next Meeting

This will be 7th July, either virtually or as normal in the hall.

..... 7 July 2020
Chair