

BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2019 in BYFIELD VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT - Cllrs J Gillic (Chairman), S Boddington, M Buckley, L Clark, S Crowshaw, C Davis, B Ridyard and S Shepherd.

Also present – District Cllr Frost and District Cllr Gilford

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were accepted from – Cllr Taylor

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING(S) –

14th November – Cllr Ridyard proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Buckley and agreed by all who had been present.

28th November – Cllr Crowshaw proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Boddington and agreed by all who had been present.

2. UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Fields in Trust registration. Chairman dealing with final paperwork.

b) Risk Assessment update. New arrangements to be made for a training session with NCALC adviser

MB/Cik

d) Registration of village greens with Land Registry. Still on-going.

Clerk

e) Scout HQ replacement lease. Still on-going

Clerk

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported he had received an email from the relative of a parishioner buried in the cemetery about the removal of floral tributes from the grave. He and Cllr Davis had met with the relative and no more had been heard.

4. REPORTS BY COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Frost Nothing of significant importance from the recent DDC Full Council meeting.

District Cllr Gilford (one of the 3 DDC councillors for the Woodford Halse Ward) spoke about the outline planning application for a new Medical Centre supported by commercial housing (DA/2017/0826). She was able to give some insight into the matter due to her employment within the NHS. One of the sticking points seems to be the technical requirements sought by Northants Highways including contributions towards the funding for highway work to alleviate likely further traffic congestion on Woodford Road and at the Fiveways mini-roundabouts. She confirmed that if the application was approved the Medical Centre would be built before any of the commercial housing. Comments from the DDC Conservation Officer are still awaited.

The application is likely to go to the DDC Planning Committee on 15 January.

Both District Cllrs left at this point.

5. COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS PRESENT None.

6. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE None

7. ANY MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING REQUIRING A DECISION None.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) FINANCIAL STATE The Clerk reported that the Council had funds totalling £96,526.73 of which £29,831 or £37,593 is 'ring fenced', including the contributions from the wind turbine.

b) Internal control The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Davis had inspected the books and statements and found all in order.

c) Banked INCOME since last meeting to end of November

Lloyds Bank	Interest	£3.81
Various	13 allotment rents	£317.00
M Greenleaves	BRG parking fee Sep-Aug	£50.00
Byfield CC/TC	BRGA 2019 levy	£297.00 (contra)
Byfield FC, CC & TC	Repayment of building Insurance premium	£623.32
Byfield CC/Scouts	Water used May-Aug	£62.98
Heart of England Co-Op	Burial fee P Bishop (ashes)	£135.00
Byfield CC/TC	Repayment for fire testing	£60.37
Cash	Repayment for bulb	£6.00

d) Payment of subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks for 2020 The Chairman advised that SLCC is an advisory body for Clerks, whereas Northants CALC represents Councils. SLCC runs training courses for clerks and councillors. Council agreed to continue to pay the subscription and for 2020 at £140.00 for the salary level of the Clerk (£136 in 2019). Payment would be made in January 2020.

e) Continuing to pay an honorarium for work at war memorial garden The Clerk had advised that Mr Bance is willing to continue to trim the edges of the gardens and do other general gardening duties for another year. It was agreed to continue to pay him an honorarium of £150.00 at the end of the mowing season for 2020-21 i.e. in November 2020.

f) Setting of the BUDGET for 2020-21 Following an earlier informal discussion with councillors the Chairman had circulated a proposed budget of £75,050. Cllr Buckley proposed a budget of **£75,050** (£73,160 for 2019-20). This was seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed by all. It was agreed that some sums allocated to particular areas may need to be adjusted in due course e.g. loan repayments if it is decided to opt for a complete renewal of street lights. The Chairman reminded Council it would need to decide in January how to fund the budget.

j) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – see schedule at end of minutes – page 447

Cllr Boddington proposed that the listed accounts be paid: seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all.

9. PLANNING (Cllr Crowshaw)a) APPLICATIONS

i) DA/2019/0996 – 20 Bell Lane to remove 1.2m of driveway wall and remove gates.

It was agreed to Support the application as it would enable vehicles to be parked within the curtilage and off the road. It was noted that although the property is a Listed Building there is no LB application.

ii) DA/2019/0946 – 5A Church Street for variation on an existing Condition on 2019/0199 and adding 2 x dormer windows.

Consideration of any further comments to be made in view of possible changes. Council having already raised objections on 29 November.

It was agreed to retain objections.

b) APPROVAL(S)

i) DA/2019/0855 – 5 Farebrother Close for work on a tree with a Preservation Order (DA208)

c) REFUSALS None

d) My Neighbourhood Plan advertisement for help with organising a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed not to pursue this offer.

e) Urgent planning matters to be reported to the Council. None

10. STREET LIGHTING and UTILITIES (Cllr Davis)

a) Replacing 10 lights – update. Cllr Davis reported that Zeta hoped to start on this work in the next week. Work required to be undertaken by Western Power on some poles would follow on.

b) Form of consultation with parishioners to consider borrowing to fund a complete replacement of remaining street lights. To be carried forward. (NCALC can supply suitable format).

11. PLAYGROUND (Cllr Ridyard)

a) Regular inspections. No issues reported in last month.

b) Quotation for installing dog-proof fence around infant play area. Wicksteed had submitted a quotation, including two access gates (recommended). It was agreed to defer any consideration of such a project.

Agenda

c) Quotation for replacing existing roundabout with an accessible version. Wicksteed had quoted around £9,000 for this. It was agreed to defer until 2021-22.

d) Work required on 'old' units. Cllr Ridyard will produce a schedule for January. None are urgent. **BR**

12. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND (Cllr Taylor)

a) Flooding of Scout HQ.- the Group had advised Council that the building had been flooded recently to a depth of a number of inches. Fortunately no equipment had been damaged. The Group wished to know what steps the Council would take to ensure that the Cornbrook stream does not in future overflow across the parking area and up and into the HQ.

It was noted that the bridge over the stream on EF10/EF8 is almost flush to ground level with little head room under it and also a pipe set into a bridge from the BRG to 42 Church Street has a very small bore and both of these could have contributed to the back up of water in the stream and the overflowing into the parking area. Also, the earth wall around the parking area (although previously breached in one place to let water out of the parking area) seems to act as a retainer for water coming in by the bridge.

Cllr Shepherd offered to speak with the owner of 42 Church Street to find out if the pipe under the bridge could be enlarged. No-one was clear as to whether the pipe should actually be larger anyway. **SS**

There was also talk of enquiring if the bridge at the junction of EF8/EF10 could be raised somewhat and also to consider either removing the earth wall around the parking area or making further breaches in it to allow water to escape. The Clerk would contact County Highways about the bridge. **Clerk**

The Clerk advised she had tried to get guidance from the County Council Flood Unit but this did not, so far, seem to be of much real help.

The Scout Group is investigating suitable 'flood barriers' for their 3 doors but care has to be exercised because the doors must not be blocked when the building is in use in case of a need for a quick exit. However, finding details of organisations or businesses to help with this is proving difficult. Neither DDC nor NCC seem to any longer have officers to assist.

b) Bowls/Tennis Pavilion The Bowls Club had requested replacement of some cracked windows. It was agreed to obtain quotations. The Clerk would seek a price from a suitable contractor. **Clk**

c) Giving 'names' to the two sports pavilions e.g. to name the Bowls/Tennis pavilion after Russ Mallace who had been so instrumental in getting funding for the building. Agreed to carry forward. **Agenda**

13. COMMUNICATING WITH PARISHIONERS (Cllr Taylor)

a) Update on replacement host for website/dot.gov email server. Cllr Taylor not available to give an update. Carry forward. **Agenda**

b) Update on use of website/Facebook. After consultation with the DDC Monitoring Officer and NCalc it was accepted that councillors need not have their phone numbers or full address published on noticeboards or the website if they so wished.

14. BURIAL GROUND (Cllr Gillic)

a) **Fees from 1 January 2020** Cllr Gillic proposed the fees as set by the Church of England. Agreed. The Clerk will advise regular Funeral Directors. **Clerk**

There is a very slight increase over the charges for 2019.

15. HIGHWAYS (Cllr Crowshaw)

a) Update, if any, on future of HS2 and work at Chipping Warden. Cllr Crowshaw advised the review of HS2 is still being undertaken.

Traffic control on the A361 near to Chipping Warden is now improved and the company seems to be on target to complete the relief road.

b) SID 2 Agreed to remove from the agenda. It has been returned at cost to the Council. No payment has been made for it and although the company should issue a credit note to cancel their invoice this may not be forthcoming.

c) SID 3 Working well and sending data to County Highways.

d) Banbury Road speed limit County Highways had advised they have put forward a request for the 40mph limit to be extended south to beyond The Twistle. This will be put in with a number of other requests for changes to speed limits across the County. This has been a long standing request with County Highways.

16. RIGHTS OF WAY (Cllr Clark)

Far too wet to inspect any RoWs. No issues sent in by parishioners.

17. ALLOTMENTS, POCKET PARK/NEW WOOD (Cllr Boddington)

a) Update on any recent work Hoping to get a local tree surgeon to soon continue with some thinning out in the Pocket Park.

18. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

a) Village Hall. Cllr Gillic advised there was nothing to report.

Date of next full meeting – Thursday 16th January. Precept to be agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.57 pm.

Chairman

January 2020
