

BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 16th JANUARY 2020 in BYFIELD VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT - Cllrs J Gillic(Chairman), M Buckley, L Clark, S Crowshaw, B Ridyard, M Taylor and S Shepherd
Also present – None

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – None

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllrs Boddington and Davis.
District Cllr Frost and County Cllr Brown had also sent apologies.

2.. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 10th December. Cllr Ridyard proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed by all who had been present.

3. UPDATES ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING

a) **Fields in Trust** registration for part of Recreation Ground. The Chairman is handling this paperwork.

JG

b) Risk Assessment update. Cllr Buckley advised he could well be available during the period 27

January to 6 February for a meeting with the NCALC advisor. Clerk to try to arrange a meeting. **MB/CIK**

c) Registering Village Greens with Land Registry. Still on going. **CIK**

d) Scout HQ lease. Agreed that the Clerk obtain advice from solicitors Wellers Hedleys and engage them to arrange for a new lease with the Scout Association Trust Corporation. Cost to be in the order of £500.

CIK

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported he had attended the DDC Planning Committee meeting on the previous evening and relayed the concerns and objections of the Parish Council to the Committee. The Committee vice-chairman had summed up the meeting and stated he felt the application is not good enough for a decision to be made and much more substance is required. The Committee agreed to defer any decision for more detail and information.

- Cllr Crowshaw requested a change to the agenda order as he was not feeling very well. Agreed by all.

14. HIGHWAYS and RIGHTS OF WAY

a) HS2 at Chipping Warden Cllr Crowshaw advised that the A361 would be closed at some weekends so that the relief road could be 'tied-in' with the A361.

Present closure dates are 7-9 Feb, 14-16 Feb, 28 Feb-1 Mar and 6-8 March. There would also be closure dates in April and early May. Final dates to be confirmed.

The A361 would be closed at Daventry and Banbury with diversions with Southam.

Late evening closures were also anticipated at the works near Wormleighton.

b) HS2 mitigation works Northants Highways had advised that the present pedestrian crossing would be upgraded and the existing lights above the Belisha beacons would be removed and replaced with other suitable lights. Highways had asked if Byfield PC would take on the energy costs and maintenance of these lights. This was agreed. Clerk to advise Highways. **CIK**

An additional crossing would be installed across the A361 just north of Edwards Close, with a new bus stop and shelter to the south of Edwards Close. No additional lights would be needed for the crossing.

A build-out (chicane) would be installed on the south side of Woodford Road west of The Causeway with a light installed. It was agreed the Parish Council would also take on the energy costs and maintenance of this light. Clerk to advise Highways. **CIK**

c) Repair of Church Street/Farndon Road following diversion use in December

The Clerk advised she had contacted County Highways and also Southern Gas about this but had heard from either as yet.

Cllr Shepherd reported that he had seen some work being carried out very recently on Farndon Road but any repairs seemed to have had little effect.

d) SID 3 reports Not currently working. Needs re-siting but Kerry Lee needs help to do this. Any offers?

- Cllr Crowshaw left the meeting. 6 councillors remaining.

5. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING None

6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Neither able to be present.

7. COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS None present.

8. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION

a) DDC Parish/Town Councils meeting – 30 January Agenda items required by 22 January. Chairman asked councillors to notify the Clerk of any items.

9. FINANCE

a) FUND BALANCES

The Clerk reported that the financial state at 28th December based on bank statements showed total liquid assets of £97,601.52 held in the two Lloyds accounts.

Payments to date excluding VAT were £80,417 (gross) against a budget of £73,160 but this did include new play equipment which had been mainly funded from reserve funds and a grant.

b) Internal control

The Chairman reported he had carried out a limited check and found all in order. Cllr Davis was not available to assist.

c) INCOME banked in the last month

Lloyds Bank	Interest	£3.12
Various	3 allotment rents	£107.00
Humphris Funerals	Burial fee – R Mallace	£300.00
HMR&C	Refund of VAT 1 Jul – 30 Nov 2019	£3,397.55

d) Setting the Precept for 2020-21

Prior to the meeting the Chairman had presented each councillor with a proposal paper based on the already agreed budget of £75,050 for next year (£73,160 for current year). Copy attached to these minutes.

After discussion regarding the use of more of the unfettered reserve funds the Chairman proposed a precept of £71,050 (£67,666 for 2019-20). Seconded by Cllr Shepherd and agreed on a vote of 4 in favour and 1 against.

e) Contract for website hosting etc beyond 31 March 2020

Cllr Taylor advised he had been in discussions with a local website provider and also a national company which runs websites for a number of parish councils and Northants CALC. He would report more fully at the February meeting with a costed proposal. MT

f) Specification for all village mowing Clerk and Chairman to draw this up so that tender invitations can be sent out. JG/CIK

g) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – see schedule at end of these minutes – page 455

Cllr Ridyard proposed the accounts be paid; seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed by all.

10. PLANNING

a) APPLICATIONS None to consider

b) Report back on DDC Planning Committee meeting for DA/2017/0826. Covered under Item 4 above.

c) Application withdrawn.. DA/2019/0946 – 5A Church Street for variation on existing approval Condition. Work being carried out in accordance with original approval.

d) APPROVAL(S)

- i) 2019/0814 – 51 Church Street for work on a tree with a TPO.
- ii) 2019/0849 and 0850 – 1 The Twistle to replace existing shed with double garage and loft space over plus single and two storey extensions to the main property.
- iii) 2019/0926 – 23 Lovett Road for detached summerhouse for use for beauty treatments.
- iv) 2019/0933 – 2 Potters End for single storey rear extension including 2 x ground floor windows and first floor Velux window.

e) REFUSALS None advised.

f) Any urgent planning matters to be brought to the attention of the Council, arising after publication of the agenda. None.

11. TREES

a) Report on recent 3-year inspection Cllr Ridyard reported that none of the Council owned trees beside village roads, around the Recreation Ground or in the Pocket Park area needed immediate attention. It was agreed she would contact a local tree surgeon to carry out the suggested limited amount of work.

BR

Cllr Ridyard advised she had been approached about the removal of the hedge in front of The Green which is on Registered Village Green

12. CLOSED CHURCHYARD

a) Triennial tree inspection Cllr Gillic reported very little work suggested e.g. some crown lifting and removal of ivy.

It was agreed that any work be including in the work which Cllr Ridyard will arrange for item 11.

13. LIGHTS and UTILITIES

a) Update on the 10 lights having replacement LED lamps.

It was thought the outstanding lights had all very recently been replaced. (Note – turned out not to be the case with some still waiting to be completed). PL37 Boddington Road was thought to be perhaps rather bright and dazzling for drivers coming up from the A361. All councillors to see if this is the case. **ALL**

b) Any more lights which need to have new lamps 4 are known about – Fiveways, Clock Meadow, Greenwood Close and Lovett Road. Any other non-functioning lights to be reported to the Clerk and Cllr Davis. Thought may be given to having a further batch of lights – 4 failed ones plus perhaps some in one road – replaced. **Agenda**

c) Possible borrowing to replace all the lights Agreed not to consider this at present, so no need to consult with the parish. Replacing small batches of lights to be considered with funding from the existing finances so no need to seek approval to borrow.

14. HIGHWAYS see above

15. ALLOTMENTS, POCKET PARK, NEW WOOD

a) Update on planned tree work in the Pocket Park. To be carried forward. **Agenda**

b) Allotments. Agreed to add the mowing of paths in the allotments to the specification for all village mowing. **CIK/JG**

Cllr Clark said he was happy for now to continue to tend the 'Community Garden' (plot 1) and as such for it to remain within the confines of the Allotments.

Plot 11B still available. People on the waiting list had been contacted but no response.

16. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND (BRG)

a) Measures to be undertaken to reduce possibility of further flooding of Scout HQ

It was agreed that Cllr Taylor and the Clerk would meet to consider how best anything could be done e.g. dig out another channel in the bund, consider raising the bridge at the junction of EF10 and EF8, seek professional guidance. **CIK/MT**

The Scout Group had asked for measures to be taken and had sent photographs of the flooding.

b) Damaged windows in bowls/tennis pavilion Clerk seeking quote. **CIK**

c) Giving 'names' to the two pavilions Agreed to remove from future agendas.

17. COMMUNICATING WITH PARISHIONERS

Cllr Taylor reported that the number of people viewing the website or FB page had now got to 165.

Cllr Buckley offered to lend Cllr Taylor a hand with posting items.

18. PLAYGROUND

- a) Weekly inspections Nothing to report.
- b) Fencing infant play area Agreed not to pursue this for the time being.
- c) Programme of work on 'old' items Cllr Ridyard advised these were low key risk hand grips on spring toys (which seem easy to remove but very difficult to put on). There may be a need for a specific risk assessment for the play area.

19. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- a) Village Hall Nothing to report.
- b) Combined Charities. The Clerk read a short report from Cllr Davis. No applications to the charity to help village clubs/organisations. A few requests for help with Christmas costs.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th February - Full Council
27th February for planning only if needed**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

Chairman

February 2020

=====

Items requested for February agenda –

- Clearing of streams within the parish
- Updating Risk Assessment

=====