

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 23RD MARCH 2021

PRESENT: Cllr. Robert Bowditch; Cllr. Richard King; Cllr. Graham Hawkins; Cllr. Kevin Goodfellow; Cllr. Chris David; Cllr. Caroline Pearce; Cllr. Peter Bailey; Cllr. Yvonne Dyke; Cllr. Clare Handford; Cllr. Mark Rogers and Cllr. Antony Alford.

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Teasdale (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Bob Huxter. This was approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were several members of the public present.

A resident asked if there was an update from previous minutes on the resurfacing of St James Road in Netherbury through to Ebenezer Corner. Cllr. Bailey reported that Highways have visited this stretch of road but to date there is no programmed resurfacing. The council will continue to liaise with Highways on this matter.

A resident asked if there are plans to restore the fingerpost sign at the Pymore crossroad. Cllr. Bailey reported that the sign is not within the parish council boundary but that he is in the process of working with Bradpole Parish to restore the sign.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on the 26th January were confirmed as a true and accurate record and would be signed by the Clerk.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS UPDATE (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

Cllrs. Bailey and Rogers have spoken to Groves Nursery regarding the current offer of trees for parish council public spaces. Beaminster Area ECO group are growing on trees over a couple of sites and there are currently 200 trees available in a variety of species. Thought needs to be given to how to promote the planting scheme. It was noted that the time for planting trees is in the autumn.

Cllr. Bailey had requested a quote from the lengthsman for the painting of railing in Netherbury. He had considered the job but decided against submitting a quote. Councillors agreed that a third quote needed to be obtained and this would be sourced by the parish council.

6. TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR)

Dorset Council (DC) will be undertaking a review of governance arrangements. Legislation requires the review to be completed within 12 months of DC publishing its Terms of Reference. The process will begin in July. Areas that the review covers include: councils looking at their parish boundaries; changes to the name of a parish and the number of councillors who serve on the parish council. Initial thoughts from councillors were that an area that borders Bradpole may be better served by Bradpole Council and that the name Netherbury Parish Council does not reflect the area that it serves. Any agreed changes to governance arrangements would not take effect until the next scheduled election in May 2024.

Councillors discussed ways to engage with parishioners, ahead of the formal consultation process, which included holding an open meeting. The CGR would remain an item for future agendas.

Action: The Clerk to provide information on the council website.

7. TO REVIEW PROCESSES FOR CONSULTATION ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillors discussed the process for consulting on planning applications. A resident at the meeting was invited to share his thoughts on a recent consultation. The resident reported that more could have been done to consult with residents and he didn't feel the parish council had listened to local views. Cllr. King stated that a meeting with residents had been arranged and taken place to discuss the application and residents' views had been submitted to planning. Councillors view all applications online and discuss planning applications, where appropriate, with applicants and local residents.

Councillors discussed the possibility of having a Facebook account which could be used to post information on planning applications and other key information from the parish.

8. ACCOUNTS

a) To receive the finance report for 2020/21

The Clerk had prepared a finance report for the council. Currently the balance stands at £19,234. The clerk reported that this includes the CIL income of £1,557 and election funds of £1,440 which will be carried forward to elections in 2024.

b) To consider costings for waste bin in Salway Ash

Councillors had decided to revisit the request for a waste bin in Salway Ash along the path between the village and the primary school. Costings had been provided to the parish council for the bin, its installation and for weekly emptying. Dorset Council (DC) had agreed to the proposed location of the bin. Councillors voted in favour of requesting DC order and install the bin on behalf of the parish council at a cost of £181.58 for the bin and £50.00 for its installation. It was agreed that the bin be emptied weekly at a cost of £5.25. Proposed by Cllr. Pearce, seconded by Cllr. Dyke, agreed by a show of hands.

c) To consider Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income of £1,557

Councillors discussed the CIL income. Cllr. Bailey proposed funding the purchase and installation of an in ground trampoline in Salway Ash playing fields. Councillors were happy with this proposal and requested that costings be brought to the next meeting.

d) To note payment of £31.20 to CB Reid (Payroll Services)

Councillors noted payment of £31.20 to CB Reid.

e) To note payment of £19.40 to CB Reid for HMRC PAYE and outstanding HMRC repayment to NPC account

The payment and outstanding repayment of £19.40 was noted by the council.

f) To approve Clerk's expenses of £29.99 (stationery)

Cllr. Bowditch proposed payment, seconded Cllr. Handford, approved by a show of hands.

9. AOB

Cllr. Handford had been asked by a resident of Netherbury if they could install a children's book swap cupboard in the village bus stop. All were in favour.

Cllr. Bailey asked Cllr. Alford for an update from planning enforcement regarding concerns raised about the erection of a building in Salway Ash south east of Homelands. He also raised concerns about a large pile of rubbish on this site as large bonfires have been lit there previously. Cllr. Alford reported that there is a standard set of procedures that the enforcement team have to follow which does take time. Councillors asked about the stage the procedures are currently at.

Action: Cllr. Alford to follow up with the enforcement team and visit the site to see if he is able to take a photo.

Cllr. Bowditch reported that Dorset Council had cleared the verge on Gollop Hill to which he was grateful for.

Cllr. Handford informed councillors that Netherbury Playing Field Committee had agreed to the field being used to park cars for the village garden open weekend. Cllr. Handford asked if councillors were happy to support this decision. All were in favour.

Cllr. Rogers asked for an update on the replacement of the 30mph repeater signs in Melplash. Cllr. Alford reported that the work to replace them had started and was ongoing. The Clerk reported that the approved speed survey will be carried out once lockdown restrictions allow.

A resident had contacted the clerk to ask if the parish council felt that a 20mph speed limit would be appropriate through Netherbury. Councillors agreed that the number of parked cars throughout the village restricts drivers being able to speed through the village and did not feel that it was required.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Date of next meeting is on 25th May at 7.30pm.