**MINUTES**

**HUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON ZOOM (Pursuant to Section 78 Coronavirus Act 2020) –

TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2020 at 1930 hrs

**Attendees**: Councillors Cllrs. A. Wood (Chairman), Mrs J. Green, I. Richards, Mrs I. Walker, T. Hill, R. Barwell

**Present:** Cllr. Brian Robinson (County & District Councillor, Mr L Williams (Clerk), up to 28 members of the public, Cllr. John Francis (Chairman of Churcham Parish Council) [JF]. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

**1. MEMBERS’ INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA -** None

**2. APOLOGIES –** The clerk is aware that Cllr. Watkins was unable to join the meeting.

**3. STANDING ORDERS** – The clerk read the current Standing Order re representations by members of the public. After some discussion, during which Cllr. Richards pointed out that the chairman has discretion to invite comments as he sees fit, it was **resolved that Standing Orders should be updated** to state that members of the public may speak after any apologies have been tendered. **ACTION: Clerk to amend Standing Orders.**

**4. (a) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC / DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS -**

Cllr. Robinson (BR) said there was little to report from the County Council apart from the steps agreed last week re Covid 19 response. More enforcement would take place checking on those who should be in quarantine and businesses for compliance. Additional staff should be visible on the streets and fines would be issued if appropriate. From the District Council, the consultation period on the Preferred Option for housing has been extended to late January 2021 which is useful but not ideal as the website is not working at all well. A new Section 151 officer had been appointed, Andrew Knox, on promotion. Since March the Covid crisis has created a lot of financial pressure. The Five Acres leisure site situation could soon move forward. The council could buy it for a nominal £1 but it would bring a hefty business rates cost. A decision to buy or not would need to be made soon.

Cllr. Wood asked why the pothole in Newent Lane had not been repaired. BR said he had been advised it had been repaired. When it was confirmed not to have been, he undertook to take this up with Highways in a robust manner.

Cllr. Wood asked what progress had been made re vehicle activated speed signs. BR reminded members that Highways England had given permission for GCC Highways to take this over. He will ask Highways to contact the clerk. It will be expected that HPC will purchase the signs and Highways will pay for the installation of the signposts. There was some discussion about the position of the posts.

Cllr. Hill asked who was responsible for cutting the grass verge opposite the village stocks as the resident who used to do this was older now and unable to carry on. After some discussion as to who cut what. **ACTION - Cllr. Robinson undertook to research who held responsibility for the verge.**

The clerk read some questions submitted by a member of the public (MoP) asking about the Newent Lane pothole and the flashing speed signs. BR repeated his shock that the hole hadn’t yet been mended. Another MoP commented on chat that they believed the drain has collapsed and this will need major repair. Some discussion followed re positioning the speed signs.

A MoP asked about the FoDDC Preferred Option re the process and the timeline. He felt the public had a duty to be involved but wondered what they could do. JF replied. In summary: It’s a long process, at least 2 yrs before anything is finalised; Parish councils are supporting each other; Any decision will have implications for the whole district; Two groups have been formed, 1 – Communications Group looking after press releases and social media activity, and 2 – Cross Parish Comms Group consisting of chairmen and some clerks from five parishes. The group meets regularly and will meet on Zoom tomorrow (4/11/20) with key players from FoDDC. Five further parishes are interested in becoming involved. The MoP stated he has a PR background and is willing to help. He was thanked by Cllr. Wood who reiterated that the parishes of Churcham, Huntley, Westbury, Minsterworth & Highnam were in frequent contact and listed some recent and upcoming meetings.

BR came in with an update on the speed signs adding that he had an email for the clerk. **ACTION – Cllr. Barwell and the clerk to expedite this matter**.

**(b) PREFERRED OPTION FOR THE LOCAL PLAN -**

The chairman detailed the Huntley sites that had been identified as having potential for housing development by FoDDC, thought to total 146 acres. One site is shown as ‘South of Huntley’ but is to the North. Two include Adam’s Wood and Little Adam’s Wood, areas of ancient woodland. Land north of Byfords Road is class 1 agricultural, affords excellent views and should be discarded. Land to the south has always been refused development as it doesn’t tie in with the village. Any development would affect Churcham as well. He invited views.

Cllr. Richards suggested the old golf course could supply 370 homes and was his preferred option but would almost double the size of Huntley.Developing land to the north of Huntley would be the wrong move due to detrimental effects on listed buildings and views.

Cllr. Hill stated he was pro new building, particularly affordable housing and questioned how we could lobby for the development of the abundant brownfield (BF) sites. Cllr. Wood questioned why some BF sites with existing permissions were even in the Allocations Plan if they would never be built on.

Cllr. Walker in summary, Against these proposals in current format; In favour of balanced, sustainable and organic housing development; Not enough consideration of loss of agricultural land; Sticking plaster for housing need without looking ahead; No resultant investment in Forest towns; Why not develop BF sites? Are developers trying to hold FoDDC to ransom? 2019 policy embraced BF sites so who is actually making decisions? Is it just developers looking for easy high profit margins? Cllr. Wood agreed that a rethink was needed. FoDDC may receive £40m in CIL payment but existing towns won’t benefit. No employment will be created there, death knell for industry in Forest. If Northern Quarter is too expensive to develop why even buy it?

Cllr. Green said her preference was for Huntley to remain a village but if development must take place the old golf course seemed the best option.

Cllr. Barwell agreed with Cllr. Hill and was concerned locals would not find the housing affordable.

Further points are summarised: FoDDC should consider subsidies to improve existing settlements and encourage development of BF sites; Balance development puts life into communities; Forest towns are in noticeable decline; All CIL payments are taken out of affordable housing; Covid-19 has led to far more home working so why not seek to repurpose redundant commercial premises as they become vacant? Are districts hiding behind the white paper? £350k homes at Picklenash are not selling – more affordable homes are needed.

*At this point the clerk warned members that only 58 minutes remained available for the meeting and outlined their options if they ran out of time.*

Members **RESOLVED** the following: 1. The Chairman and clerk will continue to work with and support Cllr. Francis, Churcham Parish Council and the Cross Parish Communications Group; 2. The Chairman and clerk will put together a case to formally respond/object to the FoDDC preferred option in December; 3. Members will distribute leaflets, when printed, along with the clerk and volunteers. 4. Agreement in principle to provide funds to jointly engage a consultant and support other activities if appropriate.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS ON 6th OCTOBER 2020**

The Chairman asked a number of questions regarding matters arising from the previous meeting. Resolutions and Actions are detailed under their relevant agenda headings.

Cllr. Wood asked about progress on the NDP and Cllr. Walker brought members up to date. The clerk briefed members regarding his contact with Wembdon Parish Council in Somerset where consultants had been employed and an NDP was completed in about 13 months. It was agreed that the clerk would contact that parish council and the consultants to research costs and, when appropriate, contact two other consultants for alternative costings. Cllr. Walker will continue to be the NDP leader.

Draft minutes had been distributed to members. **It was resolved that they were accurate, and they will be signed by The Chairman as soon as practicable.**

**6. CLERK’S REPORT**

The Chairman established that all members were satisfied with the contents of the Clerk’s

**7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**(a) DEALT WITH BETWEEN MEETINGS –** None

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The nature of the complaint was explained and it was **RESOLVED that the clerk will**  **contact Planning Enforcement regarding this matter.**  **8. 8. WAR MEMORIAL & REMEBRANCE SERVICE –**  **(a) The Chairman expressed thanks to Duncan Abbott for his efforts.**  **(b) Members agreed that the socially distanced Remembrance Day event could go ahead.**       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **9.9**  **9. FINANCE – A.**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **(a)** | **Statement of Accounts as at 29th October 2020** |  |  | |  | Deposit Account | £ | 58,238.99 | |  | Treasurers Account | £ | 750.00 | |  | Defibrillator (Formerly S.106) Account | £ | 1,109.38 | |  | Covid-19 (Formerly YC) Account | £ | 1,269.07 | | **(b)** | **Grant Applications - Section 137 of Local Government Act 1972** |  | None | | **(c)** | **Adverse variance to budget (>£10)** |  |  | |  | Nothing to report at this stage |  |  | | **(d)** | **BACS Payments For Approval** |  |  | |  | Clerk’s Expenses (As detailed in Clerk’s Report) | £ | 46.39 | |  | Clerk’s Wages (Net) | £ | 390.71 | |  | HMRC Re Above | £ | 97.60 | |  | GAPTC (The Good Councillor Guides)  (Budget/Precept Setting) | £  £ | 24.50  15.00 | |  | Richard Bowman (Grass Cutting etc Sept 2020) | £ | 1,029.00 | |  | Huntley Village Hall (Room Hire, Sept) | £ | 18.00 | |  | Merlin Waste (Dog bins to w/c 30/11/2020) | £ | 58.50 | |  | Longhope Royal British Legion (Remembrance Wreath) | £ | 24.00 | |  | RC Watkins (Handyman Materials) | £ | 3.50 | | **(e)** | **Income Received – Since 1st September 2020** |  |  | |  | Two Rivers Housing (Grass Cutting Contribution) | £ | 240.00 | |  | Bank Interest | £ | 0.45 | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Members **RESOLVED to agree payments as detailed and accepted the accounts report.**   |  | | --- | | **10. SPECIAL PROJECTS –** | | 1. **VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK** – Cllr. Hill has not been able to identify an alternative civil engineer so Phil Warren will be contacted to carry out the topographical survey. **ACTION: Cllrs. Richards and Barwell will lead this project from that point.** 2. **PLAY AREA –** Cllr. Wood advised the swing will not currently be replaced until the Covid-19 crisis eases due to the requirement for social distancing. 3. **KISSING GATE –** Owing to the demands of more pressing matters Cllr. Wood has not been able to progress this project. **ACTION: Project delegated to the clerk and Cllr. Barwell.**   **11. ALLOTMENTS –** After discussion about various allotment matters Cllr. Hill said that he wanted to relinquish his role as Allotments Officer and Cllr. Green agreed to take over those responsibilities. The matter of Plot 29 was discussed. It was **Resolved** that Will Tingle be contacted. The spoil of the plot is to be removed and the plot restored to original dimensions up to a maximum spend of £150.00, **ACTION – Clerk to arrange.**  It was **Agreed** that rents for 2021/2022 would remain unchanged.  **12. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD –**  **THE VILLAGE STOCKS - ACTION: Cllrs. Barwell & Richards will inspect the stocks initially.**  **13.** **INFORMATION SHARE – NOT REQUIRING DECISION OR SPEND –** Nothing to report.  **14.** **ITEMS FOR NEXT OR FUTURE MEETINGS -**  1. Presentation re programmed infrastructure development by Gigaclear.  2. Presentation by Gloucestershire Constabulary Camera Enforcement Officer re speeding and other offence data.  3. Smartwater signs update.  **15.** **TRAINING, MEETINGS AND SEMINARS –** The Chairman reiterated that face to face training remains unavailable though GAPTC and invited members to liaise with the Clerk for details of on-line sessions.  **16.** **CORRESPONDENCE – GENERAL –** Nothing to report.  **17.** **CORRESPONDENCE – CONSULTATION/REPORTS –** Nothing to report  **18. NEXT MEETING -** Tuesday 5th January 2021, 7.30pm  Meeting ended at 9.47pm after the Chairman drew attention to the first anniversary of the clerk’s appointment and thanked him for his service during difficult times.  Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the open meeting of Huntley Parish Council on 3rd November 2020 | | . | |  | |  | |  |       Signed: Date:  Chairman. | |  | | |  | |