

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 1st December 2020 via Zoom

- Present** Cllrs Ms L Stephenson (Chair), J Hill, Ms L Llewellyn, A Curtis, N Wickens, I McCord, J Thorne, S McCarthy & R Weston.
- 4724** **1. Apologies for Absence:** None.
- 4725** **2. COUNCIL MATTERS**
- a) Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Weston declared an interest in Agenda item 5.1 a)
Cllr McCarthy declared an interest in Agenda item 6.3 c)
Cllr Llewellyn declared an interest in Agenda item 7 h).
- 4726** **3. Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1** Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 3.11.20 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2** Matters arising:
- 4727** **4. OPEN FORUM:** Opened 7.02pm.
As District Cllr, Cllr McCord advised that SNC continued to work to an orderly close down. He mentioned that business rate grants were still available. WNUA work was continuing including budget setting, and it was 121 days until the start date of 1st April 2021. The main officers were in place and more recruitment was continuing.
Closed 7.05pm.
- 4728** **5. PLANNING MATTERS**
- 5.1** Applications received:
- a)** S/2020/2088/TCA – The Elms, Moorend Road.T1 pear tree. Fell. Cllrs had ‘no objections.’
- b)** S/2020/2079/FUL – Wharf Lane Stables. Part change of use and continued use of land as cycle track for personal use. "Councillors objected to the application for the following inaccuracies in the application form: Question 12 section b) asks if designated sites, important habitats or other biodiversity features would be affected and the answer is ‘No’. This is a Special Landscape Area as indicated in application S/2020/0836/FUL. Question 22 asks ‘can the site be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridleway or other public land’ and again the answer is ‘No’. The site can be seen from the adjacent bridleway, the canal towpath and the bridge over the canal. However, if the application is considered for approval Councillors would request that use is limited to owners/tenants and their families only, no powered bikes with an engine to be used on the site, and that permitted development rights be removed. Councillors are also concerned that the proposals may block the bridleway SH30. It is estimated the true line of the bridleway at this point runs parallel to the canal and approximately 25 metres into the field i.e. 25 metres away from the canal bank. If this is correct the proposed cycle track and hedge would definitely block the bridleway as both appear on the plan to extend to a point very close to the canal. The bridleway continues through the site and the adjacent field and ends at the roadway leading down to the Wharf. It appears the bridleway now runs between the pony paddock fences and the edge of the canal and not further into the field."
Cllr McCord took no part in the above Agenda item discussions.
- 5.2** Applications granted:
- a)** S/2020/1673/FUL – Homestead Farm, Watling street. Detached pool building & gym. 3 conditions.
- 4729** **6. Finance Matters**
- 6.1** ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a)** Clerk’s salary Nov 20 = £397.80 (001290).
- b)** Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Nov 20 = £50.00 (0011291).
- c)** BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)
- d)** Information Commissioner – Data Protection fee = £35.00 (paid by direct debit.)
Proposed by Cllr Llewellyn and seconded by Cllr Weston. Authorised by all Councillors.
- 6.2** OTHER
- a)** Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £41,102.90 (10.11.20) SW - £2,088.22 (1.10.20).
- b)** Workplace Pension scheme. The Clerk did not wish to be placed in a Workplace Pension scheme.
- c)** Review of PC Grant aid. Cllrs would consider worthy causes prior to a decision being made at January’s meeting.
- d)** Budget & Precept 2020-2021. The Clerk would prepare a spreadsheet to be circulated prior to the next PC meeting. If Cllrs have any suggestions for particular expenditure then they should advise the Clerk accordingly.
- e)** Funding costs for new website. Cllr Wickens had carried out research and attended a training course and advised that he had made changes to the website including changing the background colour and the font size and adding an Accessibility page. He was asked if analytics could be provided and he would look into that. Councillors suggested a new introduction and a page of links to other organisations. Options for the website are, maintain it as it is, upgrade the site, use a website provider, use the ‘My Parish Council’ provider or perhaps a website expert from YG.
- f)** Bank reconciliations 1/4/20 – 30/6/20 & 1/7/20 – 30/9/20. Cllr Weston had checked and approved the bank reconciliations. Noted.
- 4730** **7. Councillor Reports:**
- a)** HIGHWAYS – Residents had suggested placing a Christmas tree on Elm Green; this was considered a lovely gesture, but required various permissions and they were proving problematical to obtain.
- b)** STREET LIGHTING – Mr Novakovic had indicated that 15 lights had not been upgraded in the

village in the last few years, and was to be asked if he could obtain quotations to replace these which could be included in the budget for 2021-2022.

- c) VILLAGE TREES – Further reports about the Chestnut tree in School Lane field were awaited. Cllrs considered the possibility of replacing the 2 trees that were felled recently on Elm Green. The planting season is November to March so there was time to make a decision.
- d) ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Curtis reported that the season was coming to an end with allotments in varying conditions. The rats were now being dealt with by a contractor. He would compose a letter to allotment holders reminding them that the rent was due in January, and asking for any comments which would have been made at the annual meeting, as it was felt that trying to hold a virtual meeting may pose a problem for some. These would then be circulated to all and hopefully any issues raised could be dealt with.
- e) UPDATE ON REVIEW OF WEBSITE – see above.
- f) PLAYING FIELDS – There had been problems with the bins in both playing fields. In the Coffee Pot field the bin had been hit and was at an angle, but Cllr Thorne had investigated and considered it was not a problem. Litter in the bins in School Lane field had got under the metal liners and was difficult to remove. Cllr Thorne would look at dealing with these bins.
- g) POCKET PARK – Mrs. Westlake had prepared a comprehensive report which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and no questions were raised. The report was noted with thanks and further information from the next PCC meeting was awaited.
- h) VILLAGE HALL – Closed during the past month. Re-opening would only be considered after receiving advice from ACRE.
- i) RECREATION CENTRE – Closed during the past month apart from the café which had provided take away during the lockdown.
- j) PC RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS – The village volunteers had been generally quiet, but much appreciated and always available and willing to assist if required.

4731

8. Date of next meeting:

- a) 5th January 2021 7pm

Meeting closed 8.21 pm.