

**MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Zoom**

- Present** Cllrs Ms L Stephenson (Chair), R Weston, J Hill, Ms L Llewellyn, A Curtis, N Wickens, I McCord, J Thorne, resident Mrs Westlake & Mr C Williams (TTFC).
- 4707** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr S McCarthy.
- 4708** 2. COUNCIL MATTERS
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 4709** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 1.9.20 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 Matters arising: None.
- 4710** 4. OPEN FORUM: Opened 4.03pm.  
Mrs Westlake advised that she was still working on the report concerning the Pocket Park. She confirmed the invitation to Remembrance Sunday for the PC, which Cllr Stephenson was honoured to accept to represent the PC. She also requested the support of the PC for the proposal to restore the tarmaced slope down from the footpath outside St Leonard's Church, leading to the road to its original width, the installation of a hand rail alongside the path and renewal of the path's surface with a material more resistant to slipping. The Clerk had contacted NCC Highways who had agreed to add this work to their small works list.  
Mr Williams thanked the PC for their support in agreeing that TTFC could use the Coffee Pot field for football matches on a Sunday, and asked if the Vixens could play their matches there on a Saturday. There would be 3 games before Christmas and 9 next year. He advised the Coffee Pot manager he had spoken to had provided storage facilities at the pub, would permit parking in the car park and allow use of the toilet facilities.  
Mr Williams leaves.  
As District Cllr, Cllr McCord apologised for diary clashes which had not permitted him to attend previous meetings. He advised that SNC now had a fully compliant Local Plan Part 2. Residents had contacted him with their concerns about Asana Lodge, and he advised this was an active case with SNC planning enforcement. The Forum was open for essential users only. All the statutory officers for the WNUA (West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority) were now in place, 2 had taken up their roles on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and the others would commence on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Children's Trust would go live on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The budget setting exercise was in progress, but with so many unknowns it was proving challenging. He was optimistic that everything was on course for WNUA and understood that there would be elections for this in May 2021.  
Closed 4.23pm.
- 4711** 5. PLANNING MATTERS
- 5.1 Applications received:
- a) S/2020/1467/FUL – 56 Hesketh Road. Single storey front extension. Cllrs had 'no objections', but requested that any concerns raised by neighbours be taken into account when determining the application. They also expressed concerns about the accuracy of the drawings provided.
- b) S/2020/1469/FUL – Drift Farmhouse. Proposed residential car port and storage building. Cllrs had 'no objections'.  
Cllr McCord took no part in the above Agenda items.
- 5.2 Applications granted:
- a) S/2020/1282/FUL – White Rose Cottage, Potterspurty Lodge. Erection of first floor side extension. 2 conditions.
- 4712** 6. **Finance Matters**
- 6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a) Clerk's salary Sept 20 = £445.40 (001267).
- b) HMRC – PAYE Tax = £109.40 (001268)
- c) Clerk's expenses Sept - £7.80 (stamps) (001269)
- d) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Sept 20 = £50.00 (0011270).
- e) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)
- f) DNH Contracts – dog bins August/Sept - £129.12 + £25.82 VAT = £154.94 (001271)
- g) The Ground Care Co – mowing contract - £315.00 + £63.00 VAT = £378.00 (001272)
- h) PKF Littlejohn – audit fee - £200.00 + £40.00 VAT = £240.00 (001273)
- i) Playground Facilities Ltd – repairs & painting works to School Lane play area - £915.89 + £183.8 VAT = £1,099.07 (001274)
- j) The Rodent Warrior – urgent removal of wasps nest from Coffee Pot field = £70.00 (001275)
- k) Defib4Life Ltd – replacement charger & adult pads - £85.00 + £17.00 VAT = £102.00 (001276)
- l) CAPPs MK – pest control agreement for rats at allotments = £240.00 (001277)
- m) E.on – street lighting maintenance - £134.23 + £26.85 VAT = £161.08 (001278)
- n) Enterprise Inns plc – Coffee Pot field rent - £10.00 + £2.00 VAT = £12.00 (001279)  
Proposed by Cllr Curtis and seconded by Cllr McCord. Authorised by all Councillors.
- 6.2 Payments received
- a) Field rent = £120.00
- b) SNC – 2<sup>nd</sup> half of precept = £12,750.00
- 6.3 OTHER
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £46,032.72 (14.9.20) SW - £2,088.17 (1.7.20).
- b) Workplace Pension scheme. The Clerk did not wish to be placed in a Workplace Pension scheme.
- c) Annual Governance & Accountability Return y/e 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The audited AGAR was

presented to the Council and Cllr Stephenson proposed that it be approved and accepted and thanked the Clerk for her attention to detail and diligent financial housekeeping throughout the year. Seconded by Cllr Weston. All in favour. No matters requiring the issue of a separate additional issues arising report had come to the attention of the external auditors and the certified AGAR and Notice of Conclusion of Audit were displayed as required on the noticeboard by the old Post Office and on the website.

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**7. Councillor Reports:**

- a) **HIGHWAYS** – including proposal to plant bulbs around the village & PC contribution to this scheme. All Cllrs had seen Mr Allen’s plans for planting of bulbs around the village. Whilst Cllrs were appreciative of his community spirit in brightening up the village with spring flowers some of the areas suggested gave cause for concern. Accordingly, Cllrs Curtis and Llewellyn agreed to liaise with Mr Allen as to the best way forward. Cllr Stephenson proposed that the PC make a contribution of up to £100.00 to assist with the purchase of bulbs. Seconded by Cllr Weston. All in favour. **LL & TC**
- b) **MOWING** – Cllr Curtis was disappointed with the condition the village had been left in after the recent mowing which had taken place in the rain.
- c) **STREET LIGHTING** – Nothing to report. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Novakovic to ask if he had suggestions for replacing any further lamps, as if there were, the PC would need to precept for these.
- d) **VILLAGE TREES** – Further reports about the Chestnut tree in School Lane field were awaited.
- e) **ALLOTMENTS** – Cllr Curtis reported that the season was coming to an end, but unfortunately there was now an infestation of rats, which had obliterated any crops that remained. A contract was now in place to deal with these.
- f) **VILLAGE HALL** – The VH was slowly re-opening with slots being booked. Many local groups had indicated their wish to return, and new groups were showing interest.
- g) **RECREATION CENTRE** – including request from YGRC for PC to contribute to the cost of the waste collection. Cllr Weston reported that he had not been advised of any Committee meetings. The Centre was open evenings Thursday to Sunday, a new café was open every day except Monday and ballet and badminton groups had restarted. After careful consideration Cllrs agreed to contribute 50% of the cost of the waste collection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter the Centre was closed, but felt that as it was now open, they would not need to contribute further.
- h) Proposal to allow Towcester Town Football Club to use the Coffee Pot Field for football on a Saturday. After a full and frank discussion when parking issues, the condition of the field, the impact on neighbouring residents & the provision of toilets were mentioned, Cllr Wickens proposed that Saturday football be agreed as there would only be twelve games over a six month period, it would make more use of the field as an amenity, support youth football and assist an under 14 girls team let down at short notice. Seconded by Cllr Weston. There were 4 votes in favour, 4 against and the Chair used the casting vote to object. If the matches on Sundays were successful this season then Saturday football would be looked at more favourably for next season.
- i) Review of website in view of new regulations. The PC website should be WCAG 2.1 compliant. Making a website accessible means making sure it can be used by as many people as possible. Cllrs Wickens and Curtis agreed to investigate the requirements to ensure the PC is compliant.
- j) Encroachment of Coffee Pot field. The residents concerned had not responded to emails from the Clerk and no work had been carried out to reposition the boundary in the last 12 months. Cllr Wickens suggested that as the PC paid rent for the field, there should be a fee payable for their unauthorised use of the field, and they should be invoiced accordingly. In the meantime the Clerk would refer the issue to NCALC to take the matter forward on a legal basis and Cllr Stephenson would compose a letter to be sent to the residents, after approval from the PC.

4714

- k) **PC RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS** – The village volunteers were generally quiet, but much appreciated and always available and willing to assist if required.

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**8. Community Items:**

- a) Invitation to attend Remembrance Sunday commemoration 8<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Stephenson was honoured to represent the PC at this event. The Clerk confirmed that a wreath had been ordered.

**9. Date of next meeting:**

- a) 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Meeting closed 5.45 pm.

