

MINUTES

FLADBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Fladbury Parish Council held on Monday, January 18th , 2021 at 7.00pm, via ZOOM

PRESENT: Chairman I Southcott Vice Chairman G Mills Cllr D Day Cllr P Palmer
Cllr A Hughes Cllr M Neilan Cllr S Insall Cllr N Manser
County Cllr E Eyre District Cllr T Rowley Clerk L Yapp

1. **APOLOGIES** - were received from Cllr Cheung

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

- Cllr Mills – SWDP

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Minutes from meeting 14th December 2020 were approved, proposed Cllr Palmer, seconded Cllr Neilan – all in favour

PARISHIONERS: Nothing to report.

4. **COUNTY CLLR’S REPORT** – Full report annexed to Minutes. Cllr Eyre reported in brief:

- Water leak Station Road / Weston Orchard junction – this has been raised with Severn Trent on a number of occasions. We are awaiting a report from WCC highways officer.
- Street Lighting Invoices – the queries regarding street lighting going back several years have now been resolved and the clerk will organise the payment to WCC.
- Street Lighting Repairs – Cllr Eyre confirmed that the necessary street lighting repairs / replacements will be financed by WCC, using £11,000 which the CEO of WCC agreed to be made available to Fladbury when he attended our meeting back in December 2019. The clerk is in communication with WCC highways officer. Chair Southcott thanked Cllr Eyre for resolving these issues.
- PRoW 560 – the previous issue with the ‘misleading’ notice now seems to have been resolved.
- PRoW 517 – This is still ongoing. Cllr Eyre asked Cllr Mills to send her a copy of all the paperwork he holds and that a Zoom meeting would be held with Cllr Eyre, Cllr Mills and the clerk
- Covid cases continue to rise and hospital admissions are putting serious pressure on hospitals in the County.
- Covid vaccinations are now being rolled out.
- Footway Station Road - Chair Southcott asked Cllr Eyre for clarification of the works to be carried out on the footway on Station Road. Previously the parish council asked for a very small section to be repaired but WCC have now deemed it necessary to carry this up to the A44. Cllr Eyre advised that this extra work cannot be stopped and were going ahead. Chair Southcott reminded Cllr Eyre that he wanted to liaise with the highways officer involved and is still waiting discussion with him. A suggestion was made that a Zoom meeting be held with the officer, clerk, Cllr Eyre and Chair Southcott.
- Elections – Chair Southcott asked if County Council elections will still be going ahead this year, which Cllr Eyre replied that they would be. Cllr Rowley confirmed this would be the case but there will be no canvassing or leaflet drops due to Covid

5. DISTRICT CLLR'S REPORT – Cllr Rowley reported:

- Planning Committee – no issues affecting Fladbury with the next meeting being on 4th February
- SWDP Review – Regulation 18 is the next stage - to consult on alternative sites after any ruling out of the previously considered sites. This is due to commence on 1st March and will last for 7 weeks.
- Minerals Examination in Public – both Cllr Rowley and Chair Southcott attended. The Inspectors' report is awaited.
- Covid – Business Support Grants are being sent out. Cases (at the time of the meeting) were 533 per 100,000 with Worcester City being the worst affected and that this may have an impact of the Wychavon figures.
- Covid Vaccines – These are now being offered and community transport is available to those that need help with travelling to vaccination centres.
- Fly Tipping – this has been a serious issue between Charlton and Cropthorne, in a number of drainage ditches. The police are now involved.
- Chair Southcott reported that the Village Hall have been contacted regarding use as a possible Covid testing centre (all the VHs are being contacted) but considered that parking would be an issue.

6. FINANCE

- a) Approval of receipts and payments to 10th January 2021 - proposed acceptance of payment by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Neilan and approved by all.

SO		Clerks Expenses	32.00
SO		Clerks Salary	380.72
	2475	VAS Sign	3799.14
	2476	Donation	36.00
	2477	Pavilion Water	257.11
	2478	Clerks Training (sixth share)	50.00
	2479	Pavilion Cleaning	130.00
	2480	Lengthsman December	168.00
DD		Pavilion Electricity	16.92
DD		Pavilion Gas	118.34

Account Balances:

Current Account

(before unrepresented cheques): £35,350.27

Deposit Account: £20,274.61

- b) Budget / Precept 2021/22 - Update from meeting of the Finance group (Chair Southcott and Cllrs Insall, Day and Neilan) – A copy of the draft budget and accounts to date had been forwarded for consideration. Due to the ever-increasing costs for the pavilion and the lack of income due to Covid, a recommendation was put forward to increase the precept by 5.3% for 2021/22, to £20,000 (an increase on Band D properties of £2.38 per month). Due to the resolution of the issue regarding the necessary repairs/replacement of some of the streetlights (and this now being financed by WCC), this enabled a lesser increase than at first thought. Chair Southcott reminded the council that there were some necessary maintenance works that would be required next year, but there was small reserve which would help with some of these costs. Proposed approval of the budget was made by Cllr Insall, seconded Cllr Neilan – all in favour.

7. PARISHIONERS: Nothing to report

8. PROGRESS REPORTS

- (a) Lengthsman – Cllr Palmer reported the LM had been continuing to work throughout the village. Chair Southcott stressed the need for the playground to be checked on a monthly basis – just to check there are no safety issues. It was suggested that this could be done by the LM when working in Fladbury (but paid for by the parish council and NOT under the LM scheme). It would not take long, and any issues would be reported back to the parish council to action. Cllr Insall also suggested that we could use the LM as a ‘handyman’ to tackle any odd jobs that need attending to (again paid for by the parish council) – identifying a build-up of wet leaves on the path leading up the pavilion as something that needed addressing. There were no objections and the clerk would speak to the LM about this
- (b) Defibrillator Scheme – Nothing to report
- (c) Conservation Area – Nothing to report
- (e) Traffic Calming – Cllr Hughes reported that the new VAS sign at Millbank was now in place. No further works are expected until the weather improves. Chair Southcott commented that the new unit seemed small and had received similar feedback from some parishioners. The clerk suggested that maybe a longer pole may help. It was agreed to monitor this for the time being. The data would be checked in a few weeks.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS/ HOUSING SURVEY – Nothing to report

- 10. POLICING** - contacts are PC Paul Brown and PCSO Karen Kempton
(03003 333000 Ext 3408/3499)
(Also new less urgent 101 services complement 999 emergencies)

Cllr Hughes reported that there were no PACT meetings at the moment and one crime had been reported in Fladbury.

- a) PACT –Nothing to report
- b) Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report. Chair Southcott advised he would speak to the NW co-ordinator to see if there was anything that needed addressing.
- c) Community Speed Watch – Cllr Insall reported that this was currently on hold due to Covid restrictions

11. PLANNING:

- 20/000027 – Wrubble – Chair Southcott had tried several times to make contact with Westerleigh (Crematorium) unsuccessfully. That major changes had been made with an acoustic fence, bund and additional footpath but it was considered these measures would do little to reduce the dust and noise pollution. Cllr Day reported that the Environment Agency as consultees, had commented on these changes but ‘*had no concerns*’. Chair Southcott asked Cllr Rowley for WDC’s opinion of the changes, who replied that a meeting was being held later in the week. Cllr Eyre commented that she was hoping for WDC to give some objection. Cllr Rowley reported that this was classed as ‘*employment land*’ and was policy compliant but agreed it was not acceptable. Chair Southcott suggested that anyone who had previously commented should resubmit their objections.

2021/04

- 20/02545 – Springhill Nurseries Ltd – proposed gas decanting facility with ancillary gas dispenser for EVG gas vehicles together with infrastructure – *Approved by WDC – Cllr Day was surprised that potential safety issues were not reflected on the approval notice.*
- 20/02649 – Old Fladbury Stores - Localised repairs to the timber frame and infill panels of the principal elevation (east) - *Cllr Day reported that this was an important building and was being closely looked at by the Conservation officer. Cllr Day could find no reason to object to this application.*

Planning / Enforcement : Nothing to report

Glasshouse Liaison Group: Chair Southcott reported that he had received complaints that the dog waste bin on the concrete road was not being emptied regularly enough. He had spoken to EVG who were happy to resolve this.

Vale Crematorium – The PC had been in contact with reference to the Wrubble application.

SWDP – Covered in Item 5 - District Cllr Rowley's report above

Minerals Local Plan – Examination in Public – Covered in District Cllr's report above

Section 106 monies:

- Kendrick Homes – Now resolved and no further action required
- Pool Garden – Nothing to report
- Canoe Club – Nothing to report
- Sports Pavilion – It was agreed at the meeting of the finance group that there was a need to spend funds on repairs during the coming twelve months. A full assessment would be taken of necessary works.

12. FOOTPATHS/TREES

Trees:

- Trees at Wharf - Three quotes had been received for the necessary tree works with some additional options included. It was agreed that any proposed tree works would be deferred until such time as the necessary works at the sluice gates were carried out – see item 14 below.
- Rectory Green Tree - Chair Southcott reported that it the parish councils understanding, that this tree was diseased (based on report from the Tree Officer at WDC). However, based on miscommunication with WCC the tree was removed without any further consultation with the parish council. Cllr Eyre apologised and would try and get us a replacement tree – parish council to advise of variety. Cllr Insall commented that the remaining stump was a health and safety issue and need to be taken back to ground level as a priority.

Footpaths:

- Footpath 517 – covered in County Cllrs report above.
- Footpath 560 – covered in County Cllrs report above.

13. RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION:

- Tennis Club – Chair Southcott reported he had written to them yet again, and again, received no reply. He reminded the council that there was no lease, agreement or trustees in place and would give them until the end of January to respond before he would seek legal advice.

2021/05

14. SLUICE UPGRADES – Cllr Mills reported on a site meeting with the Environment Agency, Chair Southcott and Cllr Insall. The EA agreed that some minor work on the trees might be required to facilitate access of the machinery needed for the project. It was agreed that the works we required for the tree canopy be postponed. The EA were willing to undertake the bank piling, replacing the benches and making good. Cllr Insall said that photographs should be taken as a record, before and after, these works are carried out. Cllr Mills admitted that the Wharf would be a mess for a while. It was agreed that the old sluice gate be sited on the Coal Wharf as a heritage asset. A question was asked if the proposed ‘piling’ was the right thing to do.

15. LAND & THE NAIT – Nothing to report

16. MY PARISH/WEBSITE/COMMUNICATIONS:

- Website - The clerk reported that the new village website should be up and running in March.
- Broadband – An offer of support for this had come forward from a parishioner. They would be liaising with Charlton Parish Council who were also hopeful of securing funds for improved broadband.

17. STREET LIGHTING – Already covered in County Cllrs report above

18. CORRESPONDENCE – emails had been circulated to all Cllrs.

19. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION:

- Litter - Cllr Mills reported on the excessive amount of litter between the A44 and first junction for Bishampton - Cllr advised that litter picking equipment is available from WDC if needed. It was also reported that there is a lot of litter in the car park used by Birmingham Anglers. In the first instance Cllr Neilan said he would speak to the bailiff (who lives in Fladbury) before this referred to the police for further action
- Fladbury Walkabout – Chair Southcott reported that following a recent meeting of the committee it was agreed that it is unwise to proceed with the event for 2021, but it is hoped that some sort of village event could be organised, for residents only. Cllr Eyre suggested a History of Fladbury as a theme
- Chair Southcott was made aware of a broken stile on Porters Path over the railway. He would raise this with Network Rail. The matter of solar lighting for the path through the allotments was considered unnecessary.

20. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – The next full parish council meeting would be held on Monday 15th February 2021 via Zoom at 7.00 pm