

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 17th June 2021, at 7.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion, Station Road, Fladbury.

PRESENT Cllr Roger Davies (Chairman)
Cllr Helen Hill
Cllr Richard Sims

In attendance: County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre (until minute no. 84/21)
District Cllr Tony Rowley (until minute no. 84.21)
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(No member of the public was in attendance.)

72/21 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

As the previous meeting was a Virtual meeting Cllr Roger Davies completed and signed the Acceptance of Office.

73/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Cllr Ted Grazier, Cllr Emily Hall-Roberts, Cllr Sally Martin and Cllr Mike Wood,

74/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

75/21 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EYRE

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The current increase in Covid cases was highlighted, and that WCC is keeping up to date on the support available. All schools are open and museums opened on 17th May. An update on the Minerals Plan and consideration of the Wrubble application at Fladbury were given. A meeting is arranged with County Highways to discuss speeding and maintenance issues in the parish. The Evesham to Pershore Cycleway Section 106 monies that might have been used for this have been spent on other projects. Our Councillors will continue to push for this important project to be completed..

76/21 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY ROWLEY

Cllr Tony Rowley reported that the next period of public consultation for the SWDPR is scheduled for October/November, following consideration by the three Councils in September. The gundog training application off Ryden Lane will be considered at the WDC Planning Committee on 24th June. There is currently a problem with travellers in Pershore which is being attended to. The Boundary Commission is now considering parliamentary boundaries and, locally, WDC Ward boundaries. He reported that the work by Network Rail at Fladbury bridge has proceeded smoothly. There is some 7 weeks work, involving the erection of scaffolding, painting and the removal of the scaffolding.

77/21 SEWER PIPE INSTALLATION IN YESSELL LANE

It was reported that a proposed sewer pipe installation in Yessell Lane to serve the Caravan Park has been delayed, as the company had not agreed road closures with the highway authority.

78/21 EVESHAM TO PERSHORE CYCLEWAY

County Cllr Elizabeth Eyre has reported on this scheme earlier in the meeting.

79/21 UPDATE ON THE REPAIR TO THE LYCHGATE

The damaged lychgate has been removed and there is now access to the Cemetery. The brick walls are currently being rebuilt and the contractor is waiting for the timber - difficult to source at the moment, before reconstruction can start on the upper part of the structure. .

80/21 COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT/OLD SCHOOLROOM

Wychavon DC has agreed the application for the Old Schoolroom and accepted the terms and conditions of the grant.

The Parish Council has put forward a suggested form for agreement and indemnity to the Workman Trust, so that they join in the terms and conditions, which would protect the finances of the Parish Council in the unlikely eventuality that these are not complied with.

The planning application has only recently been accepted by WDC. The Parish Council has been consulted and the following comment on the application was agreed:

“The Parish Council fully supports the application.

The Trustees have worked very closely with the Parish Council in developing these proposals. To help fund the project the Parish Council also submitted an application for funding to Wychavon DC under stage 3 of the New Homes Bonus Legacy Grant scheme. The full amount, £113,358, has subsequently been agreed in full.

As part of the Community Legacy Grant application process extensive public consultation was undertaken within the Parish. Unfortunately, at the time of the survey Covid 19 restrictions were in place but, despite these, some 136 households in the village were consulted. Of these responses were received from 121 households, representing 199 individual residents. Facebook pages explaining the plans were viewed by 257 people. Many people made constructive comments and suggestions about the proposals and the overwhelming view was that the planned improvements to the Old Schoolroom would be extremely beneficial for the village. There were no negative responses,”

81/21 BRIDLEWAY, ADJOINING THE CARAVAN PARK, YESSELL LANE

Following the extensive damage to this bridleway by the visiting mountain bike group it is understood that Fiona Argyle has visited and is monitoring it.

82/21 FLOODING ISSUES

The Chairman raised the need for the brook through the Green to be cleared, but is waiting for the County Council to clear first debris from under the Canada Bank bridge, which they seem reluctant to accept responsibility. The Clerk will check earlier correspondence to see if this can be clarified.

The Chairman reported that the Natural Flood Management Project, headed by Wendy Bufton, has been confirmed to continue for the next 6 years.

A letter has been received from the Environment Agency informing the Parish Council that funding from the EA for maintaining and reporting the flood gauges will cease on 30th April 2022. Consideration needs to be given to the means for future funding, which is £947 plus VAT annually. It is known that Malvern Hills DC pays for a similar scheme in that district and it is hoped that Wychavon DC will consider following this approach.

83/21 UPDATE ON THE NETWORK RAIL PROJECT

Cllr Tony Rowley updated the meeting earlier in the meeting.

84/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th MAY 2021

The draft minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Richard Sims, seconded by Cllr Helen Hill, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

85/21 REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The report of the virtual Planning Committee held on 14th May 2021, which had been circulated with the agenda, was noted.

86/21 FINANCE**1. Receipts and Payments Account: 01.04.21 - 31.05.21**

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Helen Hill, seconded by Cllr Richard Sims, and agreed, that the following accounts be paid:

Smart Cut Ltd (May)	220.00 + £44.00 VAT	£264.00
R D Gurney	salary, April-June 2021	£927.28
	expenses, March-June 2021	£108.00
HMR&C		£231.80
D M Payroll Services Ltd (internal auditor)		£100.00

3. Confirmation of the following 2 cheque and 2 Debit Card payments:

05.05.21	Staples UK Ltd	£40.98 + £8.20 VAT	£ 49.28
10.05.21	Zoom subscription	£119.90 + £23.98 VAT	£143.88
01.06.21	Came and Company (insurance)		£618.51
01.06.21	Brian Arrowsmith (April\)		£144.00

87/21 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2021

Copies of the Accounts were circulated with the agenda and they were explained by the Clerk. Several minor adjustments were made. With these adjustments the accounts were approved and, when signed, must be published on the website. The end of year bank statements were signed by Cllr Richard Sims. Formal bank reconciliation to be prepared and signed to comply with our Financial Regulations. The Meeting agreed that this should be completed on a 4 monthly basis going forwards.

88/21 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

A copy of the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the Annual Return was circulated with the agenda. This was carefully considered and completed at the meeting. It was agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. (It was noted that Risk Assessments had not been updated during the year and there is a need for Risk Assessments to be made for the Cemetery and for Parish Council meetings re Covid.)

89/21 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

A copy of the Accounting Statement (Section 2) of the Annual Return with the draft figures was circulated with the agenda. These were carefully considered and accepted. It was agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer

90/21 PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

The Clerk reported that the renewal of the insurance, due on 1st June 2021, was received one week earlier, and was for £618.51, compared to £387.11 for the previous year. In view of the very short timescale this has been paid. It was agreed that this needs to be reconsidered for next year, and for valuations to be updated, particularly the lychgate. The progress with the rebuilding of the lychgate may need for his to be updated during the year. The Clerk will confirm with the builders undertaking the Lychgate rebuild that they cover the Lychgate during the building and to agree a date with the Parish Council for us to take this over.

It was agreed that the insurance cover for 2022-2023 needs to be assessed later this year.

91/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that there is no need for a meeting in July, and that the next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday 9th September 2021. We would like this to be held at the Old Schoolroom, which is currently unavailable due to Covid restrictions and it is currently uncertain as to when this will again be available. Given the need for the Parish Council to have appropriate risk assessments in place, unless these are available by 31st July 2021, the subsequent Parish Council meeting will have to be held outside the village.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

...R L Davies.....

Chairman

9th September 2021