

BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Cllr Jan Lucas	Chair of the Parish Council
Cllr Sam Baker	Vice Chair of the Parish Council
Cllr Bob Powell	
Cllr Joanne Shattock	
Cllr James Macalister	
Cllr Jim Roberts	

In attendance:

Cllr Pam Redford	Warwick District Council
Cllr Wallace Redford	Warwickshire County Council
PCSO Sharron Underwood	
Mr Doug Evans	Parish Clerk

One member of the public present.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Cllr Wallace Redford suggested that there should be specific item on the agenda for reports from District and County Councillors. The Clerk agreed to add this to future agendas. For the purposes of the meeting, this item would be dealt with under item 15 on the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Trevor Wright (WDC) and PCSO Sharron Underwood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. MEMBERSHIP

i. To consider co-opting Jim Roberts onto the Parish Council

Following his expression of interest, and the circulation of a self-penned letter in support of his interest, Councillors unanimously approved co-opting Jim Roberts onto the Parish Council, following a proposal by the Chair which was seconded by Cllr Shattock.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2020

These were confirmed and would be signed when social distancing permitted.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

i. Spout/trough (Geoff Glover memorial) and pump water contamination

The Chair reported that Tony Sproul was in the process of obtaining additional quotes for the decontamination work.

ii. Gateway South update

The Chair explained that 2 quotes for suitable signs in the village had been sent to Buckingham for consideration.

iii. VE Day memorial bench update

The Clerk reported he had notified Margaret Robinson of the amount received in donations to the bench. It was agreed that fundraising could continue as residents could still make on-line donations. This would be advertised in the newsletter and the Malt Shovel would also be asked to advertise the donation details now that the pub had re-opened.

Cllr Shattock commented that it was unfortunate that the bench fundraising had been curtailed because of the lockdown and the initiative had become a PC project because of the level of funding invested in the purchase of the bench.

6. POLICE REPORT

The Clerk agreed to circulate PCSO Underwood's report which had been received that afternoon. The Chair commented that there had been no burglaries in the village itself but it was agreed to circulate a security reminder to all residents anyway.

7. FINANCE

Councillors received and noted the previously circulated list of payments made by the Clerk under the delegated powers detailed at the meeting on 24 March. Cllr Baker agreed to send the Clerk an invoice for a reimbursement for some materials.

8. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Powell reported that a further meeting of the Committee had not taken place and that any decisions had been made via email.

Re-opening the village playground and car park needed to be considered but a decision needed to be made on when it would be thought possible. Cllr Baker felt that the children needed the playground but that the onus should be put on users to ensure that hands were sanitised before and after use. This approach had been adopted at Ryton Pools. Cllrs commented on the fact that children could be there on their own and that they might not be as stringent with regards to sanitisation as parents would be with younger ones. All government guidance had been circulated by Cllr Pam Redford, via the Clerk, and there had been no further updates from the Government.

Cllr Powell explained that the village hall would not be reopening until the end of August, at the earliest, and that the Emergency Committee would be reviewing the situation with regards to the playground at the end of July. After extensive discussion, it was agreed to support the Emergency Committee with its current stance and it was agreed that the Parish Council would be included in discussions when the position was reviewed at the end of the month. It was suggested that the Committee should meet slightly earlier than the end of the month so that fresh bark could be ordered in time for a re-opening, if that were the decision taken.

The Clerk agreed to check on lead times for the supply of bark and to source suitable signage for the playground.

9. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

i. A445 parking issues

Cllr Powell gave a brief overview of the email he had circulated with his suggestions on a more permanent solution to parking problems on the road, with wooden bollards being his preferred choice. Ryton Pools still had restrictions on parking on site and Police cones would remain on the road outside until the park was reopened in full. People were having difficulty crossing the road safely from the Orchard Way entrance area. Cllr Wallace Redford explained that he had met with WCC Officers and it had been agreed to install plastic style 'springy' bollards with "Soft Verge – No Parking" signs. These would be either black and white or red and white and would be installed from the entrance to Ryton Pools until as far as verge parking was not possible. Cllr Powell explained that he felt it would be better for these to be installed as far as the crossing area at Orchard Way.

There followed extensive discussion and questioning on the siting of the bollards and it was suggested that a site visit would be a good option. It was also suggested that parking issues had continued as people had become used to parking on the road during the lockdown period and would continue to do so to avoid paying.

It was agreed to accept Cllr Redford's offer of funding the installation of the bollards. It might then be possible to add to them, if necessary, in the future.

ii. Pedestrian crossing update

Cllr Redford reported that he was still looking into this item.

10. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was nothing to report on this item.

11. PLANNING

i. Appeal Reference APP/T3725/W/20/3248573

The Clerk confirmed that the letter of comment from the Parish Council had been submitted to the Planning Inspector and that a confirmation of receipt had been received.

Although it was understood that the appeal would be based purely on process, it was acknowledged after the previous meeting that the Parish Council should comment on the original proposals. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Roberts a copy of the letter sent to the Inspector.

12. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND

i. Weed killer treatment in playground area

Cllr Baker reported that standard domestic weed killers had not worked and the lack of footfall had meant that there was an abundance of weeds. Heritage and Sons had quoted £100 plus vat for treatment with a stronger weed killer. Concerns were raised about the safety of the substance and it was agreed that Cllr Baker and Cllrs Redford would make enquiries as to the safety of the treatment and what was used in other county parks.

13. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report on this item.

14. PARISH MATTERS AND ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr Roberts reported that there was excessive litter on the south west edge of Bubbenhall Woods, especially against the fencing. The Clerk explained that he had spoken to FCC about this issue but lockdown had prevented any workers tackling the problem. This would be pursued again with them.

Cllr Pam Redford reported that WDC were going out to public consultation on proposals for renewing the Public Space Protection Order in relation to intoxicating substances and urged Councillors and villagers to make comment.

Cllr Macalister reported issues with flies in the village but no one had noticed a real increase.

Cllr Pam Redford reported the following items in relation to WDC:

- Covid-19 reports were being circulated regularly
- WDC had spent approximately £20m on issues regarding the pandemic
- Swimming pools would be reopening from Monday 20 July

Cllr Wallace Redford reported the following items in relation to WCC:

- Officers were continuing to work from home and no site visits were taking place
- The Senior Management Team were looking at how changes in working practices would be developed
- The pandemic had so far cost WCC £60m and, even after Government grants, there was expected to be a £24m budget shortfall
- A stockpile of PPE had been created early in the pandemic and this had been made available to care homes
- At the start of lockdown, approximately 1000 food parcels were being distributed per week. This had fallen to around 500
- Libraries had reopened with limited numbers and Warwick Museum would be reopening on 20 July

15. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report on this item.

Date of next meeting – 01 September 2020