

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE** **3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2020**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors Mrs S. Dodd and Mrs K. Reeves, Messrs P. Bailey, A. Brown, P. Harriman, D. Massie, S. Moore, two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

**APOLOGIES:** These were received from Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland.

**MINUTES:** The minutes were deemed as a true record by those present and were duly signed by the Chairman, Councillor P. Harriman.

**MRS SUE BENNETT:** The Parish Council was very saddened to hear the news of the recent death of Mrs Sue Bennett who had been for many years a stalwart of the Parish and who will be very much missed. The Clerk was asked to send Janet the Parish Council's condolences.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Any matters arising from the last meeting would be taken as agenda items.

**LATE ITEMS:** Lord Newport attended the meeting to discuss planning application number S.19/08/4004/W - to vary (not comply with) Condition 1 of planning permission ref. S.16/05/4004/W for Lower Reule Bioenergy Brookfield Farm, Cowley, Gnosall, Stafford. The Parish Council discussed this matter following Lord Newport's departure and Councillor Mrs K. Reeves declared an interest. It was agreed that the Parish Council would comment on this application even though it was outside the Parish boundary but would, it was felt, impact on Church Eaton due to increased traffic movements which would also add more pressure to the deteriorating road conditions. This was very concerning given the lack of County Council funding to repair or improve affected lanes. There was also concern expressed given the fact that hauliers were currently ignoring instructions for approved access via Gnosall and use the Church Eaton to Stretton Road as an access route. Any increase of capacity at the location would presumably increase the traffic on any non-approved route to the site. This increase in the number of lorries would possibly cause more issues with passing problems in the lane, damage to road edges, verges and so on.

**OPEN FORUM:** Was not required on this occasion.

**GLEBELANDS SPORTS ASSOCIATION:** Following discussions at the Parish Council meeting on the 4th February 2020 regarding the proposal from Mr Faarup for the Parish Council to take more responsibility for the Glebelands Sports Association (GSA), further discussion took place at this meeting. The Council after considering a further proposal from GSA decided, as before, that the Council was unable to offer any formal involvement in the activities of a limited company. The Council was however prepared to receive reports from the GSA regarding its progress, activities and AGM as appropriate.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** John Edwards was in attendance at the meeting to update the Parish Council as to his progress with registering Church Eaton's Neighborhood Watch Scheme. Despite a lot of technicalities, John reported that he was making good progress and intended to hold a public meeting, possibly in April, to

inform residents more fully about the scheme. John was planning to hold this meeting in the Institute and the Parish Council agreed to pay the hire fee for this event.

**CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND:** Councillor Mr S. Moore returned the inspection book and reported that the playground seemed in good order. Councillor Mrs K. Reeves took the inspection book for the forthcoming month. Councillor Reeves also suggested having the Oak tree examined as there was there some evidence of fungal fruiting which could be an early sign of decay. The Clerk was asked to contact Terry Merchant to discuss this matter with him.

**PLANNING:** The Clerk had received a new planning application for the conversion of a garage to an annex at High Onn Cottage, Orslow Road (20/31798/FUL). The Parish Council in principle had no objections to this proposal but felt the proposed fenestration was not in keeping with the existing facade of the current buildings. The Clerk was asked to forward these comments to the Stafford Borough Council's Planning Department.

**HIGHWAYS:** The Chairman reported on the current poor conditions of many of the roads especially in the Marston area which had again been reported to Staffordshire County Council's Highways Department.

The Clerk reported she had again spoken with the local PCSO Pat Wright to request that he contacts the Chairman to discuss the ongoing problems with parking on the High Street at the beginning and end of school hours.

The Clerk also reported she had received information via Staffordshire County Councillor and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr M. Winnington relating to the possible purchase of wheelie bin speed limit stickers which the Parish Council are hoping to make available to any interested parishioners. The Clerk reported she had made an on-line application for these.

**WORK PLACE PENSIONS:** The Clerk was asked (as is customary every three years) as to whether she wanted to enrol for a work place pension. The Clerk declined to do so.

**VILLAGE MAP:** Mr John Edwards proposed replacing the village map with a newer printed version as well as refurbishing the notice board that houses the map. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the re-printing of the map.

**PARISH WEB SITE:** The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Jon Gibbs who has kindly offered to take over the running and development of a new parish web site. Jon had already started building the Parish Council section and that the exchange of information was running very smoothly. There will be more details about this shortly.

**WELCOME PACK:** The Clerk stated that she was reviewing the Welcome Pack which needed a lot of updating and that this work would shortly be completed. Several members of the Council had already sent amendments. Arrangements had been made to upload this updated pack on to the new web site.

**FINANCE:** Pads for two of the defibrillators i.e. at Marston and the Royal Oak needed replacing as they were due to expire in May. The Clerk had contacted

Welmedical to order these. The Clerk presented her expenses for the year 2019/20 amounting to £92.57. An invoice had been received from the Village Institute for the hire of the hall for the March's meeting amounting to £20.00. Stafford Borough Council had sent an invoice relating to the uncontested election charges for 2019 for £106.61 and it was agreed to send a subscription to the SPCA for membership renewal amounting to £155. These were all proposed for payment by the Vice Chair Councillor S. Dodd and seconded by Councillor K. Reeves. All were in favour.

The Clerk was to present accounts for the year end at next month's meeting and to commence the audit process.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A Stafford Borough Council Members Digest had been received. The Clerk had also received both a list of this year's two Civic Amenity visits which she would advertise as well as information relating to proposed changes to grass cutting services currently undertaken by Staffordshire County Council. Copies of these would be circulated to all Councillors. All other items of correspondence had been forwarded to members.

Following Mr Chris Byford's approach last month to the Parish Council to see whether there would be a volunteer within the Parish to undertake his role as correspondent to the Staffordshire Newsletter, Caitlin Begley had now taken on the role. The Clerk had contacted Caitlin by email.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday the 7th April 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.45pm.