

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
6th OCTOBER 2020

(Meeting held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm)

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Mrs S.Dodd, Messrs P. Bailey, P. Harriman, S. Moore, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillors Mrs K.Reeves, Mr A.Brown, Mr D.Massie and Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr R. Sutherland.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on 1st September 2020 were approved as a true record and would be signed as such at the next physical meeting of the Parish Council by the Chairman, Mr S. Moore. The Minutes were proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Bailey. All were in favour.

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

LATE ITEMS: The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Circuit that the Institute defibrillator pads were due to expire in November 2020. Councillor Mr P. Harriman offered to check on these and would let the Clerk know whether new pads were required. If so, the Clerk was to order a new set and stand by set from WEL Medical, the defibrillator suppliers.

It was also reported that the telephone kiosk in Marston had been re-painted however due to concerns that BT might just suddenly remove the kiosk without any proper warning, a notice was to be posted in the kiosk to notify BT that the parish would like to adopt the kiosk. In previous communications with BT it had been made clear that adoption was preferable to removal however it was agreed that the Clerk would not contact BT in case this prompted its premature removal. In the interim, the kiosk was to be monitored for any developments.

OPEN FORUM: Mr Chris Beddows made enquires of the Parish Council as to what was happening with various road flooding issues in and around the Marston and Church Eaton areas, especially by Little Onn Hall which had a very deep and wide flood. Mr Beddows had contacted the Highways Department but the Chairman asked Mr Beddows to send him details and he would then contact County Councillor Mr M. Winnington.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Mr John Edwards was not in attendance and there had been no further updates.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: The opening of the playground was discussed at length but again there were still concerns over complying with the Government COVID-19 guidelines which had not been updated or revised since August. The Clerk of Wheaton Aston Parish Council had been very helpful in issuing the Chairman with information and a flier currently being used in their play area. Following a discussion, Church Eaton Parish Councillors still had concerns about

complying fully with the Government's guidance especially managing and cleaning sufficiently high traffic areas on the equipment, the inability to provide a one way system for entry and exit, seating, bins and adequate signage to cover all eventualities. It was therefore agreed that the playground was to remain closed for the forthcoming month and reviewed again in November.

Councillor Mr P. Bailey returned the inspection book and reported that the playground was in good order and despite the play ground being closed the equipment had been checked. It was reported that several youngsters had been seen in the playground having climbed over the closed notice and barrier. They had been advised not to use the playground until it was re-opened and to wash their hands on arrival at home. Councillor Mr P. Bailey retained the inspection book for the forthcoming month.

PLANNING: The Clerk reported that since the last meeting an application for the demolition of an existing utility and sun room to be replaced by a single and two storey extensions at Rose Cottage, Orslow Road, (application number 20/32940/HOU) had been received. There had been no objections made to this proposal and the Clerk had relayed this to Stafford Borough Council's Planning Department.

The Clerk had also received a new planning application for a proposed single storey pool extension and new stable block at High Onn Manor, High Onn, Church Eaton (planning application number 20/32981/HOU). There were no objections to this proposal.

A second application had been received for a proposed detached garage at Crofters Barn, Common Road, Church Eaton (planning application number 20/33102/HOU). Councillors asked the Clerk to inform the Planning Department that there were no objections but to comment that it was assumed that the planners would ensure that the scale of the garage was kept in keeping with the existing property.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman had reported and discussed with Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councillor, Mr M. Winnington, several areas of concern in relation to flooding issues. These included flooding outside East Lodge, flooding on the corner at Marston adjacent to Gay Lane also Smithy Croft which appeared to be flooding due to a blocked drain which had also been reported.

On a more positive note Councillor Mr P .Bailey had seen gulley emptying in operation throughout Church Eaton High Street and down by Malthouse Lane.

A replacement litter bin was discussed for the High Street, following a query at last month's meeting but it was agreed to discuss this at a later date. The original bin had been removed due to bad odours through lack of emptying due to COVID-19 pressures. It was generally felt that until the current COVID situation improved, it was unlikely to be emptied as frequently as before.

FINGERPOSTS: Following the September meeting, the Chairman had spoken with Robert Cox about carrying out re-painting of the parish finger posts which had not been replaced. For the thirteen fingers which needed re-painting, Mr Cox had quoted £650 which was more or less the cost of reinstalling just one new fingerpost. It was agreed that the actual posts could be re-painted on a volunteer basis by the Parish

Council. It was proposed by Vice Chair Councillor Mrs S. Dodd and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Bailey to look at this in the spring. All were in favour.

PARISH PLANTERS: Winter planting of the new planters was discussed. It was agreed to consider this, along with a budget, at the November meeting.

FINANCE: The Clerk confirmed that the insurance had been renewed and had been confirmed by Zurich. Helen Bellamy's internal audit fee had been increased this year to £60 and had been paid, but unfortunately the PTA treasurer had had difficulties with paying the cheque into the PTA account and had prematurely destroyed the cheque. The Clerk requested that a replacement cheque be issued and sent to Helen. The Clerk had paid the monthly grass cutting invoice amounting to £144.00 to JWH the grass cutting contractors.

The Clerk then left the meeting as members of the Council wanted to review the Clerk's salary. It was concluded that the Parish Council would follow the Local Government award of a 2.75% increment back-dated to 1st April 2020. This was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Mr S. Moore and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Bailey with all in favour.

WELCOME PACK: The Clerk reported that she was making slow but steady progress with reviewing the Welcome Pack. The Clerk was currently sending out different sections to organisations such as the school and institute for updating.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had received an email concerning the forthcoming Community Awards and Parish Forum. All other items of correspondence had been forwarded to members as it had arrived.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.30 pm. This was most likely to be held remotely due to current COVID-19 protocols. The meeting closed at 8.40pm.