

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
1st December 2020

(Meeting held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm)

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Mrs S.Dodd (Vice Chair) and Mrs K.Reeves, Messrs P. Bailey, A. Brown, P. Harriman, S. Moore (Chairman), Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councillor, Mr M. Winnington, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillor Mr D. Massie and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland.

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 3rd November 2020 were approved as a true record although there were three amendments namely, Councillor Harriman had liaised with the County Council over flooding by Little Onn Hall; residents at Marston had carried out the gully emptying and there was a correction to the title 'What Three Words'. The minutes would be signed by the Chairman at the next physical meeting of the Parish Council. The minutes were proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Harriman. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: These were taken as they appeared on the agenda.

LATE ITEMS: The recent announcement by the Borough Council that they would be charging for brown bin emptying from 1st January 2021 was discussed. Councillors' opinions on this varied with Councillor Brown querying contract arrangements. He felt that this service should remain without charge. Several Councillors, while acknowledging suggestions that this charge was a means of taxation, felt that it was surprising that this service had not attracted a charge sooner. Stafford Borough Councillor M. Winnington also contributed to the discussion highlighting that this was not a means of raising money and that the cost of the scheme would reflect the administration and collection costs for residents wishing to use the service. He also pointed out that not all residents used brown bins particularly in the more populated areas Borough.

OPEN FORUM: Mr Trevor Houghton commented on the new Parish flower troughs which he thought were very good. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a thank you card to Mr Nigel Bickley who had made them. The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Harriman had installed them with help from Councillor Massie who had kindly stored them until installation had taken place. The bulbs had been thinned out and the surplus replanted in the verge adjacent to the village playground. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Joan Harriman, Mrs Jayne Moore and Mr Jon Gibbs and Mrs Dawn Gibbs who also helped with this project.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: The Clerk had not received any reports since the last meeting.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: The opening of the playground was again discussed at length, but as noted previously while the Government had on the 13th October 2020 updated its guidance relating to open play areas, the guidance

for cleaning high traffic areas remained the same. It was therefore agreed unanimously to review the situation in January's meeting. Councillor Bailey had continued with playground inspections and reported that it might be time to replace the plain swing seat which while safe to use was looking shabby. The Clerk was to establish what the replacement cost might be from the suppliers Wicksteed.

PLANNING: There had been no planning applications or related correspondence since the last meeting.

HIGHWAYS: There has been some gulley clearing in certain areas of the Parish and some remedial road works had been, and was being, carried out. The Parish Council was actively involved with the Highways Department over these matters.

Speeding traffic and the high volume of heavy vehicles using the Parish roads continued to be of concern following several complaints from local residents. Speeding traffic had again been a major issue in the High Street. These concerns were discussed at length and as a result Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councillor Mr M. Winnington agreed to explore the possibility of whether a 20mph speed limit could be imposed to reduce speeding traffic through the village. The Chairman was to update the residents who had been in touch over this matter.

The Clerk reported that, following a phone call from a resident Eaton Green concerning the spillage of slurry at the road junction of Eaton Green on to the Lapley Road, Stafford Borough Councillor Mr R. Sutherland had been in touch with the land owner responsible and also the Highways Department. The affected road had now been swept by a Highways Department lorry.

Councillor Bailey was to report the broken 30mph sign on the Gnosall Road which had still not been replaced.

FINGERPOSTS: The finger post arm re-painting had been carried out by Mr Robert Cox and the Chairman had finished repainting the base of the fingerpost in Slab Lane. The remaining finger post bases would be re-painted in the spring by a Parish Council working party.

FLOODING DRAINAGE ISSUES HIGH STREET: Due to concerns expressed by several residents about flooding of properties in the High Street, the Chairman is currently looking into whether anything can be done to alleviate the problem and was liaising with local residents, and various other parties. Investigations were being carried out to pinpoint the problem.

VILLAGE MAP: The replacement village map was discussed and Mr Trevor Houghton was to check whether the current map was up to date in terms of showing all properties before re-printing commenced. This was to be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk reported that the notice board had been refurbished by Mr Patrick Bryant and thanks were expressed to Mr Bryant for carrying this work out. Mr Jon Gibbs was to look at creating a location map for the Marston area.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported she had paid the following invoices namely, £48.00 to JWH for grass cutting services and as agreed previously, £700 to Robert Cox for fingerpost re-painting.

WELCOME PACK: The Clerk reported that she had heard from Helen Bellamy, the school secretary who would look at updating the school section. This was not likely to be done soon due to work commitments but hopefully in the New Year the Welcome pack revisions would be complete.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had received an email with an attached letter relating to the Glebelands Sports Association who were looking to organise a Special Meeting of the Association. Parish Council representative, Councillor Reeves said she would update the Council on this matter.

The Clerk had been contacted again by Sarah Ruff from Stafford Borough Council over the community's response to COVID-19. Sarah was to supply various information via email relating to various webinars being held concerning community help and advice for future COVID-19 recovery plans.

Councillor Massie had telephoned the Clerk to report that the Bradford Estate had very kindly offered up to a £1,000 grant towards a project which would benefit or enhance the Parish. The Clerk was to contact the Bradford Estate to thank them for this kind gesture and to find out more. The Parish Council were to advertise this out to the Parish to see if anyone had any ideas or suggestions and these will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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 5th January 2021 at 7.30 pm. This was again most likely to be held remotely due to current COVID-19 protocols and second lockdown. The meeting closed at 9.22pm.