

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**(Meeting held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm)**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors Mrs S.Dodd (Vice Chair), Messrs P. Bailey, A. Brown, P. Harriman, S. Moore (Chairman), Staffs County and Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr M.Winnington 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 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved as a true record. Proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Harriman. All were in favour.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Any matters arising would be taken as they appeared on the agenda.

**LATE ITEMS:** There were no late items.

**OPEN FORUM:** This was not required.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mr John Edwards reported that he was disappointed with the structure of the current Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which seemed to only channel information one way, and a lot of the information being received was not directly relevant to the Parish. He was therefore hoping to create a Whatsapp group for the village which would disseminate information more effectively. Mr Edwards was to contact Caitlin Begley whose input would be very useful.

Mr Edwards reported he had also recently filled in a questionnaire from Staffordshire Police about services and had commented in this that Neighbourhood Watch was very important to local areas.

**CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND:**

The opening of the playground was again reviewed but sadly would remain closed. There were still concerns that the Parish Council would be unable to fulfil the Government guidance relating to the cleaning of high traffic areas in open play areas. The guidance had not been updated since the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 so there still remained the requirement for the equipment to be cleaned in between use. Re-opening of the playground would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Councillor Bailey had continued with the weekly playground inspections and reported that everything appeared to be in good order. He was happy to continue with these inspections.

The Clerk reported she had received another response from Wicksteed who thought the swing seats had not originated from Wicksteed but could provide alternatives which could be fitted to the current chains. This was quoted as previously at £44.00

plus Vat per seat and there would be a carriage cost plus VAT. The Clerk was asked to enquire as to the cost of new chains and report back to the Council.

**PLANNING:** The Clerk reported that since the last meeting she had received one new planning application for a rear extension to the existing garage at Rose Cottage, Orslow Road (Application number 20/33554/HOU). There were no objections to this application.

**HIGHWAYS:** Following recent enquiries about imposing a 20mph speed limit within the High Street and extending the 30mph areas, Mark Keeling the Strategic Community Infrastructure Manager from Staffs County Council had emailed the Chairman with the following comments.

*"In general 20mph zones have to be self-enforcing so the zones have to be designed as such that traffic is slowed. The cost of the scheme itself would be dependent on if there are any existing traffic calming measures, or if there is a need for construction works such as realignment of junctions, provision of calming measures, build outs and road humps, and the number of sign sites etc.*

*There are many considerations that the Authority would have to take into account before considering 20mph zones, including justification / evidence of injury incident reduction, current traffic speeds, road type, installation of calming measures etc.*

*On the last speed and volume survey we undertook on the High Street in 2016, the 85%ile speeds were 31mph so good compliance with the current speed limit with only 600 vehicles travelling in each direction over a 24hr period which is low.*

*In terms of the process community projects are delivered as Local Community Priorities via the Divisional Highway Program process, this program is managed locally via officers and the County Councillor and priorities are generally delivered each financial year where possible. The funding is limited to £7k per member so this would not be enough to deliver a scheme but may cover feasibility and scoping exercise.*

### **30MPH Extension**

*This process involves reviewing the current Traffic Regulation Order and amending as necessary or required.*

*Should a scheme be put forward colleagues at Amey would look into the design and draw up a scheme and TRO review. This then moves to a formal consultation process with statutory partners and then local advertisement and consultation.*

*Once this process is complete and no objections are received new signs can be installed at the given locations and the speed limit becomes enforceable.*

*Again the scheme needs to be promoted through the members Divisional Highway Program and would suggest costs of up to £7k."*

The Parish Council are to discuss this matter further but it would appear that any new or changes to speed limits within the High Street would be prohibitively expensive. It was suggested that there may be the possibility of obtaining, on a temporary basis, a set of speed warning lights as used previously. It was however acknowledged that this would be just that – temporary. The Clerk was asked to publish Mark Keeling’s comments in the next Parish magazine.

**FLOODING DRAINAGE ISSUES HIGH STREET:** Since the last meeting, the Parish Council had received more complaints relating to flooding matters within the Parish. Chairman Councillor Moore had contacted these residents and supplied them with information and links as to whom they could contact to try and get these problems alleviated. The Chairman had also been in contact with the Canal and River Trust to request that they temporarily limit discharging any surplus water from the canal in to surrounding water courses until the current high water levels in the brooks had fallen.

**VILLAGE MAP:** It was discussed with Mr John Edwards as to whether he had a copy of the map for re-printing purposes. Mr Edwards thought that Brett Wharton at Direct Print may have a copy of the file required for reprinting the proposed large scale map but would send the Clerk what he had. The Clerk had spoken with Mr Chris Byford who had been very helpful and had a copy of the A4 version which the Clerk was hoping to be able to obtain. Mr Byford had also forwarded to the Clerk, Mr Wharton’s original quotation email which contained his contact details and which would assist the Clerk in making contact with him. It was suggested that Mr Jon Gibbs might be able to post a copy on the Parish web site.

The proposed location map for Marston was still under discussion as in regards to due diligence, residents were to be asked for their opinions as to whether they wanted their properties including.

**FINANCE:** The Bradford Estate’s recent kind offer of a donation of up to £1,000 towards a project which was deemed to enhance the Parish was further discussed. The Clerk had received from a parishioner a suggestion about creating a lending library within the Parish. This was felt to be a good suggestion but possibly as a future project when lockdown regulations eased. Following the last meeting, the Clerk had asked the Bradford Estates about a contribution towards the refurbishment and re-painting of the Parish fingerposts. They had agreed to this suggestion. The Clerk had been asked to submit copies of the invoices before the end of March 2021.

An email from the Church Treasurer, Mrs Janet Gough had been received requesting a donation towards the maintenance of the church clock. This was to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting in March 2021.

The Clerk confirmed that she had made a VAT claim to HMRC in the amount of £391.18.

**WELCOME PACK:** The Clerk had now received an updated school section for the Welcome pack from Helen Bellamy, the school secretary. The Village Institute section had also been revised in an email from Jenny Annis. It was also planned to align the Welcome Pack information with that on the parish web site.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk had replied to the email from Dan Cooke the Census Engagement Manager at the Office of National Statistics who had offered to give a brief presentation at the next meeting concerning the forthcoming national census which will be held on 21st March 2021. To date the Clerk had not received a response.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 9.50pm.