

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
2nd MARCH 2021

(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), one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D. Key.

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

MINUTES: The minutes from the meeting held on the 2nd February 2021 were approved as a true record. Proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor S. Moore and seconded by Vice Chair, Councillor S. Dodd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: Any matters arising were taken as they appeared on the agenda.

RESIGNATION – MR PETER HARRIMAN: Councillor P. Harriman formally resigned at the meeting, stepping down to earn a well deserved retirement. Chairman Councillor Moore thanked Councillor Harriman for all his hard work and efforts during his many years of service in his roles as both Councillor and Chairman. The Borough Council Election Office had been notified of Councillor Harriman's resignation and were awaiting this in writing. The Clerk would then be notified as to the protocols required to fill this vacancy.

LATE ITEMS: Mr Bob Thacker had contacted the Parish Council about the poor mobile phone coverage within the village especially in the High Street. The Parish Council were not sure what could be done to alleviate this problem but are to investigate this matter further and discuss any findings at the next meeting. The Chairman in the interim was to look at network sharing initiatives.

OPEN FORUM: This was not required on this occasion.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Mr John Edwards reported that a 'Nextdoor' Group had been set up within the Parish by Debbie Allen which was providing a useful method of social networking for the area. This Group seemed to be working well and Mr Edwards felt it would be very useful in notifying residents of important local information and issues of concern. He was therefore going to put his plans to create a Neighbourhood Watch based Whatsapp Group on hold.

Vice Chair Mrs S. Dodd reported on a recent scam which involved people knocking on doors pretending to be from the Fire Service under the guise of inspecting householder's smoke alarms. It was pointed out that the Fire Service never just turned up on your doorstep and would always make an appointment in the appropriate manner.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: After further discussion it was, with regret, agreed that the village playground would remain closed due to concerns

that the Parish Council had over being able to fulfil the Government guidance relating to the cleaning of high traffic areas in open play areas. Despite the guidance being updated on the 28th January 2021 there was still the requirement for equipment to be cleaned in between use. Re-opening of the playground would be reviewed at the April meeting.

Councillor P. Bailey reported that he had continued with the weekly playground inspections and that everything appeared to be in good order. He also confirmed he was happy to continue with these inspections. The Chairman asked Councillor P. Harriman if he could forward a copy of the quarterly playground inspection sheets.

The Clerk reported that in response to the request for information about replacement swing seats Wicksteed did not believe the seats had been supplied by themselves but could provide alternatives which could be fitted to the current chains. The Clerk was to confirm the quotation for the cost of two replacement seats and would then place an order.

PLANNING: The Clerk had, since the last meeting, received two new planning applications. The first was for a detached triple garage at High Onn Manor (Application Number 21/33762/HOU). The second was for a cattle handling and loafing area at Barleybrook, Slab Lane (Application Number 21/33674/PAGR). There were no objections made to these applications.

HIGHWAYS: In anticipation of a planning application to renew operations for the storage of road chippings at Little Onn Airfield, the Parish Council had received several comments from Parishioners including concerns over the impact heavy traffic was having on the Parish Roads, flood lighting at the site and road safety. Chairman S. Moore was to meet with the contractor RMS on the 3rd March to discuss these concerns.

Concerns were again expressed over pot holes in Marston and on the Gnosall Road which the Chairman was continuing to log and report to County Highways.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: Since the last meeting, Severn Trent Water had been out to attend to the recent sewage contamination and to carry out a camera inspection of the drains in the Smithy Croft area. It was reported that they were due to return to the area to carry out a further inspection as smaller camera equipment was required. The Chairman had not heard anything more and hoped there was still not an issue but would monitor the situation.

VILLAGE MAP: The Clerk thanked Mr John Edwards for forwarding a printable copy of the Village map. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Brett Wharton at Direct Print to confirm an order for the reprinting of the large scale map.

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 offer of a donation of up to £1,000 had now been confirmed and the Estates Office had agreed that this could be used as a contribution towards the refurbishment and re-painting of the Parish fingerposts. To allow the Council to drawdown this money, invoices for the work would need to be

submitted to the Estate Office. The Clerk already had a paid invoice from Mr Cox who carried out the painting and the Chairman agreed to send the paint and primer invoices to her to allow these to be submitted.

Following a request from Mrs Janet Gough, Church Treasurer at St Editha's Church, a donation of £200 was agreed towards the maintenance of the church clock. This was proposed by Councillor Harriman and seconded by Councillor Brown. All were in favour.

An invoice from the SPCA had been received requesting renewal of the 2021 membership subscription amounting to £156.00. This was proposed for payment by Councillor P. Harriman, seconded by Councillor S. Dodd. All were in favour.

Invoices amounting to £91.32 from the Clerk in respect of the last financial year expenses were presented. This was also agreed for payment.

The Clerk confirmed payment of the VAT claim from HMRC in the amount of £391.18 had been received.

Arrangements were discussed for adding the Chairman as a bank account signatory but this may be delayed until lockdown eases.

WELCOME PACK: The Clerk reported she had now almost finished updating the pack and would forward a copy to Jon Gibbs as planned to align the Welcome Pack information with that on the parish web site.

CORRESPONDENCE: All 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 6th April 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.