

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE
6th APRIL 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 6th April 2021 were approved as a true record. Proposed for approval by the Chairman Councillor S. Moore and seconded by Councillor Reeves. All were in favour.

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

LATE ITEMS: The Chairman proposed that Councillor Massie be given dispensation as he was unable to access Zoom meetings remotely. This was seconded by the Vice Chairman and all were in favour.

Various emails relating to the Glebelands Sports Association with a remote meeting being scheduled to take place on Monday 12th April 2021 which Councillor Reeves was to attend.

OPEN FORUM: Mr John Edwards noted the sterling effort made by Jane Evans with the recent scarecrow initiative. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Jane Evans for organising this.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY: The Clerk reported that the Borough Council elections office had been in contact and that an election had not been called to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. It was therefore up to the Parish Council to co-opt a new member. The Chairman thought it would be useful to invite any interested candidates to a future physical meeting of the Parish Council following the easing of lock down restrictions. The Clerk was asked to confirm with the elections office whether there was any time limit on the co-option process. The Clerk had received some interest in this matter and was to report back to the interested party. The vacancy and co-option would be advertised shortly.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Mr John Edwards reported on the different social networking for the area. The 'Next Door' Group seemed to be working well and reiterated that while he had registered Church Eaton on to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, information only seemed to stream from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and that there was no opportunity to report local concerns or events back to the Scheme.

CHURCH EATON VILLAGE PLAYGROUND: The village playground re-opening was discussed but the Council decided that it would remain closed due to

ongoing 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. The guidance was recently updated on the 29th March 2021 but there still remained the requirement for equipment to be cleaned in between use. Re-opening of the playground will be reviewed at the May meeting. The Clerk reported that the replacement flat swing seats have been ordered from Wicksteed.

Councillor P. Bailey reported that he had continued with the weekly playground inspections and that everything appeared to be in good order. Councillor Reeves agreed to take the inspection book for the forthcoming month. Former Councillor P. Harriman had forwarded to the Chairman a copy of the quarterly playground inspection sheets.

PLANNING: Since the last meeting the Clerk has received an email from the Borough Council's Planning Department in relation to the BT telephone kiosk located at Marston. The email set out BT's plan to remove the kiosk due to low usage. The Chairman was to speak with Marston resident to gather opinions on this. As it looked unlikely that a case to retain an operational kiosk would be successful, the Parish Council intended to adopt the kiosk if the telephony was decommissioned. The Clerk was asked to feature this in her Parish Magazine reports.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE: Ironically while the Parish Council were trying to retain the last working telephone within the Parish, trying to get the mobile phone providers to improve the signal within the village was proving very difficult. The Parish Council are indebted to Mr Bob Thacker and other residents for bringing this to their attention and for providing extremely useful information which seems to point to the fact that a group approach was required in order for providers to accept and recognise the problem. Mr Thacker had suggested creating a petition to this effect. Mr Jon Gibbs had added an online survey to allow residents to report mobile phone reception information on the Church Eaton web site. This link can be found on the page <https://churcheaton.org.uk/parishcouncil.php> and the Parish Council was to urge anyone having mobile phone reception issues to complete the survey. The Parish Council also agreed that the Clerk should write to Sir Bill Cash MP on this matter to see whether he could assist in any way.

HIGHWAYS: Following complaints from local residents about the heavy traffic resulting from various operations at Little Onn Airfield and the subsequent meeting with the Chairman, three local residents and three representatives from RMS, chippings were being removed as promised.

Concerns were again expressed over pot holes which the Chairman was continuing to log and report to County Highways. The poor condition of the Gnosall Road was discussed with Stafford Borough and County Councillor Mr M. Winnington following more complaints from local residents. The large pothole and erosion of the road adjacent to Mrs Gill Skelton's property was discussed and the Chairman asked Councillor Winnington to contact Mrs Skelton.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Mrs Cossar and Mrs Gibbs for their sterling efforts in litter picking in the Marston area.

FLOODING ISSUES HIGH STREET: Since the last meeting where it was reported that Severn Trent Water had been out to attend to the recent sewage contamination the

Chairman had still not heard anymore but hoped there was still not an issue and would continue to monitor the situation.

VILLAGE MAP: The village map had now been re-printed and installed in the High Street. Thanks were expressed to the following people who had made this happen, Chris and Bee Byford, Patrick Bryant, John Edwards and Brett Wharton at Print Direct Limited.

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 Clerk reported on the end of year accounts (31st March 2021) and had circulated these to all members of the Parish Council. These were proposed for approval by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman. All were in favour.

The Clerk confirmed that the Bradford Estate's recent donation of £791.26, as a contribution towards the cost of refurbishment and re-painting of the Parish fingerposts, had been agreed following submission of invoices.

The Clerk's fee of £466.54 and tax amounting to £116.60 had been raised for HMRC. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take out a subscription of £5 for the Parish Magazine and there was an invoice now outstanding for £58.80 for the village map re-printing. There were proposed for payment by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman and all were in favour.

WELCOME PACK: The Clerk reported she had now finished updating the pack and had forwarded 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 and Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 4th May 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 20.55pm.