**AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2021, 7pm via Zoom video conferencing.**

**PRESENT**: Parish Councillors; Chairman – Geoff Uren (GU), Peter Cozens (PJC), Hazel Allinson (HA), Elizabeth Tooms (ET), Tim Simpson (TS), Jason Charman (JC) and Alex Beveridge (AB).

**Also present**: WSCC Leader Cllr Paul Marshall, HDC councillors Diana van der Klugt and Brian Donnelly, Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME/UPDATE**

GU welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from HDC Cllr Paul Clarke. No apologies received from Laura Rawnsley or Leigh Cresswell.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**4. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2021**

The minutes were agreed by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**5. UPDATE FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Paul Marshall advised that the WSCC £45m funding gap for 2021/22 has been filled. WSCC are looking at the services they need to prioritise as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Paul advised there were some challenges around Household Recycling sites due to increased numbers attending the sites, they are piloting a booking system on six sites and have brought forward summer opening hours.

Cllr Brian Donnelly advised that HDC will be able to present a balanced budget for 2021/22.

The 1710 yearly housing target for HDC detailed in the White Paper on Planning has been reduced to 1100, but still waiting final confirmation from the government. Sites are under consideration.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No questions.

**7. MATTERS ARISING** **(a) Community Speedwatch and B2139 issues** – no update available. JC advised that there is a site meeting with WSCC on 1st April. A member of the public spoke about cars overtaking on the solid white line near the turning to Rackham Street along the B2139 and would like for the line to be extended. Paul Marshall advised that they could potentially look at signage, the resident will contact Paul.

**(b) Gigabit broadband voucher scheme** –Ian Galbraith has advised GU that Openreach have confirmed that the broadband upgrade works will be completed by October 2021.

**(c) Update on Parishioners queries** - There is a site meeting on 1st April with WSCC where the continuous footpath from the station to the village will be included in the discussions.

**(d) Updates on support for local business post Covid-19 –** initiative to support local businesses in co-operation with Bury PC. GU advised that Amberley Shop Trust have provided grants to the village shop to assist them in providing deliveries and have extended their ‘rent holiday’ to June 2021. They will also be providing a two year sponsorship for an electric van to help with deliveries.

HA suggested a business register called ABC (the Amberley & Bury Contacts), which would be a leaflet with a list of business contacts (no advertising) which could be distributed to tearooms, the Church, pubs and put online/noticeboards. GU asked HA to do a report for Bury PC.

The idea of mentoring has been raised to GU by a resident and will be another option to explore.

Paul Marshall advised that both County and HDC had grants available for small businesses, he will send information to GU who will publish on Listserve.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that the application from Amberley Museum for the use of a building for a pre-school has been agreed by HDC. APC had concerns around parking, The Museum have provided an undertaking that they will ensure that cars are only parked on museum land and not at the station.

PADS committee will be meeting after 12th April to walk around the Parish to progress the new Design Statement.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC advised nothing to report.

**(c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised that football is returning to the Amberley football field, and the youth teams will be using the field for training from 29th March and games will re-start from 3rd April.

**(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that with regard to the car park, funding is required for this from the Strawberry Villas development. Currently there is no start date for the building works, they are being held up by a legal technicality over the access road to the site. GU asked TS to email the Developer for an update. TS advised he has also submitted a further application to SDNPA for the remaining funding.

**(e) Amberley Climate Change** – No update this month.

 **(f) Finance** – The February 2021 bank reconciliation and bank statement were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period 1st January to 28th February 2021 was agreed by council and signed. The financial statement is as follows;



It was agreed going forward at PC meetings that ET would provide an update on the village bus. There had also been an issue with parking by building contractors in The Square and getting the bus through. Resolved that the clerk will write to resident where the contractors are working to ask them to park considerately.

**9. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON WSALC VALUE FOR MONEY PROJECT AND THE WAY FORWARD ON MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER SERVICES**

GU had provided a briefing note to all councillors prior to the meeting. TS advised that there was now a new board of WSALC directors who are more willing to work with Parish councils and consult them on the way forward. WSALC were looking to work jointly with East Sussex going forward to provide membership services. TS felt that there were reasonable grounds for confidence in the new board and the future services.

**10.** **DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT ON NEW APC LOGO**

HA had arranged for a local graphic designer to produce a new logo for the PC, a few examples were sent to councillors prior to the meeting and councillors agreed their favourite.

**11. DISCUSSION ON MAY 2021 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The clerk advised that the current legislation which enables Parish councils to hold remote meetings expires on 7th May, NALC are lobbying government for an extension. If this is not granted then VS advised that one option is for the PC to bring their May meeting forward by a week to 6th May, agreed by councillors.

**12. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

None

**13. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

6th or 13th May (see item 11) 2021 at 7pm via zoom.

GU closed the meeting at 8.17pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Amberley Parish Council – 16th March 2021