**AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20th January 2022 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church Hall.**

**PRESENT**: Parish Councillors; Chair - Geoff Uren (GU), Jason Charman (JC), Peter Cozens (PJC), Hazel Allinson (HA), Tim Simpson (TS), Leigh Cresswell (LC), Alex Beveridge (AB), Elizabeth Tooms (ET) and Laura Rawnsley (LR),

**Also present**: Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk and 5 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received and noted from WSCC Leader and councillor Paul Marshall, HDC councillors Paul Clarke and Diana van der Klugt.

**2. To receive declarations of interest from items on the agenda**

None.

**3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2021**

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

**4. Updates from County and District councillors**

GU advised that as the agenda had been kept to essential business only due the high Covid-19 numbers the county and district councillors would not be attending.

**5. Adjournment to take questions or comments from the public**

A resident had raised some planning issues prior to the meeting via email which had been flagged to the Amberley Society. PJC advised that he and the planning committee were happy to take up parishioners’ concerns if it’s agreed that there may be a problem but would not normally request a retrospective planning application should be submitted to HDC if they have no objections to the work.

A resident asked if anyone from APC was actively monitoring work done on properties within the Parish to ensure compliance with PADS or planning restrictions. PC and GU said that this was not an appropriate function for the council. PJC advised that this was not within the council’s remit. If a resident considers there to be an issue they can flag it with the planning committee or raise it with HDC Planning Compliance. PJC advised whilst APC is a statutory consultee on planning applications there was no legal standing to interfere with Permitted Development Rights. GU also mentioned that the Parish of Amberley Design Statement (PADS) now has diminished standing with the SDNP Planning department due to its age, and it should be updated as a matter of urgency.

**6. MATTERS ARISING** **(a) Joint Community Highways Scheme** **(CHS)** – LR advised that the joint Community Highways Scheme application (from APC and Houghton Parish Meeting) has been approved by WSCC Highways. A project manager has been allocated and the next steps would be to contact WSCC to find out more details. A community engagement event will also be organised once further details of the process are established.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that application SDNP/21/04478/HOUS had also been approved.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC advised in a report sent prior to the meeting there was a sinkhole on the footpath along the B2139 Turnpike Road near the turning into School Road, reported to Highways in November and was fixed a couple of days later. The 40mph sign by the football pitch was knocked over in November and JC reported it to Highways who replaced within a couple of days.

Ditch and hedge work is continuing and progressing well, JC will have it completed by end of February.

**(c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised there was nothing to report.

**(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that the application for the discharge of planning conditions had been submitted to SDNPA, with a response deadline of 8 weeks. TS asked for the committee’s gratitude to Adrienne and Phil Greenwood to be noted as their assistance with the planning processes has been greatly appreciated. The application for a ‘heavy vehicle access point’ has been approved by WSCC and HDC. TS said the committee is currently awaiting an updated quote from Landbuild for the works and are still cautiously optimistic that work will start in early spring.

**(e) Village Bus** – Passenger numbers have increased.

**8. To receive and agree bank reconciliations for November and December 2021 and to review and authorise payments on the Financial Statement from 1st November to 31st December 2021.**

The November and December 2021 bank reconciliations and bank statements were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period 1st November to 31st December 2021 was agreed by members and signed. The financial statement is as follows:



**9.** **To review and approve the Council’s 2022/23 budget and precept**

The clerk had sent to members prior to the meeting. Members reviewed and approved. There is a 10.45% increase (£9.08 per annum increase on a Band D property) from £86.91 to 95.99.

**10. Information items**

GU mentioned the A27 consultation and urged residents to respond, APC support the proposal.

PJC advised he had been to the annual HDC/HALC meeting where it was noted that WSCC were looking at running ‘wildlife corridors’ workshops to encourage similar projects that had been successful at Knepp. The issue of water neutrality had also been discussed with confirmation that this extends to businesses and schools. HDC are hoping to bring in a temporary mitigation strategy by the autumn but currently do not know what this will look like, they are in discussions with Historic England.

HA had attended a Sussex Green Living Zoom meeting where she learnt that 42.1% of general household waste collected by HDC is food waste. She is investigating the idea of trying to mitigate this by possibly setting up a food larder etc.

**11. To note the date of the next meeting**

Noted as 10th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

GU closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Amberley Parish Council – 25th January 2022