# **AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 12th March 2020, 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church Hall.**

**PRESENT**: Parish Councillors; Chairman – Geoff Uren (GU), Peter Cozens (PJC), Hazel Allinson (HA), Leigh Cresswell (LC) and Tim Simpson (TS).

Also present: Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk, Alex Beveridge and 16 members of the public.

**1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

GU welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Jason Charman, Laura Rawnsley, District Cllrs Paul Clarke, Diana van der Klugt and Brian Donnelly and County Cllr Paul Marshall.

**2. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Alex Beveridge gave a brief statement has to why he would like to join APC. Councillors undertook a paper ballot and unanimously voted to co-opt Alex onto the Council. Alex signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the councillors.

**3. PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT TO TAKE COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Richard Robinson spoke about a contingency plan for Amberley for the coronavirus, it was noted that Hazel Allinson and Jenny Toynbee have identified households with vulnerable or elderly residents who may need extra support, Lee from the village shop has ordered hand sanitizer and a dispenser to go outside of the shop, the school has been contacted and Ray Jackson confirmed they are taking advice from the Department of Education, Philip Greenwood has emailed all the drivers of the minibus for their views on continuing with the bus timetable, Jenny Robinson has spoken to the three pubs regarding their plans. Lee and AGNES are going to work together on a leaflet which will be delivered to every household in the Parish. A list of volunteers is being drawn up. Jenny will co-ordinate an action plan. The PC offered to support in whatever way it can.

Sue Belgrave has been running a climate change group in Amberley since July 2019 and brought three requests to the PC; (1) that a member of the PC becomes attached to the climate group so there is a more formal link (2) would like to know that APC is supporting the group’s initiatives (3) that there is an agenda item for climate initiatives etc. for every PC meeting to keep the momentum going. GU thanked Sue and advised that the PC would review these requests under item 11 on the agenda.

It was also noted that the refuse workers are looking in recycling bins and if it is contaminated, they will not take it.

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**5. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2020**

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

**6. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

No report for this meeting.

**7. BURY PARISH COUNCIL – PLANS FOR THE FERRYMAN’S BRIDGE**

GU advised that Karen Davis from Bury PC could no longer attend, he advised that she had asked for APC’s support to see if we can co-operate with Bury PC on a project for a Ferryman’s Bridge, a foot crossing where the ferry used to run between the two riverbanks, linking up the two villages to provide a direct footpath between Bury and Amberley. Part of the funding for this would come from a village lottery that Bury are hoping to set up, whereby the earnings would be divided with a third going to the churches in the Arun Benefice, a third to the village school and a third into community projects. GU stated that this was something that Amberley could perhaps look at setting up too once he had more details from Karen. There was also the suggestion of a village social event for Bury and Amberley.

A resident advised that originally the bridge further down the river was supposed to be by the Ferryman’s crossing but got moved so it linked up with the South Downs Way.

**8. CAR PARK LEASE FROM HDC**

This had been sent to the councillors prior to the meeting for review, following a discussion and a vote, it was agreed that the PC would go back to HDC and ask for the lease to be for a period of 7 years renewable thereafter if they don’t get planning permission.

**9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**(a)** **Traffic Road Order on B2139** **by Turnpike Cottage**– GU and LR had a meeting with Cllr Paul Marshall, Charles Shaw, Matt Davey (WSCC Highways & Transport Director) and Stephen Douglas (WSCC Traffic Officer) to discuss the B2139 in general through Houghton and Amberley Parishes. LR had sent notes from the meeting to councillors prior to the PC meeting. Main points to note that unfortunately a footpath cannot be provided along the B2139 through Houghton to the railway station as the road is too narrow. It was agreed that a Traffic Restriction Order for the B2139 from Whiteways to Storrington to limit to exclude any vehicle over 7.5 tonnes would be applied for jointly between APC and Houghton Parish meeting. Paul Marshall advised he would also discuss enforcement of this with Katy Bourne. A resident pointed out that this could affect the oil lorries and agricultural vehicles which need access.

**(b)** **Community Highways Scheme for Rackham Road** – the Clerk confirmed that this had been submitted to WSCC.

**(c) Community Speedwatch in Amberley** – currently waiting for the police to assess Rackham Road to see if this is suitable for a CSW group. Other locations in Houghton and Amberley have already been agreed. Houghton has volunteers. Steve and Cyndy Kennett both volunteered as well. The Speedwatch equipment has been bought and it was agreed to share this with Houghton.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



**(b) Roads and Paths** – No report for this meeting.

**c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised that the hedge at Hurst Cottages playground has been cut. Funding of £750 was applied for through CLC micro fund for the new noticeboard for Newland Gardens, they awarded us a disappointing £200. HA investigating other sources of funding.

**(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised the committee was still focused on securing funding. £75,000 has been applied for from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from the SDNPA Strategic Infrastructure fund, should know April/May if we have been successful.

Strawberry Villas application (now approved) will provide CIL money estimated to be around £45,000 (the 25% the Parish gets by law). Building work to start approx. August/September 2020.

An application for £75,000 has also been made to UK Government’s Rural Development Programme for Tourism. This is a fund specifically targeted at tourism infrastructure and facilities. Our expression of interest form has been accepted, now need to complete a full application, which needs to include support from local businesses.

GU said that the PC needs volunteers who have skills in fund raising, Jeff Feakins volunteered to help. Tim Simpson will follow up with Jeff Feakins. The Chairman thanked Jeff for agreeing to help.

**(e) Finance** – All the necessary documents were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period up to 12th March was produced and agreed.

The financial statement is as follows;



**11. AMBERLEY CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE**

Following a discussion, it was agreed that Hazel would be the APC liaison with the Amberley climate change group, Alex and GU also offered their support and said they would like to attend meetings.

It was agreed that APC would add links/info on PC website to support the Group, Sue to let the Clerk have details.

It was agreed that a committee report of the climate change group would be added to the agenda for each meeting and Hazel or Alex would provide an update. A separate agenda item could be added if there is a specific issue/topic.

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Clerk advised that the PC’s internal audit was booked for 12th May.

**13. PARISHIONER’S CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

The current list is as follows;



Regarding the request from the Children’s Air Ambulance to place a textile recycling bin in the village, HA advised that the school already collect old clothes. It was agreed to write to the charity to ask them where they operate and suggest they apply for a donation instead.

Agreed to pay the Kent. Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance £250.

Agreed to move the £50 AiRS subscription in the 2020/21 budget over to donations.

**14. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

HA attended a Rural Services Network Roadshow; they are lobbying the government to provide better deals/facilities for rural communities. They have a website where you can sign up showing your support, HA will circulate details on Listserve.

GU attended to SDNPA viticulture workshop with Grahame Joseph, run by consultants for the wine industry who are advising the SDNPA on what they think their policy should be. GU advised they had raised concerns over the lack of communication between some of the large wine producers and the local communities. The Chairman also brought attention to wine companies buying redundant farms and not utilising all of the available land, leading to a loss of productivity. Another concern raised was that wine production did not contribute jobs to the local economy, and financial trickle-down was not apparent in rural communities. It was agreed that APC would invite Nyetimber to another PC meeting.

PJC had attended a HALC meeting, he advised that WSCC have set up a ‘what if’ resilience team, this includes implementing a climate pledge, they are willing to come out to talk to Groups and Parish Councils.

GU & TS attended a Rural Development Programme for England workshop which focused on tourism in rural areas. Their attendance was to explore the process for securing RDPE funding for the Car Park.

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

12th May 2020 at 7.30pm, subject to further updates due to coronavirus.

GU closed the meeting at 9.28pm.

Vicky Spiers – Clerk to Amberley Parish Council

16th March 2020