**AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2020, 10am via Zoom video conferencing.**

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

Also present: Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk and 1 member of the public.

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

GU welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Laura Rawnsley and Alex Beveridge.

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

None

**3. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH 2020**

The Clerk advised that Item 12 date of next meeting should be 14th May 2020. The minutes were agreed by Councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

One question had been received asking what progress had been made on the Neighbourhood Plan objective of improving the footpath and cycle path network. Following a discussion Councillors noted that there is currently a joint initiative with Bury PC to connect Amberley and Bury via a Ferryman’s Bridge over the River Arun (LC offered to take this forward on behalf of APC), PJC advised that work would be required on the Amberley side footpath as this floods. There have also been discussions with Houghton Parish meeting regarding Monarch’s Way, including establishing a footpath diverted away from the main road. GU and HA mention the Old Bothy a path off East Street to the Wildbrooks, although not an official PROW this was an historical path used by the farmers to take cattle up and down the Wildbrooks, landowner permission would have to be sought for this to be reopened. Councillors agreed to also ask the resident if they had any suggestions for improvements which they could look at.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that as the Vittoria application was for internal alterations this would be for the conservation officer at HDC to agree. PJC and GU have had a pre-application Zoom meeting with the applicant for Mile House and have a good understanding of what they want to do, PJC stated a Planning Committee Zoom meeting would be held to discuss in more detail.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC advised he had cut back the overgrowth on Ruffs Path making it more accessible. WSCC have suspended all non-urgent PROW maintenance.

**c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised there had been two complaints about bonfires, the PC have put HDC’s advice on Listserve. HDC have also been advised of the bonfire at Pip-Pens which was left to burn all night and HDC have sent a letter to the tenant/owner.

There has also been an issue with three of the public litter bins in the village being used for household rubbish, a notice was put on Listserve and laminate signs will be going onto the litter bins advising household rubbish should not be disposed of in the public litter bins.

 **(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised the committee was focused on completing a funding application to the Government’s Rural Development Programme (RDPE) for an amount of £75,000. TS advised that he had been informed that there are applications in the pipeline for five times the amount of money available (£350m versus £65m available). Application to be reviewed by GU, PJC and HA. GU thanked TS for all his work on this.

TS advised that the revised Lease has been received today by the Clerk, it is for a period of seven years, the Clerk will post to GU for him and TS to sign. TS thanked GU for all his work in moving this forward with HDC.

The decision on our funding application from the SDNPA Strategic Infrastructure Fund is due sometime in the next two to three months.

If we are not successful on either of these applications, then different methods of funding will need to be explored. The Public Works Loan Board continues to make loans available on relatively attractive terms to councils such as Amberley, but TS does not recommend at this stage incurring debt to pay for the car park.

**(e) Amberley Climate Change** – no report this meeting

 **(f) Finance** – The EOY bank reconciliation and bank statement were approved and signed together with the April bank reconciliation and bank statement. The financial statement for the period up to 30th April 2020 was agreed and signed.

The financial statement is as follows;



The Clerk requested approval for her to make any small, regular BACS payments up to and including £85 without email authorisation from Councillors. Agreed by Council. All payments will be shown on the Financial Statement.

GU also mentioned the Village Bus, going forward we need a councillor to report on this. GU advised that AGNES had asked if the bus could be used for residents of Amberley and Slindon attending NHS appointments. The bus committee is in favour of this with suitable safeguards and modifications of the bus in place (including a Perspex screen to be put in behind the driver). HA thanked the PC on behalf of AGNES.

It is further noted that APC thank the Neighbourhood Support team for everything they have done and continue to do regarding supporting the Parish through the current situation with COVID-19.

**6. TO AGREE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT OF 2019/20 IN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN OF 2019/20**

This was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting to review. Agreed by Council and signed by GU.

**7. TO AGREE THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2019/20 IN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN OF 2019/20**

This was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting to review. Agreed by Council and signed by GU. GU thanked the Clerk for all her work on the audit, the report will be reviewed at the next PC meeting.

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

9TH July 2020 at 10am, subject to further updates due to coronavirus.

GU closed the meeting at 10.42am.

Vicky Spiers

Clerk to Amberley Parish Council – 15th May 2020