# **AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2020, 7pm 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), Alex Beveridge (AB) and Laura Rawnsley (LR)

Also present: HDC councillor Diana van der Klugt, HDC councillor Paul Clarke, Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk and 3 members of the public.

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

GU welcomed everyone to the meeting.

No apologies for absence received.

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

None

**3. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14th MAY 2020**

The Clerk advised that Item 4, line 7, ‘the Old Bothy’ should read ‘Bostal 2’. 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**

Councillors discussed a recent communication from RSPB Pulborough asking if walkers could stick to the two public rights of way over the Wildbrooks and not walk over the reserves land. Julianne Evans the site manager for Pulborough RSPB has advised the clerk that gates had been left open meaning cattle escaped and dogs have scared nesting birds. It was agreed that when circumstances allow JC and the clerk will meet with Julianne to discuss in more detail. As part of the reserves land is in Parham Parish it was agreed to liaise with Parham PC.

Updates from Diana van der Klugt – the SDNPA celebrated it’s ten year anniversary at the end of March. The SDNPA has a new Chair, Ian Phillips and Deputy Chair, Vanessa Rowlands, there are also five new Secretary of State appointees that will be starting soon.

Diana also advised that the applications for CIL funding are going to be reviewed in September.

Updates from Paul Clarke – HDC is currently losing £800,000 revenue from car parking and commercial rent per month. They are currently looking at various financial options. £1.4m has been received in government funding and up to £30m has been paid out to local businesses in ways of grants.

GU advised that a letter had been received from Andrew Griffith MP asking APC to nominate local Covid-19 champions. GU suggested the Amberley Infection Hub and asked councillors to email him with their suggestions and he will respond.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that APC’s comments for Pickwick have been registered as an objection by the SDNPA. There is an online planning hearing on 13th August at which APC will need to register to speak so we can outline our objection. The application for Crossgates House was refused by HDC, the applicant has taken this to Appeal.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC advised Ruff’s path has had a second cut. It has been reported to the council that overgrowth has been cut back along Crofts path, but the debris has been left on the path. Action – clerk to contact the owner of the property to ask them to clear the debris.

The potholes in Church Street behind the Castle have now been repaired.

**(c) Assets and Amenities** – HA sent a report prior to the meeting advising, both playgrounds are now open with Guidance to users having been put on Listserve and on the entrance to the Playpark and the Playground. The annual formal inspection for both the playgrounds is on 9th July.

HA and Keith Dalmon met with Matt Dingle from Watersfield Football Club, who would like to use the football field for their 3rd team on a long term basis. Awaiting confirmation.

HA has been advised by Amberley Cricket Club that cricket can now resume, and they play their first match on Sunday 26th July. Currently waiting for the ECB/government guidance to know what the restrictions will be. However, the Pavilion will not be open, but the toilet can be accessed from outside. HA has requested that paper towels and hand sanitiser are available.

**(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that the completed funding application had been submitted to the Government’s Rural Development Programme (RDPE) for an amount of £75,000.

TS is currently in communication with HDC and WSCC regarding the reallocation of the unallocated Section 106 monies, Paul Clarke offered his assistance, TS to send Paul copies of the emails.

TS has an indication from the Rees Jeffreys fund that they could provide funding for lighting and other environmental enhancements for the car park.

**(e) Amberley Climate Change** – HA provided a report from Sue Belgrave who advised that through the South East Climate Alliance (SECA) they were able to give feedback on WSCC Draft Climate Strategy ( Carbon Zero by 2030). Tony Whitbread ( Sussex Wildlife Trust and SECA ) spoke at the Council Environmental and Communities Scrutiny Meeting on 24th June to review feedback; they await a response.  
Sue advised that with the increase of single use plastic ie gloves and masks this is something the climate group would be looking at next.

**(f) Finance** – The June 2020 bank reconciliation and bank statement were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period 1st May to 30th June 2020 was agreed and signed.

The financial statement is as follows;



**6. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE FUNRAISING EVENT FOR ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

HA advised that a parishioner is organising an Amberley Motor Tour of at least 50 miles for members of SADCASE (Storrington and District Classic and Sportscar Enthusiasts) which will be a fundraiser for St Michael’s Church and will end up by the parking of the cars in the cricket field around lunchtime. If circumstance change and all restrictions are lifted regarding social distancing, then HA will plan to open it up for the village to come and see the classic cars.

**7. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH AND TRO ON B2139**

LR advised that the combined Amberley and Houghton Community Speedwatch (CSW) has 10 volunteers. There is a virtual training package available and PCSO Jason Lemm will also be running another training session. LR and Dr Charles Shaw are meeting to discuss groups with the objective of the CSW starting at the end of July. Two sites have been identified for a Rackham Road group, both of which will require landowner permission, the Clerk is waiting to hear back to see if they will provide permission.

LR advised following advice from Rob Torrance (traffic engineer at WSCC) the weight limit TRO will not be pursued on the B2139. Instead it has been agreed to focus on enforcement regarding the current height restrictions. LR will email Paul Marshall, Matt Davey and Stephen Douglas at WSCC again to how this can be achieved, also mentioning the pedestrian route from Houghton to the railway station which has previously been discussed.

**8. DISCUSSION ON GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME BETTER BROADBAND IN CROSSGATES**

GU advised that parishioners Ian Galbraith and Kate McGuire have begun an initiative to investigate grant support for improving broadband service in Crossgates. Ian supplied a report prior to the meeting which advised – that there are 38 houses in Crossgates, and as well as the Sportsman pub, several businesses are run from home.  While many within the village can get c.50Mb/s broadband download speeds, no one in Crossgates can get better than 15 Mb/s and most premises get around 10Mb/s.  Consequently all Crossgates should be eligible to apply to the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme.  A dozen premises have already expressed interest in joining the initiative.

In addition to the Government’s scheme, Openreach have a Community Fibre Partnership scheme, and typically a community would use both funding sources.  Openreach have been contacted, and the next step is to submit to them the addresses of premises who would participate in a community approach.  Ian and Kate are currently collating the addresses of interested parties, including home-based businesses.  Once these have been submitted to Openreach the dialogue will start and they will find out what the costs would be and how much Openreach might contribute.  Ian and Kate will then approach WSCC re the Government scheme.  Participants can still choose their actual service provider.

Premises in the east of the village (around Arun Close) also have broadband speeds under 30Mb/s, and since these premises are also on the route to Crossgates from the existing fibre cabinet in School Road they can be included in the our proposed “community”.

This was discussed by the council and it was noted that there are other areas in the Parish that also have poor internet. It was agreed to support Ian and Kate’s initiative and if successful then we can look at the other areas in the Parish

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

10th September at 7pm.

GU closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Vicky Spiers

Clerk to Amberley Parish Council – 13th July 2020