



MINUTES

Committee: Parish Council
Date: Tuesday, 02 March 2021
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present

Cllr Vivienne Hodges (Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Chudley
Cllr Gordy Keep
Cllr Mike Warner
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Penny Simpson
Cllr Anna Adnitt
Cllr Jan Evans
Cllr Julian Edwards
Cllr Paul Dodd
Cllr Rose Mogeni
Cllr Farrand-Rogers

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)
Cllr Jerry Brook, Devon County Council

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

31/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies for Absence were received.

32/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were received.

33/2021 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Dodd, seconded by Cllr Evans and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2021 as a correct record. One abstention.

34/2021 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted the Council has accepted the gift of the George Bidder memorial. David Cannon would prefer any thank you notice to be displayed in the Council notice board.

It was noted Cllr Warner had prepared a Boundary Agreement for the Weavers/Churchyard boundary. This has been signed by the owners of the site. The Chairman thanked Cllr Warner for preparing the Agreement. Cllr Warner noted the costs are now shared as per the boundary agreement and asked Cllr Dodd to arrange the thinning of the trees on the boundary.

35/2021 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION

The Chairman noted the Duke of Edinburgh is in Hospital. The Clerk will purchase a book of condolence as agreed at the November 2019 meeting so that the Council are prepared.

36/2021 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Jeffery's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

37/2021 OPEN SPACES REPORT

The Open Spaces monthly report was circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted and is attached at appendix 1 on page 17.

Cllr Simpson noted the camper van blocking the path has now been moved but is still illegally parked. Cllr Simpson offered to notify Cllr Dodd of any issues.

Cllr Adnitt enquired about the progress of the tree planting on the Wray Valley Trail. Cllr Dodd had met with the 'Trees in Time' group and agreed a couple of suitable planting areas.

38/2021 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brook joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

Cllr Brook has investigated permission for the tree planting on the Wray Valley Trail; he is still awaiting a reply from a DCC Officer.

Cllr Brook noted he had sent the budget outline to the Clerk which had been circulated to all Cllrs.

The Environment Department is spending a lot of time and effort trying to help businesses come out of Covid. DCC has been allocated a lot of money from Central Government to help this process and to ensure we have businesses at the end of the pandemic.

Cllr Brook is disappointed there is a lack of desire to put more money into the Highway Network. Cllr Brook has been a Cllr for 16 years and has campaigned for better funding for the road network. DCC are very grateful for the additional funds from central Government but Cllr Brook noted the roads are still in a poor state.

Cllr Hodges reported the residents of Willingstone are very happy with their road repairs. Cllr Brook is really pleased a good job has been done.

Cllr Farrand-Rogers was concerned the budget has been cut for drainage; Cllr Brook will investigate and report back.

Cllr Jeffery reported the gate post on the Wray Valley Trail beside Thompsons Yard has rotted out, Cllr Brook will report it.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Brook for attending the meeting and Cllr Brook left the meeting.

39/2021 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

Cllr Adnitt noted a response to the Devon Interim Carbon Plan has been sent from the working group. Moreton Development Trust would like to continue working with the working group.

Cllr Adnitt asked the Clerk to advertise this month's Green Tip of the Month on the Council's website and Facebook page.

Cllr Adnitt queried the recyclability of the new NIM with its new glossy cover; she will investigate and report back to the Council.

Cllr Simpson has ordered the smoke sticks if anyone wishes to carry out a draught test in their home. Cllr Warner will do a demonstration!

40/2021 INTERNAL FINANCIAL REGULATOR REPORT

Cllr John Farrand-Rogers hadn't been able to check the accounts due to national Government restrictions.

41/2021 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments. It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Dodd and **resolved to approve** the schedule of payments at appendix 2 on page 17.

42/2021 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Devon Association of Local Council's regarding the return to face to face meetings from the 7th May 2021. The majority of Cllrs were concerned about the return to face to face meetings and the added measures of social distancing and mask wearing.

It was proposed by Cllr Mogeni, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **resolved to write a letter** to the Government expressing the Council's concern of returning to face to face meetings from 7th May and requesting a change in the legislation to allow for the continuation of virtual meetings or hybrid meetings allowing some Cllrs to attend face to face and some virtually.

A New Year's Card and Betton Newsletter was received prior to the meeting from Mayor of Betton. The Chairman will respond and send a copy of the News in Moreton to the Mayor. The Chairman noted there is a Twinning Association meeting with Betton if any Cllrs would like to join.

43/2021 COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Farrand-Rogers to remove the words 'proportion or' from the sentence 'the proportion or number of beneficiaries living in the Parish' and simply ask for a number of beneficiaries. This was not seconded and so the motion fails.

It was proposed by Cllr Adnitt, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers and **resolved to amend** the wording 'the proportion' to 'estimated proportion'.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers and **resolved to approve** the Grant Awarding Policy in accordance with F & P minute 05/2021 and the amendment above.

Cllr Farrand-Rogers was concerned about the wording 'or in writing' in the sentence to be added to the financial regulations and proposed the wording is removed. This was not seconded and so the motion fails.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Dodd and **resolved to approve** a bank card for online payments with an agreed monthly spending limit of £200 in accordance with F & P minute 06/2021 and to add 'Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk as RFO and will also be restricted to a monthly maximum value of £200 unless authorised by Council at a

meeting or in writing before any order is placed' to the financial regulations and review in a year's time.

44/2021 FORD STREET PHONEBOX

The Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodges provided an overview of the project. Wellmoor would like to manage the phone box for a further three years.

Cllr Dodd supports the renovations as it is a main feature as you drive into the town. The Council queried if Wellmoor are able to reclaim the VAT on the renovations. It was suggested by Cllr Dodd that the Council could pay for the whole project in order to reclaim the VAT if Wellmoor are able to pay the Council the grants they have received for the project.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Evans and **resolved to ask** Wellmoor if they are able to reclaim the VAT before making any further decisions. One abstention.

45/2021 DEVONS BEST CHURCHYARD

The competition information had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Dodd noted the Churchyard looks very good at the moment and if there are people interested in the competition we should hand it over to them. The Clerk noted she is happy to manage the application. There is no need to alter the Churchyard, the wildflower meadow currently there is sufficient to enter the competition.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Dodd and **resolved to enter** the 'Devon's best Churchyard' competition.

46/2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk gave an overview of the plans for the meeting. The Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Cllrs Hodges and Warner will present the Council's report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

TO DO ACTIONS

- Cllr Dodd/Clerk to arrange the thinning of the trees on the Weavers boundary
- Clerk to purchase a book of condolence
- Cllr Adnitt to investigate the recyclability of the NIM and report back to Council
- The Council to write a letter to the Government expressing the concern over returning to face to face meetings
- Cllr Hodges to write to the Mayor of Betton
- Clerk to apply for a business bank card and amend the financial regulations
- Clerk to ask Wellmoor if they are able to reclaim VAT
- Clerk to enter the Council into 'Devon's best Churchyard' competition

MPC Minutes 02.03.2021 Attachment no.1 – Open Spaces Report

Area	Comments	Action
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The Sentry	Asked to assist with location of tree planting.	Trees now planted.
Churchyard	Looks good.	None.
The Play Area	Checked most days. All ok	Entrance to gate about to be gravelled. Also approach to dog bin.
The Henge	Looks good.	None.
The Pound	Looks good.	None.
Cross Tree	OK	None
Geneva Island/War Memorial	Union flag to be replaced and weight to be repaired.	Awaits.
Wheelwright's wheel	Ok	None
Allotment	Not inspected	None
Seats/benches/Lamp posts	All Ok	Visitors seem to be keeping their distance.
Gates and Railings	Ok	None
Bus Shelter	Ok	None
Recycling	OK	None

Court street car park. One large motor home that is incorrectly park has to date received 3 penalty tickets. A large van has taken to parking in the disabled bays without a blue badge displayed has been ticketed once. TDC are aware and will issue tickets as necessary.

MPC Minutes 02.03.2021 Attachment no.2 – Schedule of Payments March 2021

MANDATORY PAYMENTS FOR February 2021 (pre - approved March meeting)	AMOUNT (inc VAT)	PAYMENT METHOD
MDT (office rent) - paid 01/03/2021	£331.57	Direct debit
S PARKIN (Clerk's salary 1 February - 28 February 2021) – paid 26/02/2021	£953.04	Online Transfer
PENINSULA PENSIONS (employer's and employee's contribution) –paid 26/01	£277.68	Online Transfer
HMRC (PAYE and NI - next quarterly payment Mar 2021)		
Plusnet (telephone and internet – paid 01/03)	£21.60	Direct Debit
OTHER PAYMENTS AUTHORISED 2 March 2021		
S Parkin Expenses – Zoom subscription, Dropbox, printing	£111.97	Online Transfer
TOTAL	£1695.86	Online Transfer