

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held via Zoom and teleconferencing on 16th November 2020

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)

N Curtis

AW Porter

CS Stacey

1 Member of the Public

52/20 Apologies

- a) Apologies were received from Cllrs N Adams-King (TVBC) and RJ Perry (HCC).
- b) Cllrs S Bowles and G Bailey (TVBC) were unexpectedly absent due to unidentified technical problems arising as the meeting started.

53/20 *The minutes of the EOM (Planning) on the 21st October 2020 meeting were agreed.*

54/20 Interests

No interests were declared.

55/20 Matters Arising

The Clerk had obtained a price for 40mm rejects of £33 per 10 tonne load.

56/20 Clerk's Report

- a) The mud on the road between the ford in Giles Lane and the field entrance has been reported to HCC.
- b) After the recent heavy rain the "lake" by Manor Farm had re-appeared: the Clerk has asked HCC when the gully was last cleared and when it was next scheduled to be cleared.
- c) The Electoral Officer at TVBC has confirmed that no request for an election had been received by the cut-off date and the Parish Council should now try to fill the vacancy by co-option. It was agreed that this should be deferred until the January 2021 meeting.

57/20 Members' Reports

- a) Cllr Stacey had spoken with Mr R Pybus regarding repairing the approach to Botley's Ford. He had offered to do the work for free providing he was reimbursed for the cost of the material. The Clerk was asked to contact the National Trust, which owns the land, to explain the work which is intended to be carried out. The Clerk will also contact Mr Pybus to explore the VAT situation.
- b) Cllrs Stacey and Porter had inspected the Japanese Knotweed which is growing on the river bank opposite the pumping station at Bridgefoot. It was agreed that this was for the Environmental Agency to deal with. The Clerk will inform them of the presence of the weed.
- c) It was noted that two vehicles had recently been stuck in the Blackwater ford despite depth markers and in one case despite a "Road Closed" sign. It was agreed that if drivers couldn't read signs then they shouldn't be driving.

58/20 Planning Applications

- a) **Sagres, Flowers Lane** (TVBC ref: 20/02557/VARS) – removal of agricultural occupancy condition. PC response: "No comment" - this appeared to be a technicality.

- b) **Sagres, Flowers Lane** (TVBC ref: 20/02559/FULLS) - Erection of single storey building comprising 3 bedrooms, living area/kitchen, bathroom and wc to be used as ancillary accommodation associated with the principal dwelling. PC response: "No Objection". 'The Parish Council has no objection in principle to development which facilitates the care of elderly residents in their own home. In this particular case the application is silent on the disposal of the additional sewage load. The Parish Council suggests that the officer checks that satisfactory arrangements are in place for sewage disposal.'
- c) **Yew Tree Farm (Plot 2)**, Sherfield English Lane (TVBC ref: 20/02621/CLPS) - new gate, wall, fence and access. PC response: "No Comment" - this appeared to be a technicality.

59/20 Finance

- a) It was noted that the External auditors have logged the Council's exempt status.
- b) The Budget Control Report had been circulated with the Agenda papers.
- c) Cllr K Curtis proposed and Cllr Porter seconded that the Clerk should be granted a salary increase of 31p per hour in accordance with her contract: this was resolved.
- d) D/D's of: £18.00 to Unity Trust Bank (standing charge); £134.60 to HMRC (PAYE) were noted.
- e) Cheques numbered 339-340: £128.81 to J Wright (reimbursement + expenses); £299.00 to J Wright (Clerk's salary) were approved for signing.
- f) It was agreed that no further donation should be made to CPRE.
- g) It was agreed that £20.00 was a suitable figure to pay for the single hire in January of the Village Hall.
- h) It was agreed that the Financial Risks for 2021-22 were unlikely to change from those of the current year.
- i) After some discussion Cllr Stacey proposed and Cllr N Curtis seconded that the basic precept request for 2021-22 should be raised to £3400: this was resolved. This figure includes nothing for any material which is purchased for the repair of Botley's Ford. It was agreed that when this figure is known the views of the councillors should be sought but that, unless it was unrealistic, it would be added to the precept for the coming year as a one-off expenditure.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Date of Next Meeting

18th January 2021