

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH MARCH 2021, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllr. Ingham - Chairman, Cllr. Mrs Meredith, Cllr. Mrs. Atkinson, Cllr. Buck, Cllr. Mrs Humphreys, Cllr. Pratt, Cllr. Evans and Cllr. Tranter

ALSO, PRESENT: District Cllr. Bateman, Clerk Lesley Cleaver, Locum Clerk Ruth Mullett and 6 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The meeting was adjourned to hear questions from members of the public. This does not form part of the formal council meeting.

District Cllr. Bateman

- Informed the parish council that a breach of the condition notice with regards the reopening of the car park holds a maximum fine of £2,500.00.
- County Council have offered to repair the potholes free of charge to comply with the breach of the condition notice.
- Does not feel this meeting needs to be in closed session.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Meredith seconded by Cllr. Tranter and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 be signed as a correct record with one typo in 17.3 rope to be changed to road.

5. ALLOTMENTS

1. **Overview of the situation** – The parish council received notification that the Church Commissioners for England wished to sell the Hartlebury Allotment ground. We have been advised they wished to advertise the allotment land on the open market relatively soon but gave the parish council an opportunity to discuss first. The parish council have therefore formally accepted this opportunity. Following a briefing to the parish council on 3rd March 2021, the parish council have now been summoned to an Extraordinary Meeting to progress discussions around the purchase. The parish council would like to thank all those who have emailed for your kind support, rest assured we know how important the allotment land is to the parish of Hartlebury.

2. **Discussion with agents for the purchase of the land under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the public and press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following business as publicly would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the agenda item – it** was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Meredith seconded by Cllr. Buck and unanimously **RESOLVED** to enter into negotiations with the land agent Savills to purchase the allotment land through using reserves and applying for borrowing through a Public Works Loan with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It was agreed for Cllr. Ingham, Cllr. Pratt and Cllr. Mrs Meredith to negotiate on behalf of the council.

3. COMMUNITY PROJECT/VILLAGE HALL LITIGATION

1. **Overview of the situation** - The community project (including works to the car park) a joint partnership between the Parish Hall Management Committee and parish council had a project cost of over £450,000.00. After completion of works to the car park the parish council found issues relating to potholes to the rear and bald patches to the front disabled area. The Parish Hall Management Committee also raised concerns sighting the potholes as a possible health and safety issues.

A surveyor and gravel specialist visited the area. Their findings indicated a serious construction problem with the car park and therefore a structural survey was undertaken. Findings from this survey highlighted not only concerns relating to the car park but problems with the terrace/patio area which has now been taped off and therefore cannot be used at this time. Water may also sit against the Village Hall itself thus causing damp within its structure. The location of the recycling pods will have to be removed as the gravel laid does not allow for the emptying of these pods by HGV's.

The parish council have not received any sort of positive reply from the people responsible for the project. Costs are estimated in the region of £10,000.00 just for additional drainage and legal advice is well underway.

Worcestershire County Council have kindly offered to repair the potholes to the car park with no cost to the parish council and having taken legal advice their kind offer can be accepted to make the area safe and will not affect the outcome of litigation.

2. It was proposed by Cllr. Tranter seconded by Cllr. Keenan and unanimously **RESOLVED** to ask Wychavon District Council to remove the recycling pods from the car park and to instruct Kidwells Solicitors to act on our behalf with regards Breach of Condition Notice (Condition 8).

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 6th April 2021

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed(Chairman) Dated