



## ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 via zoom commencing at 7 pm

### Councillors Present:

G. Ransted (Chairman), M. Hughes (Vice Chairman) G. Goodlad, T Knight, C Yarnold, J Bees

Also Present: The Clerk/RFO, District Councillor Ron Davis, 1 member of the public

184	<b><u>To receive Apologies</u></b> Cllr Wood was absent. County Councillor Adrian Hardman gave his apologies	
185	<b><u>Declarations of Personal, Sensitive or Pecuniary Interests</u></b> There were none declared	
186	<b><u>To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020</u></b> The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the business transacted by Cllr Knight, seconded Cllr Goodlad, all in favour	
187	<b><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></b> Wayleave – signed wayleaves received, one payment outstanding/chased Jarvis St –landowner has advised that we will be contacted by third party solicitors Hydroelectricity Project – Cllr Bees had ascertained that Mr Jackson has made an application on behalf of Eckington for the cost of the turbine and a public meeting. A contribution would be required from the parish council to show support and allow benefit to the community from the power generated. Several sites for the equipment have been considered within the feasibility study. Cllr Hughes requested details of these. Website Accessibility Compliance – work ongoing, in the meantime David Bainbridge had submitted reports of website activity to show that it is a worthwhile service	clerk clerk JB
188	<b><u>Public Participation</u></b> <b>Members of the public are requested to write to the clerk in advance of the meeting with any queries or comments on any of the agenda items.</b> Cllr Ransted reported that he had been approached by a resident requesting suggestions for the re-location of the Covid stone snake which was getting vandalised <b>To Receive District/County Councillors reports and request information</b> - <b>Eckington Bridge carpark</b> Councillor Hardman reported that a resident had contacted him concerned about the level of roadside parking and anti-social behaviour at the carpark. Cllr Hardman indicated in his reply that the area would be patrolled more frequently by PCSO.	

	<p>Councillor Hardman submitted a written report attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Councillor Davis stated that Wychavon staff currently working from home unless absolutely necessary. Meetings taking place on Zoom. Business meetings regarding Covid had been quite gruesome in detail at times. Each village hall has been given £10K to tide them over the crisis. Interviews for new CEO conducted remotely and appointment to be confirmed soon. £149K has been given out in grants. WDC will be charging for carparks from the 3<sup>rd</sup> August.</p>	
189	<p><b><u>Finance &amp; Governance</u></b></p> <p>1. To authorise payments - Payments totalling £1500.64 were proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Ransted, all in favour. (There was lengthy discussion about the scope of the lengthsman's work which would be brought forward to the next meeting under an appropriate agenda item). Cllr Ransted stated that he had been approached by the WI for assistance with the purchase of plants for the village gateway planters. The Council agreed to allow a grant of £100.</p> <p>2. To agree the bank balance to end of June and check budget expenditure – The current account balance of £19748.88 was agreed, Expenditure June £2950.98 and income £25 agreed satisfactory against budget.</p> <p>3. Agree insurance arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 – The Council agreed to renew with BHIB at £337.57</p> <p>4. Councillor responsibilities (Cllr Hughes) Councillor Hughes circulated two reports: Councillor Induction Pack – The content of an induction pack to be circulated to councillors electronically and in hard copy was agreed. It was proposed that hard copies of the Good Councillor Guide be made available to all councillors. (The cost to be agreed under an appropriate agenda item)</p> <p>Staffing Committee – Terms of Reference – Members of the Staffing Committee had exchanged ideas without a formal meeting. The draft Terms of Reference were queried by the Clerk i.e. the terms of making an appeal to the council about a pay review and the term "line manager". Whereas the Committee stated it followed guidance issued in the Green Book, the Book was not available to staff or the council.</p> <p>Councillors confirmed that an appeal did not necessitate a grievance unless the appeal was not dealt with. Councillors felt justified in appointing the Chairman as line manager stating that he led the council as a whole. When referring to the Green Book they meant employment policies produced by NALC.</p> <p>Councillor Hughes suggested the appointment of an employment consultant to produce policies for the council. The Committee felt that the TORs allowed them to seek quotations. (to be considered under an appropriate agenda item) In the meantime the TORs were agreed.</p>	<p>B/F</p> <p>B/F</p> <p>B/F</p>
190	<p><b><u>To consider any Planning Consultations/Decision notices</u></b></p> <p><b><u>20/01437/HP Greengables, DrakesBridge Road delegated for response by the Planning Working Group</u></b></p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p>	PWG

	<b>20/01057/HP The Beeches, Tewkesbury Road - approved</b>	
191	<p><b><u>To consider any Policy matters:</u></b>  <b>Investment Strategy &amp; discuss options for investment</b>  <b>Councillors were in agreement with the Investment Strategy</b>  <b>but Cllr Hughes stated that she had drawn up a number of</b>  <b>insertions which she would circulate. Options for investment</b>  <b>were discussed and it was agreed to explore the cost of</b>  <b>obtaining expert advice.</b></p>	JB/MH
192	<p><b><u>To receive reports from Parish Councillors/Clerk</u></b>  <b>Cllr Knight left the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Hall – Cllr Ransted – no meeting</li> <li>• Recreation Centre – Cllr Knight – no meeting</li> <li>• Footpaths – Nils Wilkes – no report</li> <li>• Tree Warden – Cllr Wood – no report</li> <li>• Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted – no meeting</li> <li>• Church and Bridge Trusts – Cllr Hughes – no meeting</li> <li>• Wychavon CALC - Cllr Ransted – no meeting</li> <li>• Cemetery &amp; Churchyard – Cllr Yarnold – no report</li> <li>• Allotments – Cllr Bees – Cllr Bees reported that he and Cllr Wood had attended to levelling and improving Plot 2 so that it was ready to let. He would also look at how to improve the fence but did not think this had contributed to the recent vandalism of allotment gardens. Cllr Hughes suggested a further insertion of words into the Allotments Policy to give priority to residents with lack of garden space</li> <li>• Community Engagement – Cllr Yarnold – no report</li> <li>• Dementia Friendly Village – Cllr Hughes – no meeting</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch &amp; Community Speed Watch - Cllr Ransted – No meeting</li> <li>• Clerks report - circulated</li> </ul>	JB B/F
193	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b>  15<sup>th</sup> September 2020</p>	
	<p><b>An adjournment will be called excluding the public to the following two items as publicity may be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted</b></p>	
194	<p><b><u>Legal Matters</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Ransted reported that discussions by PC solicitor and WG members with WDC's Planning Officer, WDC's solicitor and the landowner's solicitor had appeared to resolve any issues and protect EPC's position but the draft documentation did not contain the assurances required by EPC regarding (i) timescale for public right of way across the Community land from the new housing estate to New Rd, (ii) public access to the whole of the Community land and (iii) allocation of public open space financial contributions. It was envisaged that the corrected document might be available</p>	

	<p>shortly when an Extraordinary Meeting might be called to agree signature. The wording of the covenant that is proposed by the landowner's solicitor does not provide adequate protection against the possibility of a claim by the former landowner that the overage obligation should reflect the value of the adjoining residential development. The PC's solicitor continues to seek confirmation that the trigger for such overage is not related to the current application by Spitfire Homes.</p> <p>The WG is monitoring the cost of legal advice.</p>	

### Payments July

Lengthsman (June)	#	265.5	265.5	0
HMRC PAYE Apr/May/Jun	#	57	57	0
New Farm Grounds - Grasscutting		575.82	479.85	95.97
Office Expenses	#	38	38	0
Website		50.12	50.12	0
Salary	#	514.32	514.32	0
Epson (ink cartridges)	#	59.99	49.99	10
Cotswold Line Promotion Group		15	15	0
		<u>7300.17</u>	<u>6909.84</u>	<u>390.33</u>

**Eckington Parish Council,**

**July Meeting rerport,**

**County Councillor Adrian Hardman.**

- The decline in the number of cases continues. Four new cases have been confirmed in the last 7 day period. Five patients with confirmed COVID-19 are currently in Worcestershire acute hospitals.
- Reassurance messages to people living and visiting the Malvern area have been issued following the outbreak on a farm in Herefordshire.
- More non-essential shops and hospitality venues continue to open. District Councils (working in partnership with the County Council) have measures in place to enable safe shopping accepting that people need to be responsible for their own actions
- The Worcestershire COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan has been published: [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus\\_covid-19](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19)
- The Test and Trace service is live. A team of Environmental Health Officers and Public Health Practitioners will provide this locally in Worcestershire.
- The Worcestershire COVID-19 Local Engagement in Outbreaks (LEO) Board, which I am a member of, has met for the first time.
- The level of infections in Care Homes in Worcestershire remains stable. We now only have ongoing outbreaks in 3 of the county's care homes.
- As the school year comes to a close more than 9 out of 10 schools in Worcestershire have consistently been open. The numbers of pupils returning to school, in the selected year groups, has been close to or above the national average throughout the return to school period.
- Planning is underway for the wider reopening of schools in the Autumn, which is very tricky around the hill. .
- Social distancing continues to be a challenge in the 11 household recycling centres which are currently open. Traffic management measures are being reviewed to ease congestion around these centres at peak times.

- A new business support programme, Here2Help Business has been launched this week [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help\\_business](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business)
- More than 1 million items of PPE have now been distributed by the Council since the beginning of the lockdown.

### **Key Service Areas**

#### **Adult Services**

- COVID-19 restrictions have enabled a review to commence on how service provision could be delivered differently in future, building on learning from customers during the crisis, for example some people with autism like the interactions with their worker using video links.
- The market is changing and there may be less care home provision in the future and more care at home
- As with school capacity issues, adherence to social distancing guidance will impact on Day Care capacity provision and we are currently engaging with customers about how we can meet their needs in the future

#### **Children's Services**

- Positive feedback received from parents, teachers and pupils regarding the experience within schools since the re-opening.
- Worcestershire is the leading authority in the West Midlands for contact with children in Social Care.

#### **Community Services**

- Planning for phase two of the reopening of libraries is underway. Six libraries are currently open to the public, with restrictions. Additional libraries are expected to open early next month.
- Registration Services continue to deliver birth registrations and registrars are officiating at weddings.
- The Here2Help Contact Centre has scaled its opening times to reflect the reduction in calls for assistance. Options around extending the service on a more permanent basis, are in development working as a multi-agency partnership with all partners and enabling the community and voluntary sector to enhance their support to people
- Working together across District and County councils we continue to make contact with shielded individuals whilst the cohort is being advised about changes to advice and guidance. It is wise to keep this in place for future spikes in infection rates

#### **Economy & Infrastructure**

- Traffic volumes have plateaued at around 80% of pre-lockdown levels, which is about where we would expect them to be with the schools out.

#### **Workforce and Training**

- Staff continue to work from home, if they can work from home. Access to offices is for essential business need only.
- County Hall has now been certified as COVID Secure and site-specific protocols have been agreed, which includes that access by anyone to the building must be authorised in advance.

#### **Finance**

- An additional £3.5 million of funding has been announced this week by Government for Worcestershire County Council.

#### **Local Issues**

- Please use the bus if you can.
- I have had a couple of complaints from residents regarding the Eckington bridge County Council picnic site And I will be grateful if I could discuss these with you. I have been down to have a look on A couple of weekends and while it was busy I did not think it was a health hazard 2 local residents.

## **COVID-19 STATISTICS**

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

The methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July 2020 to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once. Numbers of lab-confirmed positive cases throughout this website now include those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2).

Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 are different kinds of data taken from coronavirus testing. Swab tests for Covid-19 are carried out in hospitals and surgeries as well as in the community all the time.

Each pillar comes with specific coverage goals and a set purpose from one or several organisations:

- Pillar 1 data comes solely from the tests carried out in Public Health England (PHE) lab and NHS hospital settings.
- Pillar 2 tests come from out in the community, such as care homes.

The publication of pillar two data will show a marked increase in the number of our confirmed cases in Worcestershire. This data has been available to Public Health and the Director of Public Health for some time and has been closely monitored throughout. In Worcestershire, our figures remain stable and comparatively low for the Midlands. “

Some key statistics being:

<b>Number Testing Positive in Worcestershire</b>	<b>2,371</b>
<b>Number Testing Positive in UK</b>	<b>292,552</b>

<b>UK</b>	<b>16/7</b>
Number of Tests carried out on the day	202912
Daily Increase in Cases	642
<b>Cumulative Deaths</b>	<b>45119</b>

## **WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?**

Reminder that the Here2Help website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help) is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on [www.carersworcs.org.uk](http://www.carersworcs.org.uk) or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>

