



DRAFT Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on ZOOM on Tuesday 17 November 2020

1. PRESENT: Cllrs. N. Nicoll, S. Ceres, J. Kinghorn, V. Latter, C. Miners, Cllr T. Wells.

In attendance PC Clerk: V. Fowkes

2. APOLOGIES: Cllrs L. Hirons, J. McDonagh, DC B. Behan.

3. No declarations of interest

4. Update on Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Clerk has contacted all Bushley Residents living alone to check all is well with them: shopping, company etc. All have regular contact with neighbours who keep an eye on them. Also circulated a November update of local, MHDC and WCC news to all residents by email or post. This compliments and does not repeat Bushley News.

5. Minutes of PC Meeting 15.09.2020 (Zoom). Agreed by all present and to be signed by Chairman when possible.

6. Matters arising – correction (5b) row: 15.09.2020: Balance £3,044.55

7. Openreach/Broadband Update

a) A number of residents are tied into contracts with companies that are not commissioned by Openreach to deliver the FTTPs scheme in Bushley. They have been quoted large sums to leave contact with no information re availability of FTTPs from current providers.

b) Several residents now awaiting new poles before connection.

c) All who are connected are pleased with the speeds available.

8. Septic Tank in Stokes Lane.

At least one domestic septic tank has been out falling into the road drain for several months in Stokes Lane. The Enforcement Officer has confirmed a leak with a dye test and traced it into a watercourse. There is a considerable smell in the lane. He reported it to WCC Regulatory Services. I now have contact details to pursue the problem. **Action: VF**

9. Lengthsman Contract. All in order. Have spoken with Lengthsman re work during ice, snow, flood conditions and support that may be necessary. Supply of grit, salt ordered from WCC.

10. Churchyard Mowing. Annual contract been sent to Mowing Company for same delivery/cost in 2021.

11. WCC Highways

a. White Gate Scheme. Gates stored in Bushley, awaiting backlog of work by WCC due to COVID-19.

b. Local complaint re farm vehicle mud on unclassified road (Stokes Lane) from manure deliveries to fields. Clerk contacted farmer concerned.

12. Trees.

a. Bushley Tree Projects. Cllr. Latter has looked at information received from Clerk. The two schemes (Tree Council Branching Out Fund; Govt. scheme to boost tree planting via Woodland Carbon Guarantee), are not especially relevant to our situation. **Action VF to monitor any further information for Cllr. Latter**

b. Trees planted on Bushley Green. Report from Martin Roberts: (17.11.20). Today I have moved the inappropriately planted tree 2 more meters from the parking area on the Green, making a 5 meter gap. I have mulched the tree with well-rotted manure. The lower pairs of branches on all trees have been pruned away. The tree which was moved had established a good root system into the surrounding earth, the others should be the same, just have to look after the one I moved. Clerk has thanked Martin.

c. Ash Tree Dieback. Penny Tubbs (PC Tree Warden), has been looking into information re Ash Tree Die Back. In the Spring she will walk the village footpaths and lanes identifying ash trees to be monitored. Further to that, information and a note re die back of ash trees will be put in the Bushley News to identify further monitoring.

d. Trees along the Avenue (C2217), between Mernian and Sportsview. WCC has now taken responsibility for these trees and inspected them, identifying two that have now been removed, one outside Mernian and the other that had already fallen near Yeandley drive. I am told that inspections will be ongoing.

13. Finance

a) Lloyds Bank A/C at 17.11.2020 £7,994.94 (including 2nd part of precept): awaiting statement

b) Councillors previously discussed Clerk's salary and Job description:

Subject to Councillors' agreement: Remuneration, contract of employment, job description not changed since 2013 when first employed. To upgrade from 01.01.2020 to £12/hr x 10 hours/week/52 weeks.

Proposed: Cllr. Nicoll; Seconded Cllr. Kinghorn and all present in favour. Cllr Hirons also agreed.

Clerk to source updated Contract/Job description (CALC), for Councillors to discuss and agree. **Action VF.**

c) Precept 2021/2022. The draft document (attached) was discussed with the following additions/changes: i) Election Fees, which are a legal requirement, to be moved into the Ringfenced box as, until used, will not be required again. ii) Councillor training fees to be identified -

Cllr. Ceres and Clerk to discuss Proposed Precept and circulate to all Councillors.

d) 'In This Together', Community Matters Festive Funding, provided by WPD (Western Power Distribution). Clerk distributed information to Councillors and submitted application form.

If successful funding will go into PC A/C with guidance for use from WPD.

Amount request £1500 (Maximum); No. of individuals/families:15;

Use of 'Festive Fund' if successful: Logs for winter fuel; Christmas Hampers (different depending on age range /family/individuals); Vouchers for take-away meals; Christmas tree, decorations lights etc. Games, jigsaws, puzzles for families/ individuals (distraction from worries, gives a feeling of self-worth).

14. Planning Applications

20/01722/LB Wellingtonia House. Cllr. Nicoll gave an overview.

Please send any comments to the Clerk by Tuesday 24th November at the very latest.

Cllr. Kinghorn queried the proximity to the 'New' Churchyard and where burials will be when it is full (20 + plots still available.

Action: Clerk to ask Revd.Chris Moss

15. Bredon School.

a) Ongoing daily issues with volume of private cars, taxis and minibuses through the village around school start and end times. There is not a 'No Left Turn' sign at the end of the Drive leading into Green Street/up on to the Green.

b) Several Bushley residents have complained to Parish Councillors re volume and speed of traffic through village.

c) Clerk is trying to establish a meeting with the Headmaster Nick Oldham for the PC Chairman. **Action: VF**

d) Clerk to look into possibility of speed check/traffic volume monitoring over Bushley Green/Green Street

Action: VF

16. County Councillor Tom Wells update: to be added after meeting 19.11.2020

District Councillor Bronwen Behan: We are still in the process of the Boundary Commission Review for the Wards in the District.

The Council is providing a 'Free after Three' on all Council owned car parks from Dec 1st. To Dec.24 to help support local businesses.

17. Parish Councillors' Reports

a. Bus Shelter. Cllr. Nicoll proposed a plan to have a mural painted on the back wall of the recently refurbished bus shelter (Spring 2022). He suggested asking Elaine Guilding, an artist and former resident of Bushley, born at Green Farm now living in Tewkesbury. Cllr. Ceres seconded this and all agreed.

Cllr. Miners suggested that it should be a temporary fixture, with other ideas to be used. All Agreed and Clerk to scope out information (for Councillor Comments), for a piece in Bushley News in the new year.

b. Cllr. Nicoll requested that all councillors use the parish council email address (or contact clerk/Chairman with alternative)

Cllrs Hirons, Kinghorn, Mcdonagh and Miners find this difficult to access. (I have alternatives)

c. Bushley Village Hall – Cllr Kinghorn reported: Closed to all potential users due to COVID-19 regulations. There has been interest in making bookings when the hall is open.

d. On 11.11.2020 at 11am Cllrs Nicoll and Kinghorn represented the Parish and British Legion at a two minute silence followed by wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial in the Churchyard. 10 local residents were present and socially distanced.

No other business

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Next Meetings in 2021: Tuesday 11 January; 9 March, 9 May (by Zoom as necessary)