

Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 19:00hrs on Monday 21st September 2020 under the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

The meeting was held electronically using ZOOM software.

Councillors and members of the public were advised of access arrangements in advance.

Present:

Chair, Cllr B Munt

Cllrs, Ms G Evans, Ms K L Parkinson, F Budden, P Edwards,
County Cllr, P Tuthill, District Cllrs, Ms S Rouse, P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk)

Apologies, Cllrs D Steel and Ms M Horton.

Visitors: None

Public Time prior to the formal meeting; None

Reports; County Councillor, District Councillors,

County Cllr, P Tuthill reported on the activities of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS, the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, the Ambulance Service and the on-going work on the Worcester Southern Bypass - and answered questions on WCC activities.

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC during the epidemic emergency noting that in the area the rate of infection was below the national average. Councillor Rouse also noted that as Leader of the Council she had purchased land in Hallow on behalf of MHDC, amounting to some forty acres which would be used as amenity land and as a future 'carbon offset'.

The formal meeting commenced at 19:35

Agenda

1.

Apologies for absence and members' declarations of interest.

The apologies for absence from Cllrs Ms M Horton and D Steel were accepted.

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items

Declaration of a vacancy on the council

The Chair confirmed he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Ms L Pearson.

The council noted her resignation and asked the clerk to write and thank Ms Pearson for her contribution to the council.

The clerk advised the council that the opportunity to fill the vacancy by an election could occur if ten electors requested this, otherwise after fifteen days the vacancy could be filled by co-option. He asked members to consider possible candidates in time for the next meeting on 16th November. to put in process the co-option of a replacement.

2.

Confirm the minutes of the Last Meeting of the Council – 20/07/20.

circulated in advance. it was agreed that they were a true record and were confirmed by the chair.

3.

Financial Matters

a) The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has announced new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 April 2020.

The clerk's salary changes to £13.51/hr = £272.45/month. - Noted

b) Note the following payments made by the clerk under the 'Delegated Actions' procedure since the last meeting.

Parish Lengthsman – July £115.20 – Noted

Parish Lengthsman – August £100.80 – Noted

c) The council's bank balance is £27,377.28 including £22,575.00 relating to the Village Hall Charity. – Noted

4.

Planning Matters; None

5.

Distribution of charitable funds ex Village Hall sale.

a) Confirm payment to Broadwas Primary School of £9,000 as agreed 18/11/19 as follows;

Consider supporting the Broadwas School Play Area.

It was agreed that a sum of £9,000 would be made available to cover the groundwork cost once funds for the equipment were available.

There was some discussion over this and councillors expressed disappointment that although the council had offered financial support when a prospective scheme was discussed on 18th November the whole project had been completed without further reference to the council.

The Chair, in noting this, proposed that the payment be made as agreed. On a vote this was agreed by four votes to one with Cllr F Budden requesting that his objection be formally noted.

The clerk would implement the payment by Bank Transfer (BACS)

b) Defibrillator at an outside site. In abeyance pending the reopening of the Talbot Hotel.

This is still on hold as the hotel is still not fully open.

c) Further proposals for the distribution of charitable funds. None proposed.

6.

Lengthsman, Clerk to report.

The clerk reported that the Lengthsman Mr R Wilks had been delayed by equipment failures but would catch up on outstanding work soon.

7.

Respond to Footprints on the future of the printed edition – circulated in advance

This was discussed; there was strong support for a continuance of the printed and distributed version as it was thought many in the community did not have access to internet resources.

How this should be resolved was considered a problem best dealt with by at least one – possibly final – fully distributed edition setting out the options for the future of the Newsletter.

The clerk was asked to convey this to the Footprints editorial team.

8.

Items for the next meeting

The clerk noted that at the next meeting he would distribute a financial statement to enable members to prepare for the setting of the Precept at the January meeting.

9.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: Monday 16th November 2020 – proposed.

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 20:15 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....