

Grimley Parish Council

Monday 18th January 2021, 7.30pm

**For sensible containment of Coronavirus
all business at this publicly open meeting has been conducted online**

Legislation for online meetings: Coronavirus Bill THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGs 2020
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/392/contents/made>

The meeting was duly advertised online and on three parish noticeboards.

The meeting password was available within the agenda on the parish noticeboards and upon request from the Clerk.

Copies of the parish council data protection policy, privacy notice and consent forms were available in advance via the parish council website and were assumed to have been read and understood by all in attendance.

The parish council Code of Conduct and Standing Orders, including details of procedures for public open forum and public recording of parish council meetings, were also available in advance online.

Minutes of the meeting

	Cllrs Present: D Stanley (Chair), A Taft, A Atkinson, P Ayers, A Bretherton, G Green, G Moore, A Passey and S Wilson.	
	In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO). DCllr Clarke, 3 members of public residency confirmed TC, JM, NA.	
1/21	Public open forum not legally forming part of the meeting. Nil questions.	
2/21	To consider any apologies for absence County Cllr Phil Grove. Cllrs noted recent sad events in Hallow and expressed sympathy and best wishes to Anne Stark's family.	
3/21	Declarations of interest & points of order Declarations of interest in relation to planning and the screening option for proposed solar photovoltaic farm development. The declarations were of a general cautionary nature only and related to residency in the wider parish: Cllrs Atkinson, Bretherton, Stanley, Taft and Wilson. Cllrs were approved a dispensation to debate and vote in this matter.	
4/21	Minutes of previous meetings – Motion to approve previous minutes. a. 23 rd Nov & 7 th Dec 2020 – Monthly meetings of Grimley Parish Council. b. 14 th Dec 2020 – Extraordinary meeting of Grimley Parish Council. Duly approved . Prps: AB. Scnd: GG.	
5/21	To note the Report of the County Councillor – Phil Grove Cllrs noted a Budget Briefing, Wednesday 27 January 2021, 5pm.	
6/21	To Receive the Report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke. Cllrs noted a likely district council increase in their portion of council tax approximating to 5% for a Band D property. DCllr Clarke noted that flytipping has been reported to MHDC and gave thanks to volunteer litter pickers.	

7/21	Emergency update - Coronavirus / Bird flu / Recent flooding	
a.	<p>11th November 2020 Defra declared the whole of England as an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading to poultry and captive birds. This means it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures and from 14 December all poultry and captive birds were to have been housed. The A(H5N8) strain is highly pathogenic to other birds, however there have been no human cases of infection reported. While the risk to human health is considered very low, it is still vital that people do not touch sick live birds or bird carcasses, and infection control measures may be necessary if they do.</p>	
b.	<p>Latest coronavirus stats are appended to these minutes.</p>	
c.	<p>Cllrs noted that the Camp Inn was badly affected yet again and has been flooded inside and out. Properties at northern end of Grimley village have not been affected.</p>	
	<p><i>Standing orders were suspended at this point in the meeting. Prps: AT. Scnd: PA</i></p>	
8/21	<p>Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications.</p>	
a.	<p>20/01872/SCR - Land At (Os 8036 6145) Sinton Green/Hallow. Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion for proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) farm development. Cllrs noted that this is not a formal planning application. MHDC have responded with a list of considerations and a list of what evidence/information would be required from the applicant in a future application.</p> <p>Resident JM addressed the parish council and gave a brief overview of the PVS screening option, which details a project up to 40 years in length. Unusually large scheme, across three noncontinuous parcels of land and aiming to generate 6 times more MWatts than the Monkwood Green application that was rejected by MHDC 5 years ago. The size of the likely application reflects the need for economic viability. Cllrs noted proximity to residential areas, multiple SSSIs, many ponds, local Anglo-Saxon sites of interest, ancient hedgerows, rights of way, numerous pylons that are nearing the end of their life and covering a high percentage of grade 3 agricultural land. Cllrs also noted the many tributaries running across the site and considered the possible flood risks associated. One section of land is owned by a resident who has not given his consent to the application.</p> <p>Residents have expressed concern via email and phone regarding potential disturbance, traffic and vibration damage to homes and highway during construction, light pollution. Cllrs noted that renewable energy is desirable in principle, but may be unacceptable when there is a cost to the countryside. Residents represented by JM do not consider that the minimal benefit offered in terms of renewable energy is sufficient to offset the environmental harm or the otherwise useful land that is lost. Residents have approached the parish councillors to ask that they only support relatively small discrete developments on the roofs of existing buildings, or on sites where they are effectively concealed by existing development or the lie of the land, and do not involve the loss of land useful for agriculture, recreation or biodiversity. Cllrs noted the possibility that while solar panel performance in summer may be acceptable (NB when the sun is in our hemisphere) it may fall away to insignificance in winter.</p>	

	<p>Continued</p> <p>Cllrs also noted that Electricity can only be used at the time it is generated, it cannot be "stored", and so back up from power stations or other sources is required. Cllrs expressed concern that they currently do not fully appreciate the value of the land, in terms of beauty, history and archaeological significance.</p> <p>Motion: Proposal in principle to contribute towards a survey to identify key landscape and visual issues, reinforced with on-the-ground surveys, if other donations are forthcoming in order to fund the remaining. Prps: AT. Scd: AB. Unanimous, carried.</p> <p>The clerk was instructed to contact CPRE for advice as a member.</p>	Clerk
b.	<p>19/01306/HP Stable End, Grimley, WR2 6LU</p> <p>Cllrs had no comment or response to make.</p>	
9/21	<p>Environment & Climate Emergency</p> <p>To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Cllrs noted the forthcoming 'Climate Emergency Briefing' Thursday 28th January 7.30pm by Dave Stanley.</p>	
b.	<p>Parish Plan. Introduction to neighbourhood plans and parish plans, of which a summary had been enclosed with the agenda. Cllrs debated that in an area with very little development and with no allocations provided under the SWDP, a parish plan would not be the best use of public funds. Motion: Not to proceed with a Parish Plan. Prps: GG. Sncd: AB. Carried. Unanimous vote. The Clerk noted a forthcoming questionnaire from MHDC relating to housing need and was instructed to submit a response expressing an interest in a housing need survey.</p>	Clerk
10/21	<p>Infrastructure, highway matters, drainage and flooding</p> <p>To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Camp Lane public rights of way</p> <p>Cllrs noted that a section of hedge and a public right of way gate at Camp Lane had been removed. A new double gate has been installed and electric wire placed along the top. The Clerk was instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check with enforcement whether permission had been obtained. - Liaise with the footpaths officer as to whether the public footpath previously accessed via that gate is a current right of way, or whether it was a temporary diversion route created during quarry excavations. 	Clerk
b.	<p>Phone box at Grimley Village</p> <p>Cllr Stanley noted that the tree works have been conducted by the resident SC. Holt PC has details of one useful contractor. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quotation for a revamp, post social distancing.</p>	Clerk
c.	<p>Defibrillator at Grimley Village and Sinton Green</p> <p>Cllr Taft to organise fund raising leaflets once social distancing has been relaxed. Clerk to explore crowdfunding opportunities.</p>	Cllr Taft Clerk
d.	<p>Improving facilities at the church</p> <p>The Clerk noted an application had been made by the parish council to CCllr Grove for divisional fund grants of £565.00 towards this project. Once received this money will be placed in reserve until needed. Lead on project is RH. Cllr Taft noted that there are charities that specialise in improvements to churches.</p>	

11/21	<p>Commons and Village Greens To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
<p>a.</p> <p>i.</p> <p>ii.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>i.</p> <p>ii.</p>	<p>Sinton Green.</p> <p>Parking on the Village Green in association with new build. Cllr Bretherton noted that parking has stopped and that the site has been levelled by unknown persons. No further action.</p> <p>Thank you to residents and businesses who helped with providing, setting up and tidying down the xmas trees. Cllrs agreed that the two trees a great success and agreed that budget should be set aside for three trees in 2021.</p> <p>Monkwood Green.</p> <p>Management and Commoners Association update. - Cllr Wilson gave an update on recent progress. Residents had provided suggestions and amendments to the draft Management Plan. It was previously proposed that Area B be designated a Summer meadow, with "spring bite" grazing from March to April and then be left until hay making in September. Commoners have confirmed that they have historically grazed this area from early May onwards, with no need for cutting or topping as a result. Cllrs debated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend Area B to 'grazing only' with the proviso to mow in July if the season has been too wet for grazing. This was agreed in principle, subject to NE approval and instructed the Clerk to liaise regarding this. 2. Amend restrictions on the 'petty whin grazing only area' to permit grazing all year round. Cllrs would have approved this if they could, however, the Clerk had received confirmation that the Common cannot be permanently enclosed and grazing must cease for 6 months of the year and fences removed. This can be revisited once sonar collar technology explored. <p>The Clerk was instructed to amend proposals for Area B only and send to Commoners for final send off.</p> <p>Motion: Adopt Commoners Association terms of reference: Prps: SW. Scnd: GM. Carried.</p> <p>Motion: To nominate Cllr Green as Chair of the Commoners Association, until such time as the Association wishes to hold its own nominations as per terms of ref. Prps: SW. Scnd ET. Carried.</p> <p>Motion: to allocate a nominal budget to cover paperwork etc £50 and to revisit if necessary. Prps: SW. Scnd: AA. Carried.</p> <p>- In order to reduce the damage caused to the Common by delivery vans, Cllrs debated the option to provide either a general map showing housing locations or individual service road signs at each entrance. Cllrs were not persuaded of the usefulness of either option and some residents had already opted out of inclusion. No further action.</p> <p>Fallen willow and emergency pollarding work Cllrs thanked residents for ensuring that the willow that fell across the road did not cause an accident. The willow has been pushed to one side but now needs work to make safe and ensure that ditches are not blocked and visibility splay not impeded.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

11/21 cont	<p>Continued</p> <p>Cllrs agreed that the other willows across the common are in poor condition, of unique local ancestry and attempts should be made to save them if possible.</p> <p>Motion: Accept quotation from CB and TJ for £520 to make safe the fallen willow, leave suitable log piles for invertebrates and to pollard and make safe the remaining willows on the Common. Work will be conducted before trees start budding end of Jan. Prps: GG. Scnd: AB.</p> <p>Carried. This motion also included acceptance that an additional invoice may also be received by the parish council if machine hire is required/chipper/driver/debris removal from pond as necessary.</p>	Clerk
iii.	<p>Western Power planned works Jan 2021.</p> <p>Cllrs were unable to confirm if this work has proceeded.</p>	
iv.	<p>Potholes on service road.</p> <p>Cllrs noted that an MOT Type 1 stone sourced locally would meet NE requirements for the SSSI. Cllr Wilson to liaise with residents as to amount required and where to place.</p>	Cllr Wilson
v.	<p>Water seepage outside Langdale.</p> <p><i>Standing orders were suspended at the request of resident TC.</i></p> <p>Resident reported that the leaking water is eroding the service road surface. Severn Trent have tried three times to investigate and not found anything other than to confirm that it is not drinking water. Cllrs considered that it was unlikely that the water table has changed as the level in the well has not altered. Ditches might be the answer. The Clerk reported that the EA is not able to attend non urgent cases during lock down. Cllr Stanley to meet with TC and find a way forward.</p> <p><i>Standing orders reinstated.</i></p>	Cllr Stanley
vi.	<p>Stones placed by household on the verge of Common.</p> <p>Cllrs confirmed that this land is SSSI. The Clerk was instructed to write to the residents and ask for the stone to be removed, giving a deadline of three months.</p>	Clerk
12/21	<p>Reports from other Projects and Representatives</p> <p>To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Broadband projects update</p> <p>All three projects are progressing well. Wayleave restriction at Grimley village is being resolved by Open Reach with no intervention required by residents. Monkwood Green infrastructure is being installed. Sinton Green project has sufficient parties signed up and a contract to the parish council will be issued shortly.</p>	Clerk
b.	<p>Peace Hall</p> <p>Cllr commented on the tidiness of the drive. It was noted that the Peace Hall committee has been approached asking for the hall to be used as a Covid test centre. Previously agreed annual £400 grant to Peace Hall will be forwarded in April 2021. Clerk to obtain details for making payment.</p>	Clerk
c.	<p>Parochial Church Council - Covered previously.</p>	
d.	<p>Grimley Smaller Charities – no update available.</p>	
d.	<p>Nora Parsons Day Centre – no update available.</p>	

e.	Lengthsman – has submitted timesheet correctly. Original Covid risk assessment has been revisited and no changes are necessary. Knee rails have been repaired.	
13/21	Finance and Administration - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice	
a.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Prps: Ab. Scnd: PA	
b.	To receive and motion to accept Bank Reconciliations 2020. Prps: AB. Scnd: SW	
14/21	Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.	
a.	Results of staff appraisal were noted by Cllrs and unanimously approved: <i>(deadline for actions 31/03/2021 unless stated)</i> Review the process, timeliness, and efficiency of the production of agendas and minutes to achieve reduction in time spent. • Research/recommend to the Parish Council of Clerk pension for their consideration. • Review the parish email system to facilitate permission for the use of parishioners' email and telephone number data. • Parish Climate Change Emergency Declaration (CCED). Arrange to re-brief via Zoom the council, parishioners and invite adjacent parishes. CCED. Seek to establish environmental working groups within the parish. 30 April 2021. • CCED. Investigate signup by households to CCED and mitigation actions. 30 June 2021. • Investigate the feasibility and practicality of establishing a Parish Plan. 30 June 2021.	Clerk
b.	Cllrs debated and approved motions for additional actions suggested at appraisal: Ie. To support and facilitate wider Parish Council objectives for the coming year.	
i.	Teambuilding and wider councillors involvement in council and parish activities. Defibrillator training.	Clerk
ii.	Further community building and engagement within the parish – church, Peace Hall, youth, and conservation projects additional to Monkwood.	
d.	Correspondence DP. ref dog waste at Sinton Green. Bin will be placed in next financial year.	
e.	Next meet: Hallow Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation.	
	Date of next scheduled meeting – Monday 22nd February, 7.30pm. Online meeting via Zoom. The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting.	

Appendix 1 – Items for payment

Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman worksheet/s for: Dec 2020.	£356.5	VAT nil.
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages Dec 2020. As per contract of 12 hours per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses Jan 2021 Including £14.39 zoom membership.	£43.67	£2.40 VAT

Chair (Online approval 22/02/2021)