

BAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the VIDEO Parish Council Meeting of Bayton Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th February 2021

Present: Chairman Cllr Adams, Vice Chairman Cllr Lawrence, Cllr Kemp, Cllr Wakeford, Cllr Tonks

In Attendance: Clerk, County Cllr Ken Pollock, Dist Cllr Douglas Godwin, no Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies noted from Cllr Miles.
2. **Co-option of a Cllrs** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their register up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Cllr Tonks item 19 Confidential Complaint. Chairman item 11b Planning decision.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – See above.
4. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations requested – Cllr Tonks was granted a Dispensation until May 2023 to speak and vote on item 19.
5. **Public Question Time** – No matters raised.
6. **County Cllr Report** – See notes at end of minutes. Cllr left meeting after giving his report.
District Cllr Report – See notes at end of minutes. Cllr left meeting after giving his report.
7. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** held on 12th January 2021 were agreed by all, Clerk and Chairman to meet to sign document.
8. **Progress reports for information** –
 - a. **Waste bins** – It was agreed by all to order signs for bins, defibs, seats etc at £55.00 + vat for 6, colour and wording to be agreed by email.
 - b. **Village Gates on B4202** – WCC not yet installed gates.
 - c. **Maintenance Contract work** – Coronation Corner garden - when weather improves area to be tidied.
9. **Reports on Video Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors:**
MHDC VIDEO Forum - 25th January – 6-7pm – Clerk joined – details circulated.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made (circulated)** – Worcestershire CALC (Cllr training 09/01/2021) = £30.00, Mr I Mapp (LM January 2021) = £216.00
 - b. **To report receipts since last meeting** – WCC LM(September) = £180.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation January 2021** (circulated) – It was agreed by all and will be signed by Cllr, Balance in cash book on 31st January 2021 = £24347.59.
11. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – None.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
20/01719/FUL - Audoll Cottage, Bayton, Kidderminster DY14 9LL – Demolition of an existing timber garage/store and replacement with a 2 bay detached garage/store. **Approved by MHDC.**
 - c. **Plans for comment on tonight** –
20/02024/HP – Stone Cottage, Bayton DY14 9LW – Bi-fold driveway gates. It was agreed by all there were no objections to this application.
 - d. **Outstanding issues** –
ENF/19/0085 - Sheds on land at Bayton Common – Awaiting update from Enforcement.
ENF/19/0325- Scrap Metal Bayton Common – Awaiting update from Enforcement.
ENF/20/0352 – Agricultural land being used as garden Bayton Common – Awaiting update from Enforcement.
12. **Road report**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – Clerk to circulate advert for approval. It was agreed Chair and Vice Chair oversee applications.

BAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

- b. Any problems to report – Drain Church Lane, centre of Bayton, Norgroves End Rd, Clerk reported.
 - c. **Beach Hay crossroads visibility splays** – Clerk awaiting WCC reply to request for visit.
 - d. **B4202 Bayton Common** – No update.
 - e. **B4202 Bayton Common** – Awaiting WCC update, drains have been surveyed, the road is dry.
13. **Seat Clows Top** – It was agreed by all to purchase two traditional wooden seats at maximum cost of £1000.00 as circulated. Clerk to ask County Cllr for some funds from his Divisional Funding.
14. **Flower boxes for Parish** – It was agreed to ask Nineveh Ridge Care Farm about making four boxes, PC to pay for materials.
15. **Bench Coronation Corner** – It was agreed to purchase at cost of £350.00 as circulated.
16. **Notice Boards** – Clerk cannot open Clows Top board, papers getting wet in other boards. Costs approx £1500.00 per board, wood or recycled plastic, three required, ten year guarantee. It was suggested aluminium prices be obtained for next meeting.
17. **Covid 19 funding** – Clerk suggested funds for buses after the Covid pandemic is under control would be beneficial. Transport to covid injections being provided free from Tenbury. This was agreed by all.
18. **Computer Lessons** – Agreed Cllr work with Bayton Village Hall on Digital Safe Spaces, this is a Community First initiative. Cllr to keep Cllrs informed on progress.
19. **Confidential Complaint** –
- a. **Terms of Reference for Working Party** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to adopt as drafted subject to CALC agreeing the document.
 - b. **Working Party Meetings** – A meeting with CALC was held on 21st January, notes with Chairman of Working Party. Working Party awaiting further advice, despite emails asking for update no reply yet received.
- At 8.04pm due to internet issues the Chairman agreed to close the meeting for Clerk to resolve issues. Meeting continued at 8.06pm.**
20. **Bayton Village Hall Management Committee correspondence regarding Maintenance of Bayton Church Car Park** (circulated) – After much discussion it was agreed by all Clerk draft a letter in response. Contents to be PC support subject to evidence residents of Bayton fully support the idea and costs involved. PC can obtain free preplanning advise. Concerns were raised regarding extra traffic using Church Lane.
21. **Cllrs own Computers/Tablets/Phones** – Cllrs to confirm own devices are password protected, have antivirus software installed and automatic updates set for their systems. Please refer to relevant Policies as circulated. **All Cllrs confirmed their devices are compliant.**
22. **Correspondence for information** – Email correspondence circulated - CALC Training dates.
COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police
WCC -Budget Briefing online meeting 27th January at 5pm (recording circulated)
South Worcestershire Development Plan Consultation VIDEO Briefing Session - 1st March – 6-7.30pm
Ticket to Ride event 26th January – 2-4pm
MHDC -Promoting Postal Votes for May 2021 Elections
23. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting – None.**
24. **Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Mowing Contract, Maintenance Contract, Lengthsman Contract, Seats, Memorial
25. **Date of next Video Meeting – 9th MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm**
26. **Cllrs agreed to close the meeting to Public and Press due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**
27. **Staffing Matters** – No confidential matters to discuss.
28. **Meeting Closed 8.34pm.**

Signed----- Date 9th March 2021
Chairman

Dist Cllrs Report

BAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

MHDC providing covid information and support. Budget being discussed, possibly 2% increase to cope with future expenditure. Fewer planning applications being submitted. Census March 2021 being promoted. Research into poverty in District, below national average, various reasons, working on action plan to help. Funds in Ward Budget available.

County Cllrs Report

Corona Virus effects - In recent days, there has been controversy about the supply and use of vaccines, involving an unfortunate spat with the EU. I hope this does not interfere with the crucial matters of treating the most vulnerable first, and in this case seeing that the UK is at the head of the queue. Please note that while this is being organised by the NHS and not local councils, we recognise that there are anomalies in the ordering of vulnerable people. It would appear that the local surgeries will be administering the vaccines and in consequence some will seem to be doing better than their neighbours. In all these considerations, it is crucial to follow the national guidance and recognise the rapidly changing situation, which means that government advice and orders appear to change without reason or much notice. It would be foolish to imagine this is happening through incompetence or carelessness.

County matters - You will not need reminding that the coronavirus situation has played havoc with the state's finances, nationally and locally. We will aim to keep our council tax as low as possible but recognise the need to respond to the changed needs and priorities at this difficult time. The budget for 2021/22 was discussed at the Cabinet again last week. The 154 pages of the agenda can be read on-line and you can still listen to the webcast as a recording. Approval should follow at the full council meeting next week, on the 18th of this month.

As I have observed before, we hope to be able to balance the budget, despite the difficult financial situation we are in, bearing in mind some £9.5 million being made available in special one-off grants from the government. The Cabinet are proposing a 1.5% increase in basic Council Tax, plus a 1% surcharge for Adult Social Services. This is below the maximum we are permitted to raise but is in anticipation of continuing financial constraints in the coming years.

There was a full council meeting just over three weeks ago, where there was a full discussion of the performance of the Council in annual reports from the Leader, Simon Geraghty, and the Chief executive, Paul Robinson. This included reference to the budgetary situation as well as all the activities of the council over the last year. It did not include as much attention to the current concern about the climate, as desired by the nine public participants at the meeting, who all felt that more should be said about the climate change situation and its implications. None acknowledged all the work being done by the Council in this area.

Please note again that we are grateful for the Chancellor's help in getting money to our business community, in order to keep these businesses afloat during this difficult period and also to help those who may want to start or expand their enterprises. The County's Here2Help Business programme is the channel for some of this assistance, with the help of the district councils as well.

Local Matters - Tenbury was fortunate to escape serious flooding in the recent emergency, with Market Street closed for a short period. The planned meeting of the Environment Agency and local people was postponed because of the flooding, and now the consultation period has finished. It is worth keeping in touch with the EA to see how plans are evolving, as there has been some controversy about the details, none of which are finalised as yet.

There is natural concern about the revision of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) as under consideration at present. I represent the County Council on the Joint Advisory Panel, which is chaired by my colleague Lucy Hodgson, in her role as a Worcester City councillor.

This may affect many villages in the Bayton area, and it is worth looking at the MHDC website to see what is being suggested. There are major plans for new settlements, the most prominent being around the new Worcestershire Parkway rail station, but it is important to recognise that the time scale of this revised plan takes us to 2041.

I note that so far this year I have not been able to help Bayton with a contribution from the Divisional Fund that I administer. It is worth noting that there is still some money left that needs to be allocated before the middle of March and I would be happy to review any suggestions for how it should be used.

If you have any local concerns, please let Hannah Davies know in the first instance, but let me know if the response seems inadequate. She has let me know that repairs to Leasowes and Church Lane are scheduled for attention in the current year. I trust that will happen in the not too distant future.

Cllr Ken Pollock