

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY 2021

PRESENT: Cllr. Ingham - Chairman, Cllr. Mrs Meredith, Cllr. Mrs. Atkinson, Cllr. Buck, Cllr. Mrs Humphreys, Cllr. Pratt, Cllr. Evans, Cllr. Bateman and Cllr. Tranter

ALSO, PRESENT: County Cllr. Tomlinson, Clerk Lesley Cleaver, Locum Clerk Ruth Mullett and 14 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare

3. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING TO HEAR FROM:

The meeting was adjourned to hear questions from members of the public. This does not form part of the formal council meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr. Bateman seconded by Cllr. Mrs Meredith and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2020 be signed as a correct record with the following amendments.

19.2 Add "It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that these reports would be forwarded to Breedon Aggregates by Cllr. Buck and that the council would act upon the resulting advice from Breedon regarding the repairing and reopening of the rear car park".

19.3. Remove "one abstention from Cllr. Mrs Humphreys" and change to "unanimously **RESOLVED**".

5. COMMUNITY PROJECT LITIGATION

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the public and press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following business as publicly would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the agenda item.

Clerk had circulated a Confidential Report on the background and actions taken to date with regards the Parish Hall carpark. After detailed discussion the council agreed two motions listed below and a statement to be agreed between Chairman and Clerk to be circulated on behalf of the council.

Motion 1

“That the parish council reopen the car park immediately in line with Wychavon District Council Enforcement advice and guidance.

Five councillors Cllr. Tranter, Cllr. Buck, Cllr. Mrs Meredith, Cllr. Pratt and Cllr. Evans were against, three councillors were for Cllr. Mrs Humphreys, Cllr. Mrs Atkinson and Cllr. Bateman and there were one abstention Cllr. Ingham. The motion failed.

Motion 2

“Before the parish council proceed any further can we obtain specialist contractual legal advice with regards the Community Project using the specialist as recommended by Worcestershire CALC.

The motion was unanimously **Agreed.**

Statement from the Parish Council

The Community Project, a joint partnership between the Parish Hall Management Committee and Parish Council was a great venture which covered various stages of work, one in particular the car park around the village hall.

After completion of works to the car park the Parish Council found issues relating to potholes to the rear and bald patches to the front disabled area. The Parish Hall Management Committee also raised concerns sighting the potholes as a possible health and safety issue. However, if the Parish Council fix the potholes it will not solve the underlying problem and may invalidate any insurance claim. The Parish Council will be taking legal advice.

The Parish Council engaged a surveyor and also a gravel specialist. Their findings indicated a serious construction problem with the car park which will have to be resolved and under further investigation along with the project as a whole.

Addressing concerns, the people responsible for the project have been asked for emergency work to be undertaken, giving three weeks’ notice to correct the potholes allowing the Parish Hall to open.

However, some members of the public have written in expressing concerns that the Hall if allowed to become a Covid Test Centre is too close to the children’s play area. The Parish Council is therefore actively engaging with Hartlebury Castle to provide them with the support and guidance to apply to become a Covid Testing Centre. This will enable the parish to help combat this terrible pandemic and support a historic monument of massive importance to our community.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 2nd February 2020, 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed(Chairman) Dated