

Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 19:00hrs on Monday 15th March 2021.

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 K L Parkinson, M J C Bellamy, F Budden, P Edwards, D Steel.

County Cllr. P Tuthill, District Cllrs, Ms S Rouse, P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk)

Apologies, Cllrs. Ms G Evans, 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.

Cllr Tuthill noted that this would be his last appearance as he was not standing for re-election at the forthcoming May election. The Chair expressed the council's thanks for the help and support Cllr Tuthill had given the council over many years and gave the council's best wishes for his future.

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC and actions during the epidemic emergency.

The formal meeting commenced at 19:20

Agenda

1.

Apologies for absence and members' declarations of interest.

The apologies for absence from Cllrs Ms G Evans and Ms M Horton were accepted.

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

2.

Confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 18/1/21 (circulated in advance)

Cllr Budden requested that this item be taken after item 5 as that may have implications for the approval of the previous meeting's minutes. This was agreed.

Subsequently a proposal by Cllr D Steel seconded by Cllr Ms K Parkinson that all minutes of the meetings in September, November and January be confirmed as published was put to a vote and agreed.

3.

Financial Matters

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

3/2/21 R Wilks Parish Lengthsman £168.00 + vat - Noted

8/3/21 R Wilks Parish Lengthsman £84.00 + vat - Noted

b) Consider making a donation towards the costs of maintaining Knightwick Chapel Churchyard. (Please refer to the letter and invoices attached from R Pearce, Churchwarden - total £650.00).

It was agreed to make a donation of £325.00 (50%)

c) Note the council's bank balance is £18,954.99 at 8/3/21 (Inc £13,575 Village Hall Charity).- Noted

4.

Planning Matters;

None

5.

Consider a complaint against the Council proposed by Cllr F Budden (circulated in advance)

a) Cllr Budden said he could not understand why his statement enlarging his objection to agenda item 5 of 21st September 2020 - 'Distribution of charitable funds ex Village Hall sale a) Confirm payment to Broadwas Primary School of £9,000 as agreed 18/11/19', could not be minuted.

The Clerk said that minutes of council meetings recorded decisions of the council. Cllr Budden's personal objections could not therefore be included as a formal minute.

A somewhat wide-ranging discussion culminated in the proposal by Cllr D Steel (see above item 2).

b) Cllr Budden requested that the payment to Broadwas School to be subject to 'audit'. The Clerk confirmed that all items of expenditure by the council would be subject to examination according to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 by the external examiner.

c) Cllr Budden suggested that email interchanges between members fell short of the standard expected of members under the Code of Conduct regulations. A discussion on this was terminated by the Chair who suggested that the difficulties relating to remote meeting arrangements (ZOOM) made it less easy for members to relate to each other and he proposed that the council move on to the next item. This was agreed.

d) Cllr Budden requested that council agenda should include an item 'Any other business'. The Clerk said that parish councils were required to consider only matters on the formal agenda that had been notified to members with 'three clear days' of notice. However the item 'Items for the next meeting' at each meeting was intended to enable members to raise matters that required discussion to have them listed on the next agenda.

6. Footpath 500C

The chair to report on the latest situation:

Following talks with WCC Rights-of-Way officers the stile area had been cleared and the stile was now reasonably accessible. WCC Rights-of-Way would consider installing a gate to make access easier. If further erosion of the river bank occurs it may be necessary to close this path whilst a legal re-routing procedure is enacted.

7. Clerk to report.

Correspondence, Lengthsman, Any outstanding items. End of Year Accounts.

- a) He would appreciate any requests for the lengthman's action as soon as possible to enable the year-end accounts to be completed.
- b) Together with the Chair and Cll Budden the councils notice boards had been reviewed and the board by the Knightwick Butcher's Shop would be relocated to the A44 Bus Shelter.
- c) As last year the council's annual accounts would be examined by Duffy Regan Accountants of St John's Worcester with the council's agreement. - confirmed.

8. Items for the next meeting

The next meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Council for which a substantial part of the agenda was prescribed.

It will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 19:00 –

Agenda;

1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council
2. Reports: a) County and District Councillors b) Chairman of the Parish Council
3. Annual Statement of Accounts of the Parish Council
4. Parish Charities – report on distribution and status.

9. Confirm the date of the next meeting: Monday 17th May 2021 – To be confirmed.

The clerk noted that the Coronavirus (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 run out on 7th May before the proposed date but it was unlikely that the Talbot Hotel would be open to accommodate a council meeting. It may therefore be necessary to arrange an internet-based meeting before the 7th May if the government did not revise the regulations. He would keep members informed.

The meeting closed at 20:22 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....