

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held by video-conference on

Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs T. Betteridge, P. Jeanes, Mrs A. Jeanes and D. Saunders (joined the meeting at 7.30pm)

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; County and District Cllr L. Tucker

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs P. Stone
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time

Notes can be found at the end of these minutes.

- 3. Minutes:** It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 4th March 2021 were a true and accurate record.
- 4. District and County Councillors reports:** Cllr Tucker reported that she had attended the Wychavon Scrutiny Briefing on Worcester Regulatory Services (WRS). She had asked why it was that some issues went round in circles without ever being resolved. WRS subsequently sent round a document on Statutory Nuisances which detailed what they could do and what they couldn't do in law – Cllr Tucker would forward this on. Another factor was the ongoing low staffing levels at WRS, which meant they had to prioritise.

Lorries at Hill and Moor Meadows: Cllr Tucker was awaiting an email from the Enforcement Officer.

She noted that the residential site at Upper Moor remained unlicensed and the ongoing issue with the planning permission was still unresolved.

Boundary at Duffledown: Enforcement were under the impression that this had been rectified; Cllr Tucker would mention it at the upcoming PACT meeting.

New town at Throckmorton: The scheduled meeting had been put back due to the restrictions on county council activities in the run up to the May elections. There were no other updates on county council matters due to this.
- 5. Parish Councillors reports:** Cllr P. Jeanes reported a lack of progress on multiple issues including the A44 ditch, the Boggs Lane ditch and other matters. He had not heard from the county council regarding Boggs Lane and it now transpired that the drain in the lane was in the wrong place – water running along the road at Upper Moor travelled too fast to go down the drain instead going over the top of it. Cllr Tucker would try and get in touch with Barry Barnes again but the council considered taking matters into its own hands and putting the flood funding towards shoring up the ditch.
- 6. Progress reports**
Cllr Saunders joined the meeting.
 - Review of actions from previous meeting: The action points were reviewed.
 - Playing Field and mowing: The mole repelling bulbs were out of stock. The first mower cut had now been done. A new padlock and keys had been purchased for the gate; Cllr Betteridge would be a keyholder and also Cllr Stone for the Village Hall committee.

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The mower blades were discussed; the volunteers had not been aware particularly that they were hitting stones while they cut the grass so the extreme wear on the old blades had come as a surprise. The council discussed keeping the football pitch short but having a slightly longer cut elsewhere to avoid scuffing the ground. The Christmas tree socket needed to be lowered. The volunteers, although reliable, were dwindling in numbers so an appeal would be made in the newsletter for more.

The embankment at the far end of the field was looking good and more flower bulbs would be purchased to plant on it.

- c) Play area: The inspection had not taken place; the expected date was the 9th April.
- d) Flood / Drainage: No progress.
- e) Footpaths: The Parish Paths Warden continued to do sterling work on the parish footpaths. Cllr Betteridge noted how attractive and scenic the paths around the lakes to the north of the parish were, although there were some areas with litter and obvious visits by a quad bike. There were some footpath signs that had gone missing and needed replacement.
- f) Village Hall and Events Group (VHEG): Cllr Saunders reported that Wychavon had circulated information on a litter picking initiative 'Adopt a Street'. The VHEG committee had taken this one step further and had adopted the village. Lower Moor had been litter picked and attention would be turned to the hill settlements. They had contacted Wyre and Fladbury to see if they had volunteers who wished to join in with regular litter picking dates locally.
- g) Landfill Site: Nothing to report.
- h) Lengthsman: There was a slight overspend in 2020/21 of £7.88. Three payments were still awaited from WCC which would now be credited in the new financial year. The budget for 2021/22 was £1936, the same as in previous years. There were new reporting requirements, with each task having to be allocated a code.
- i) Newsletter: Would be discussed later on the agenda.
- j) PACT: The next meeting was later in April.
- k) Urgent Decisions Group: Cllr P. Jeanes had organised a new padlock and keys for the car park.

7. Planning

- a) **New planning applications:** There were none.
- b) **To receive Decision Notices:** There were none.
- c) **To note or discuss Planning Correspondence, Information and Issues:** There were none.

8. Finance:

- a) **To report on the financial situation of the Parish Council and to approve payments.**

Income since last report			
Date	Received from	Details	Total £
04/03/2021	HMRC	VAT to end Jan2021	4870.57
12/03/2021	WCC	L/man reimbursement Dec20+1st wk Jan21	224
09/03/2021	Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest Mar20	0.16
23/03/2021	HMRC	VAT - Feb 2021	121.31

Payments for approval			
Inv. Date	Payee	Detail	£ inc VAT
04/03/2021	GeoXphere Ltd Parish Online	Mapping licence 4/04/21 - 4/03/22	40.5
28/02/2021	Eon	Play Field elec 2/02/21 - 26/02/21	11.97

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21/01/2021	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2020/21	360.00
06/02/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	Lengthsman 16Jan - 6 Feb 21	224.00
13/03/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	Open Spaces maint. Moles (20hrs); repair light	270.00
13/03/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	Lengthsman 13Feb - 13Mar21	224.00
13/03/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	Open Spaces maint. 13/03/21. General work	48.00
31/03/2021	J. Adams	Salary Mar '21	253.71
31/03/2021	J. Adams	Phone/computer Mar '21	17.50
31/03/2021	HMRC	PAYE Q4 2020/21	190.20
18/03/2021	J. Adams	Expenses printing, mileage	37.88
31/03/2021	WCC	Pension contributions Mar 20 (HMPC £85.17)	104.69

Current account - Lloyds - A/c 01865441

Balance as at 25/03/21 14,755.43

Savings account - Lloyds - A/c 07578509

Balance as at 25/03/21 20,401.16

Total cash assets **35,156.59**

<u>Ringfenced</u>		
Flood alleviation		10,000.00
CIL		0.00
Grant funds	Village Hall improvements	5,531.55
Bonfire funds		1,272.60
Total Ringfenced		16,804.15

<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>		
Asset Maintenance / Replacement /Disposal		2,000.00
Purchase Asset		0.00
Total Earmarked Reserves		2,000.00

General Reserve **16,352.44**

(Total cash assets less Ringfenced funds and Earmarked Reserves)

Lengthsman Expenditure to date including items on this document: £1,944.83 from a £1,937 budget.

Total of the **Open Spaces maintenance** items on this sheet: £318.00, which would make total expenditure for this budget £2,858.28 from an annual budget of £4000.

It was resolved to approve the items for online payment. The preparation for the financial end-of-year had started. The council did not qualify for a Certificate of Exemption from external audit as its transactions exceeded £25,000 in the year.

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b) To receive the External Auditor's report: The External Auditor's report was noted.

9. To discuss the SWDP Review Sustainability Appraisal Consultation: Cllr Betteridge reported that a meeting about the Throckmorton proposal had taken place the week before; he and Cllr Jeanes had attended. The Sustainability Appraisal had been discussed and Cllr Betteridge explained that the document made certain assumptions that the group hoped to challenge. For example, there was an assumption that by building the development within easy reach of a train station, the residents would be more disposed to catch trains and not own cars; however there was no obvious evidence of this assumption and the raw data was not available. Likewise, the document stated that the settlement would be a green site, with eco-friendly houses, but there was no mechanism in the document to ensure this happened. There would be a further opportunity to put forward objections when the SWDP went to the inspector in the autumn and it was critical that a robust response was ready by then. The council would need to decide if it would be joining with Pinvin and Bishampton Parish Councils to put forward a joint response. It was agreed that the SWDP would be added as a standing item to future agendas.

10. To discuss the newsletter: Items for inclusion would be an article on reporting problems, an explanation of the precept increase, the Annual Parish Meeting date and perhaps details of the walk around the lakes to the north of the parish.

11. To discuss the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting: The council decided that this would take place on the 29th April by video-conference.

12. Correspondence for Information

The following correspondence had been received and circulated:

- A Councillors' Survey from CALC.
- Dates for councillor training from CALC including planning training
- Spring edition of The Rural Beat from West Mercia Police

13. Clerk's report

- A quote had been received for repair of the notice board; as second quote would be obtained.
- Government had stated that the temporary legislation to allow online meetings would not be extended beyond the 7th May. This had come as a surprise to local government organisations and efforts were being made to change this decision.
- The clerk reported that she had attended a presentation on 'The Natural Networks Programme', which provided funding to create and restore wildlife habitats. The funding was 45% of project costs in arrears from £1000 - £200,000 in value and was available until December 2022. Projects that had received funding included the creation of orchards and wetlands, and restoration of a brook channel.
- No response, other than an acknowledgment, had been received from WMAS.

14. Summary of Councillors' agreed actions: Cllr A. Jeanes would circulate the list round in due course.

15. Date of next meeting and items for next agenda: Thursday 13th May 2021. The venue was likely to be the Village Hall, unless the decision by Government not to extend the temporary legislation allowing online meetings was extended. Items for next agenda: WMAS

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Public Questions

There were none.