**Strensham Parish Council**

**Minutes** of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 16th January 2020 starting at 19:30

in Strensham Village Hall.

**Present: Councillors:** N Guilding (Chairman), M Gribble (Vice Chairman), T Potter, H Gilder, C White.

**In Attendance:** A Hardiman (County Councillor) S Wingate (Clerk)

**Welcome & Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Bennett-Voci and District Councillor R Davis

**68/20 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors:** None received

**69/20 Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November had been circulated and the Minutes were signed.

**70/20 Matters Arising & Progress Reports:**

1. New Homes Bonus: The scheme is now closed, Strensham have spent the funds available to them.
2. Play Area: To be discussed in Spring

c) Flooding and litter from the service area

**ACTION: Susan to write to Paul Hutson, Roadchef**

d) Broadband: Cllr Potter is waiting to hear from Open Reach, 14 residents of Lower Strensham will contribute

towards Broadband. We also received information on funding from ‘Superfast Worcestershire’ Cllr Potter is

investigating this.

e) Damage to verge at St Johns Church: Two articulated lorries drove up Church Lane mistaking it for Mill Lane, on 2 consecutive days. The drivers were looking for the Water Treatment Plant but the Post Code was incorrect. Damage was caused to verge as lorries turned to exit. Rachel Skidmore from Severn Trent has stated Severn Trent will pay for verge repair, also for signage in Church Lane. Permission needed from Highways.

**ACTION: Susan to write to Highways**

**71/20 Planning:**

a) To consider the following applications referred by Wychavon for consultation

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| **19/01246/HP** | Rectory House, Church Rd,  WR8 9LW | Extension & Remodelling of  Rectory House | Pending |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **19/02452/FUL** | Land at bottom of  Baughton Lane | Proposed Pond at Burial Site | Approved |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **19/00815/SCR** | Land North of Strensham  Bourne Road, Defford | Proposed Solar Farm (extension) and  associated development | Approved |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **19/01448/SCR** | Land at Home Farm  Twyning Road, Strensham | Screening Opinion for Solar Farm and associated equipment & infrastructure | Decision - Information |

b) **Details of Enforcement Action and Updates:**

Strensham Woods (**W/16/01312**) A letter of objection was sent to Planning Enforcement. A reply was received from Jane Phelps (Planning Enforcement Officer, Wychavon & Malvern Hills District Councils) After visiting the site it was found Planning has not been contravened, and that conditions had not been set at original Planning Decision to prevent access to farm land.

**72/20 Other Matters:**

1. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review

Strensham Parish Council objected to the proposal for 15 hectares of employment land as did many residents. Tewkesbury Borough Council are also opposed the proposal.

1. Electric Cable through Village (Reference Solar Farm)

The Parish Council did not give permission for an electricity cable to cross the playground, the reply from George Lymperis of Novergy regretted the decision.

1. Village Hall Drains and Septic Tank

There has been a change in Regulations, from 01/01/2020 which directly impacts the Village Hall plus 4 private dwellings along Hill View Road. Letters have been issued by WRS giving 6 months notice (from 04/12/19) to comply. The septic tanks of these properties currently run off foul water into the storm drains along Hill View Road, new Regulations stipulate only clean water may run into the storm drains. Cllr White suggested a holding tank for the Village Hall, monitoring levels for emptying, Cllr Gribble will look at this, as well as alternative solutions for the Village Hall. Cllr Gribble will meet for a second time with contractors to discuss various options. All properties including the Village Hall must comply with Building Regulations concerning the positioning of new treatment plants. This is proving to be an issue as there is insufficient land available to meet these building regs. Cllr Hardiman will speak to Paul Saunders (Worcestershire Regulatory Services) for advice and exceptions to Building Regulations. The Village Hall Committee may ask the Parish Council for a contribution towards the cost of replacing the Septic tank. Cllr Gribble will provide an update at the next PC meeting.

1. Elected Member Code of Conduct

The Parish Council voted to adopt the code of conduct.

**73/20 Highway Matters:**

Worcestershire County Council no longer pay mowing grass verges under the Lengthsman Scheme. After some discussion it was decided that Cllr Gilder would mow the greater part of the verge North of the village with a pasture topper. The Lengthsman would be asked to continue to mow the rest of the verges.

Cllr Guilding Proposed and was Seconded by Cllr White. The vote was unanimous.

**74/20 County Councillors Report**

Councillor Hardiman reported that the County Minerals Plan is up for review and that we should watch out for any Cemex proposals East of the village. He reported that the costs of adult social care were returning nearer to budget, but that he had concerns about acute medical care in Worcester. The collapsed drain under no. 3 the Barns was still under consideration with various solutions being considered however funding is scarce.

**75/20 Finance:**

a)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Payee* | *Amount* | *Reason* |
| Cllr M Gribble | £22.00 | Printer Ink Cartridge |
| Westcotec | 3,906.00 | Speed Sign |

No payments received

b) Precept

The councillors were presented with accounts and a budget for the coming year. After some discussion it was proposed that the precept be raised from £5,350.00 to £5,600.00

Proposed by Cllr M Gribble, Seconded by Chair N Guilding, the vote was unanimous

**76/20 Correspondence:**

Reply from Jane Phelps, enforcement officer – Wychavon & Malvern Hills District Councils

**77/20 Topics Raised by Cllrs, Committee, Clerk and Parishioners:**

a) Village Hall Committee:

Donna Williams and Pam Gough have stepped down

Tracey Gribble becomes Chair of Committee (also a Trustee)

Claire Ayerst becomes Secretary (also a Trustee)

Mark Young becomes Treasurer (also a Trustee)

Lisa Bennett remains Booking Admin

b) The issue of a lot mud on Bourne Road was raised, and lorries travelling too fast on Bourne Road.

**ACTION Chairman to contact Jon Hill**

c) A request from a Parishioner to contact Graham Halling, who has ploughed his field in Hill View Road causing rainwater to run off into the road and a property nearby and ask if he could address this. It was suggested he could dig a ditch as a runoff.

**ACTION Susan to contact Graham Halling**

d) A question raised from the floor asking if there are any replacement grants for New Homes Bonus.

There are £50,000 Community Grants available from Wychavon, but SPC would have to contribute to projects, of at least £10,000

e) Severn Trent Water Treatment Plant in Mill Lane have extended an invitation to residents to tour the

Plant on Wednesday 29th January at 2pm

**The Meeting closed at 10:00**

**78/20 Date of next meeting is: Thursday 19thMarch 2020**