

Lower Sapey Parish Meeting

Minutes of a virtual meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Ashley Jones (Chairman), S. Younge (Vice Chairman), M. Alexander (Clerk), and 9 members of the public.

Also present: J. Bowden (Chairman Clifton upon Teme Parish Council)

Apologies: County Councillor Ken Pollock, District Councillor C. Palethorpe, R. Wilks (Parish Lengthsman).

1. Minutes of a meeting held 13th August 2020: The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed S. Rigby, seconded A. Jones. All agreed.

2. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes:

2.1 The Lengthsman scheme is now registered with Worcs CC.

2.2 There are still concerns about the odour of sewage, but it is now thought that this may be from the agitator at Harpley Green.

2.3 Harpley Big Breakfast event went very well and £250.54 was raised. Thanks were given to all concerned, especially L. Younge.

3. County & District Councillor Reports:

Reports as circulated via email and loaded to the parish website for information.

4. Financial Matters:

4.1 Parish precept 2021-22 – the meeting noted that the amount has remained static for the past 15 years and discussion took place as to whether the amount should be raised this time. It was proposed by S. Everitt that the precept be raised by 3% this year to move forward, but this was not seconded. It was then proposed by the Chairman, seconded by A. Evans that the amount remains at £600.00 and this was agreed by the meeting. The Clerk to notify MHDC. It was further proposed by the Chairman that the Clerk be paid £250.00 p.a. for expenses, seconded S. Evans. All agreed.

4.2 Payments – it was agreed that the Clerk is reimbursed pro rata for work done this financial year up until 31st March 2021, totalling £160.00.

4.3 The meeting thanked District Councillor C. Palethorpe for the £100.00 funding towards spring bulbs for the parish. The Clerk was asked to order the Daffodil / Narcissi bulbs.

5. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Thanks to R. Wilks for all the work done, especially in recent flooding, which has been very much appreciated.

6. Planning Matters: J. Bowden, Chairman of Clifton-upon-Teme PC, attended the meeting to discuss s.106 funding available from MHDC for the Hope Lane development. It was noted that all applications to the fund need to be made through Mark Hammond at MHDC and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged asap by the Clerk to look at local options. Attendees to be the Clerk, the Chairman and C. Connolly. The meeting noted the £245k Four Acre Field project which has been applied for by Clifton parish and which is awaiting approval by MHDC.

Clerk: Michelle Alexander

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Concern was raised about the lack of affordable housing in Lower Sapey and the meeting noted that Hope Lane allocation appears to be all within Clifton area but that within the s.106 agreement there is a mechanism and timeframe for applications for affordable housing to be rolled out in concentric circles from the development site. It was agreed that clarification was needed on this process and that this should be raised at the MHDC meeting.

7. Parish Matters: The following matters were discussed –

7.1 St Bartholomew's Church – the meeting was updated about roof repair work required and the fact that the need for overall roof replacement, toilet and kitchenette will need a long-term plan and significant funding. The building remains unusable in the meantime and it risks development if the building / car park cannot be used. The Chairman was invited to attend the next P.C.C. meeting to assist with matters, including looking at glebe land options. A. Evans explained the P.C.C. position and efforts made to date to try and resolve current issues. Test holes are being made in the roof to determine what needs to be done and the P.C.C. will continue to work hard to retain the church for the parish.

7.2 Broad Band Scheme – the scheme is currently moving forward, and a start date is awaited. A. Tulloch was thanked for his support and for underwriting the scheme.

7.3 Litter picking – residents are invited to litter pick their local areas (in line with social distancing measures). Equipment will be provided to the Chairman by the Clerk for people to use.

7.4 The meeting noted the recent fatal accident by Wheely Cottage on the High Lane and speeding remains a real concern, especially when turning out on to the main road. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting asap between the Chairman and Highways to look at traffic calming options for that stretch of road. It was noted that support would also be needed from County Cllr Pollock and that he will also be invited to attend any meeting.

8. Date of the next meeting: The next meeting will be held in March and may need to be virtual again (date to be agreed).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Michelle Alexander
Clerk