

Grimley Parish Council

Monday 24th August 2020 7.00pm

**For sensible containment of Coronavirus
all business at this publicly open meeting has been conducted online**

The meeting was duly advertised online and on three parish noticeboards.

The password to join the meeting was available within the agenda and upon request from the Clerk.

Ref legislation for online meetings: Coronavirus Bill THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/392/contents/made>

Minutes of the meeting

Cllrs Present: D Stanley (Chair), A Taft, A Atkinson, A Bretherton, G Moore, S Wilson.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO). DCllr Clarke
1 member of public. (NW) (confirmed)

073/20 Public open forum

a. Cllrs thanked resident for joining them. No questions at this stage.

074/20 Points of order, apologies, approval of reasons for absence, 075/20 declarations of interest and dispensations. Minutes.

- a.**
- i. **Apologies:** CCllr Phil Grove; Cllr Green declined to take part in virtual meetings; Cllr Ayers; Cllr Passey due to work commitments.
 - ii. Updated declaration in relation to item 78/20: D.Stanley – declaration in relation to previous employment with Environment Agency, subsequently in odour control technology applicable to intensive livestock production. **Approved** dispensation to vote.
 - iii. Historical declaration pertinent to item 78/20: A Bretherton - resident of Sinton Green.
 - iv. **Minutes of previous meetings.**
Mon 18th May 2020 – Previously distributed and duly **approved**.

076/20 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor.

a. CCllr Grove has been providing regular updates via email and has also been promptly responding to parish council requests.

077/20 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor.

a. DCllr Clarke has been providing regular updates via email and spoke to detail district Covid19 recovery, update on planning matters and respond to Parish Cllr questions.
DCllr Dean confirmed that whilst the police are not following up reports concerning Grimley Raceway, Enforcement are investigating. Clarification was provided on points relating to Thorngrove application EPR/WP3239EK, including district officer opinion that both planning permission and an Environment Agency licence are required before this project can proceed.
Parish Councillors were encouraged to consider and respond to the government draft planning reforms.

Motion to suspend standing orders: duly approved.

078/20 Donations and consultations To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p>a.</p>	<p>S137 Policy - To consider application from resident group (TAG) for funding legal advice in relation to planning law and engaging expertise in developing a robust response to the Environment Agency in reference to Application EPR/WP3239EK/V003 Thorngrove Poultry Farm WR2 6NP - EA Draft Decision. Bid for funding is up to £1600 + VAT. Cllrs will consider and debate the following motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Motion 1 to accept the TAG application as valid and acceptably meeting parish council guidelines for such bids and that legal clarification will be of benefit to the community. ii. Motion 2 to provide funding to TAG under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to approve a level of funding, up to max £1600 plus VAT. <p><i>The above Motions can be accepted or rejected. Public input will be permitted during this item. Standing Orders will be reinstated for Motions.</i></p> <p>The Chair invited NW to address the council. NW spoke to introduce the group bid for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group has already organised to deliver leaflets to Hallow, Moseley and Sinton Green, encouraging residents to respond to the latest EA consultation. A parish council leaflet round was therefore not required. - Smell and noise are a nuisance to those nearby and the number of people that may be affected by the site may sig. increase. - Smell experience by residents may include the particulates caused by burning of carcasses and other airborne particulates which are not monitored. Nb. not just ammonia. - Legal assistance is required to clarify whether old planning permission has lapsed. Specialist advice is required in relation to this latest EA permit as the residents who are affected most are not experts and the information is highly technical in nature. - Believed that double story poultry sheds are untested in the UK. - Group has found a solicitor (Matthew McFeely) who had had great success in dealing with EA permits in Shropshire and won that case. He advises clients on a wide range of environmental legal issues. He represents residents' groups and NGOs in planning and environmental judicial reviews and statutory nuisance claims and his work also involves disputes before tribunals, submissions in planning and enforcement appeals, and in local plan examinations. The solicitor if and once appointed can review all documentation and put together a letter stating why the EA should not issue the permit. <p>Q) – What happens if the EA still grant the permit? A) – Clerk confirmed that further monies cannot be allocated once one grant is given, as the council policy is not to fund repeat projects, even where they are deemed in the best interests of the majority of residents.</p> <p>Comments from Cllrs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal advice is required as the District Council have not been able to provide satisfactory clarification on their own planning policies and procedures. District Planning Officer 'opinion' is not sufficient when the lives of so many residents stand to be affected - It is important for the residents to obtain legal advice as they cannot challenge the EA on issues that have not previously been raised, once the decision has been made.
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	<p>- The number of residents affected by the site is far more than indicated by the EA and far more than the numbers of households formally consulted as part of EA standard practices.</p> <p>- Funding has historically been provided by the parish council in relation to legal/specialist advice concerning past local planning applications (Solar farms and stone crushing facilities).</p> <p>- <u>Parish Councillors support local businesses but where so many residents have complained and give evidence that they are affected, the Parish Council can work positively to remove doubt or confusion as to planning law and public body procedures and this would be the aim of this funding. All Cllrs agreed on this point.</u></p> <p>Although not permissible, as not present at the meeting, Cllr Ayers had previously wished for her opinion to be noted – that the grant should be fully allocated.</p> <p>Cllrs voted on Motion 1. Prps: AB. Scnd: SW. 6 unanimous in favour. Cllrs voted on Motion 2. Prps: At. Scnd: AA. 6 unanimous in favour.</p> <p>£1920 (£1600 plus VAT) granted to TAG resident group for funding legal advice/clarification in relation to planning law and to develop a robust and informed response to the EA draft decision.</p> <p>- Cllrs instructed the Clerk to update Holt and Hallow Parish Councils on this decision and, as their residents may already experience the impacts of this site and may continue to be impacted further, whether a contribution towards costs could be considered.</p> <p>NW thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the resident group. <i>Standing orders duly reinstated</i></p> <p>b. Government White Paper on planning reform. To formulate parish council response. Cllr Stanley agreed to draft a response. DCllr Clarke to forward a copy of the District Council response.</p> <p>c. People Make Places: Ticket to Ride Fund 4th September. Volunteers please to tune in. Over the past few months, MHDC has supported a range of community projects recovering from the Covid-19 crisis. Working with crowdfunding platform Spacehive, MHDC provided funding of £25,000 to support local organisations and encourage pledges from the community. Up to £5,000 was pledged towards an individual project. The next round of funding, which is called People Make Places: Ticket to Ride Fund, will support transport projects that are sustainable, innovative, citizen-led and community-based. Cllrs considered projects that could be included but felt that projects concerning the parish council climate emergency declaration were not forward enough to be involved.</p>
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079/20 General - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p>a.</p>	<p>Peace Hall replacement right of way noticeboard and also broken noticeboard. Cllrs considered that this board has twice already been repaired since 2018. New design to be explored in the future. BJ to inspect and repair up to threshold of £250. Prps: AB. Scnd: SW.</p>
<p>b.</p>	<p>Monkwood Green mowing contract, maintenance and grazing update, including receipt of butterfly advisory briefing paper c/o Butterfly Conservation Trust and Worcester Wildlife Trust Cllrs considered the Butterfly trust advice. Cllrs living on Monkwood Green advised that by July each year the grass is already too long and impacts on visibility for traffic using the roads that cross the Common. The working parties need revitalising. Commoners Association needs finalising. Cllr Wilson to work with the Clerk to take this forward.</p>

	<p>Continued</p> <p>Mowing contract should be redrafted to clarify that the whole common must be managed and tidied, including ditches and areas that have been grazed and only need topping now. Mowing must be for cutting and bailing as usual. Prps: AT. Scnd: SW.</p> <p>Residents report that trees near the main pond need pollarding, as large vehicles are struggling to get by. Kerbstones have been pushed out of line as a result – SS to be informed and invited to quote. Cllrs considered that a tidy up would be possible during the winter using volunteer resources. Pond dredging to be considered in the future once a full survey of the pond has been commissioned in 2021.</p> <p>Tree margin Monkwood Green, vicinity of Simberton. Cllr Green to liaise with residents in vicinity of Waverley and Simberton and agree which trees need cutting down. Cllrs approved permission for RP permission to go into the tree margin this winter and fell any dangerous trees. Hourly fee of £25 for the work. Insurers to be informed. RP chainsaw licence already received by the Clerk.</p> <p>Broadband project(s) update. Cllr Green continues to make good progress with the project at Monkwood Green. Residents who have yet to claim their vouchers for Grimley village are encouraged to do so asap. New residents in Grimley are being invited to join.</p> <p>Highways, footpaths and road surfaces parish wide The Clerk was instructed to continue with arrangements for a site visit with Highways so that all the degraded paths and road surfaces in the vicinity of Grimley and the A443 can be properly inspected/checked for action.</p> <p>RC of Retreat Farm has contacted Cllr Stanley reference the alleged relocation of the public footpath, the lack of planning permission for the stables (on skids) and lately the lighting added to the site which the residents feels adds to the nuisance and loss of privacy. Enforcement are pursuing the issue of the footpath. The resident is concerned that the previous 10ft gate may now have been replaced by 16ft gate - a consequence of which may be that if the footpath is reinstated with stile adjacent to the gate, it will still have been moved. All information has been passed to Enforcement.</p> <p>Flytipping on Monkwood to Sinton Green road has been reported.</p> <p>Damaged ditch barriers opposite bus shelter on Sinton Green village green have been reported and repairs requested.</p> <p>Noticeboard at Monkwood Green has been reported for damp and will be repaired by BJ.</p> <p>New litter bin at Sinton Green, progress update. The Clerk may be able to source a bin for free but if not possible, permission was approved to purchase <u>and install</u> a new one up to £275.</p> <p>'Name the ponds' at Grimley. The Clerk had liaised with Ordnance Survey who expressed concern that the landowners were not involved. Cllr Taft to explore this with Wstns, Hcktns, WCC, Church Commissioners and JC's son.</p> <p>The Clerk was also instructed to check the official name of Grimley approach road. Should this road should more properly be called Grimley Lane? Also, to ask for a name plate for this road.</p>
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080/20 Lengthsman

a.	<p>To receive updates and jobs.</p> <p>The following jobs have been passed to SS: At Grimley village the blocked gutters and overgrown vegetation near the noticeboard have been passed to the Lengthsman for action. Lengthsman has also been instructed to inspect the path along A443 to Hallow for obstruction, to tidy grass verge in vicinity of Stonewall cottages and to check the paths in that area for broken glass again. Grass to be cut outside Stonewall Cottages.</p>
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081/20 Finance and Administration

- To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Prps: AT. Scnd: SW.
b.	To receive and motion to accept Bank Reconciliation July 2020. Prps: AT. Scnd: AB.

082/20 Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.

- To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Stanley has been liaising with the vicar about ensuring that church meetings do not clash with the parish council. - Monthly environment update to be placed in the parish magazine by Cllr Stanley. Cost to parish council not to be more than £40 pa.
b.	Item for future agenda – toilet for the church,
c.	<p>Date of Next Scheduled Meeting – 21st September 2020, 7.30pm ONLINE The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting</p>

Appendix 1 – payments to be made:

Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman invoice July and August 2020.	£293.25	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skeys	Sinton Green grass cutting July and Aug 2020.	£150.00	Vat nil
Mr Philip Moore	Internal Audit fee	£5.00	VAT nil
Information Commissioner	ALREADY PAID July 2020 via BACS. To review payment made between meetings. Annual mandatory subscription. Future standing order will reduce this to £35 p.a.	£40.00	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [July 2020] As per contract of 12 hours per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses July 2020. Including £17.99 zoom membership.	£87.12	Under calculation

Chair (Online approval 21/09/2020)