

Grimley Parish Council

Monday 19th October 2020, 7.30pm

**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 Bretherton and S Wilson.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO). DCllr Clarke

096/20 Public open forum

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

097/20 Points of order, apologies, approval of reasons for absence, 098/20 declarations of interest and dispensations. Minutes.

a. i. **Apols** P Grove, A Atkinson, P Ayers, G Green, G Moore, A Passey
ii. **Minutes of previous meetings.**
Mon 19th Sept 2020 – Previously distributed and duly **approved**.
iii. Nil declarations or points of order.

099/20 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. Parish Cllrs wish CCllr Grove well and hope for a speedy recovery.

DCllr Dean Clarke arrived at this point in the meeting, after attending training elsewhere.

0100/20 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor.

a. DCllr Clarke noted that the Ball Mill application has been submitted to MHDC but that he would have little input as DCllr Pam Cummings represents Holt Parish. Cllrs observed that this left them a little underrepresented, as the impact of this application is more keenly felt in Grimley Parish than it is in Holt.
Cllrs also noted a recent change in bus times - Clerk to investigate.
Clerk to email DCllr Clarke reference tree grants.

101/20 Planning

To consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following

a. **Planning** - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications.
20/01471/ CU, Northington Farm, WR6 6NQ. Application being validated at time of publication. The Clerk had no updated information to provide. Residents have been in touch and noted concerns. Carry over to next meeting.

b. **20/01516/CLE, Ball Mill, certificate of lawfulness.** Application being validated at time of publication. This certificate is an attempt by the applicant to prove that the site has been used for forestry works for the past ten years or more.

	<p>Parish Cllrs suggested focusing on the present day application rather than commenting on the certificate of lawfulness without evidence of historical use of the site. Cllrs agreed that access to the site continues to be extremely dangerous and that use of the site for applicant's intended purposes was therefore objectionable. However, these comments are not valid for this certificate application.</p>
c.	<p>EPRWP3239EKV003 Thorngrove Poultry Farm, Variation application – Update. Noise and odour monitoring is due to take place between 28th Oct and 8th Nov by the EA. Details of use of the chipper has been forwarded to the Licensing team for inclusion in their deliberations. Residents continue to argue for the chipper's inclusion within the scope of the Permit, so that SH of the EA is able to monitor its operation going forward. Invoice due shortly. Hallow PC is due to debate a £500 donation to Grimley PC as a contribution, since their residents are similarly affected by this application and have benefited from the clarification provided by the solicitor.</p>
d.	<p>Enforcement update ref Raceway and use of Dark Lane as point of entry. No additional information to provide. Carry over to next meeting.</p>
e.	<p>Ombersley and Doverdale Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020-2030. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to comment on this plan reusing comments submitted to the Hallow NDP. Nb. References concerning climate change, housing design etc were once again valid points for submission.</p>
f.	<p>South Worcestershire Council's joint response to Gov consultation on calculating housing numbers in local plans. To note submitted support from the parish council. Duly noted.</p>

102/20 Environment, Green Infrastructure & Climate Emergency

To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>Climate Emergency - Re-establishing the Environment Working Party. Including comments arising from WCC briefing session Public-Sector Energy Efficiency Prog. Public updates continue to be provided monthly via parish magazine and via Facebook reaching up to 200 online viewings.</p>
b.	<p>Ponds at Grimley. Residents at The Ark have provided lake names. Cllr Taft to continue to try to contact the gentleman owning the fishery. Clerk to provide OS with precise coordinates.</p>

103/20 Infrastructure, highway* matters, drainage and flooding

To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

*Highways (roads & pavements) & byways (bridleways and footpaths).

a.	<p>Update on site visit between Highways, DCllr and Parish Clerk, covering</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The deteriorating condition of the road-side footpaths (and hedges) along the A443. Clerk to arrange for the Lengthsman to tidy the hedge along the A443, until such time as Highways can write to the hedge owner and ask him to trim it and also schedule for the path to be scrapped clear of moss and debris along the entire length of that section (junction to junction) after April 2021, (once the budget is renewed). Potholes in path along A443 to be filled by Highways who have noted location and are in agreement of the existing hazard. ii. Pothole Grimley approach road – scheduled for repair.
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<p>b.</p> <p>c.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>e.</p> <p>f.</p> <p>g.</p> <p>h.</p>	<p>iii. Speeding in Grimley village approach road and Camp Lane. Highways officer had requested more information, which has been provided by the Clerk. Chase up on decision.</p> <p>iv. Replacement 'no parking in passing places' sign on Grimley approach road. Highways officer to chase order.</p> <p>v. 'Grimley Road' sign. Agreed not an option as is a rural area. Location already has a sign saying 'Grimley village'.</p> <p>vi. Puddling water near Church Farm. Highways officer agreed that a new drain/kerb culvert is required. To be scheduled for installation as soon as possible but may be 2021.</p> <p>vii. Camp lane potholes, poor quality of previous repairs, passing places. New road surface is out of the question for a rural road of this nature. Most potholes are not potholes but are just the verge eroded away by passing cars, which are obstructed by overgrown hedges. Scalpings and such like can be placed in them – this will solve the issue temporarily, but a more permanent solution is not possible as the budget does not exist for roads of this nature. Highways to schedule for team to go along filling all potholes as best can be. Potholes in passing places will be included. There is no possibility to make passing places wider – hedge prevents this. Clerk to report speeding along this route to the police.</p> <p>Damaged knee rail fencing Grimley approach road – contractor appointed and instructed.</p> <p>Peace Hall right of way noticeboard – manufactured and awaiting installation.</p> <p>Peace Hall broken noticeboard – contractor appointed and repairs underway.</p> <p>Bin near noticeboard, Sinton Green – Clerk pursuing.</p> <p>Noticeboard Monkwood Green – contractor conducting repairs.</p> <p>Kerb stones Monkwood Green - contractor appointed.</p> <p>Phone box Grimley (parish council owned) – volunteer for maintenance still required.</p>
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104/20 Commons and Village Greens

To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p>a.</p>	<p>Monkwood Green, including</p> <p>i. Community cut and tidy days, winter 2020. Cllr Wilson stated that attendance at the two recent Saturday morning volunteer sessions had been very good (15 on the 1st and 10 on the 2nd) and that much had been achieved. Social distancing was observed. From the Fox to the Sinton Road is now clear of brambles and saplings. Stumps are being treated in accordance with NE directives. The Clerk was instructed to get quotes for chipping the arisings. Cllrs asked for their thanks to be passed to the volunteers. The Common is looking the best it has for years. The Clerk is to meet with Cllr Wilson to assess Petty Whin and ensure that it is properly marked up.</p> <p>ii. Pond maintenance. Volunteers have thinned out round the edge of the road nearest the road and the view to the pond has been restored to great effect, without touching the edge of the pond itself or disturbing the wildlife. Overhanging branches (which were blocking vehicular access) have been removed. Again, Cllrs gave thanks to the residents for their hard work and involvement.</p>
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<p>b.</p>	<p>iii. Commoners Association. The Clerk has passed the draft agreement to the Solicitors for comment</p> <p>iv. Western Power planned works Jan 2021. The Clerk reported that she has meet with a subcontractor for Western Power and has negotiated care of the trees in the vicinity of the high voltage powers lines behind The Fox, January 2021. The dense scrub at the entranceway to The Woodlands is also to be cut back during this work. Contractor is aware of the SSSI designation and the ant hills. Residents had asked about keeping some of the dead wood for insects as a log pile and the Clerk is to ask the contractor about this.</p> <p>v. Water seepage outside Langdale. Results of the water testing had been received and the Clerk was asked to pass this on to the Environment Agency for an opinion, as Severn Trent have denied responsibility.</p> <p>vi. Service roads The contractor has refused to review the quality of the work, stating that he had fulfilled the project as instructed. Potholes need filling, as do those on the road to Langdale. The Clerk is to source clee hill stone in individual bags.</p> <p>vii. Dog waste on the Common Cllrs felt that a general letter to all residents might be of benefit – to include in next newsletter.</p> <p>Sinton Green. Including Consideration of mowing and wild flower beds for 2021. Progress to be made with Lengthsman contract first before attempting to pin this one down.</p>
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105/20 Reports from other Projects and Representatives

To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p>a.</p>	<p>Broadband projects update Grimley and Monkwood Green projects continue apace. At Monkwood Green the project has now been officially sanctioned as all the formalities have been completed. OpenReach have surveyed the current infrastructure. It is contracted to be done by no later than October 2021. Once the fibre is connected to all the existing central service points, each household will be advised so that they can contact their Internet service provider to have it connected to their individual property. The Sinton project has not had a good response rate so far and Cllrs agreed one final reminder with an SAE.</p>
<p>b.</p>	<p>Peace Hall Management Committee. Cllr Bretherton reported that he had been unable to access the online meeting. The next meeting is 2nd November 2020. Minutes of the meeting had been passed to Cllrs, who noted with concern that major projects are going ahead whilst the hall has not been open during the summer window of opportunity and has not been raising funds. Additional information required about the car park project, as the parish council has had no involvement so far.</p>
<p>c.</p>	<p>Parochial Church Council. Cllrs noted the number of successful volunteer days at the churchyard and felt that those that took part are to be congratulated on such a job well done. Some dead trees have been removed and the inside of the church is next for a spruce up. A church fete (socially distanced) is planned for 11th and 12th December.</p>
<p>d.</p>	<p>Tarmac and old quarry sites – No update.</p>
<p>e.</p>	<p>Defibrillator Monkwood Green – no issues to report.</p>

106/20 Lengthsman

a.	To note new rate of £13 per hour subject to invoices to be submitted by 7 th each month. Monthly expenditure, pro rata, not to exceed the current annual budget allocation. Work must prioritise: 1. flood prevention – ditches and drain clearance. 2. Maintenance of vision at road junctions etc. 3. Footpath safety clearance moss et cetera. nb. other work such as grass cutting as required to make up the hours. <i>Approved unanimously.</i>
b.	To receive updates and jobs. – No new jobs, as many existing still outstanding.

107/20 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. Appendix 1 and 2. <i>Duly approved.</i>
b.	To receive and motion to accept Bank Reconciliation Sept 2020. <i>Duly approved.</i>
c.	To note reclaim of VAT for 2019/2020 financial year. £1186.60 <i>Suspend standing orders. Open session accepting suggestions and requests from the public and Cllrs.</i>
d.	To receive and debate draft budget 2021-2022. <i>(2nd debate to take place Nov 2020, with a view to finalising budget in Dec 2020). Suggestions from public welcome until 2nd Dec 2020 in relation to this.</i> Cllrs had previously made their input by email and the Clerk is to incorporate these suggestions into the budget. Cllr Taft advocated no increase in Council Tax precept for the next financial year, stating that the pandemic is causing a great amount of distress and hardship. There had been no input from the public so far.

108/20 Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.

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

a.	Item for future agenda – Meeting of staffing committee for Clerk appraisal.
b.	Date of Next Scheduled Meeting – 16th November 2020, 7.30pm ONLINE The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting

Appendix 1 - Items already paid

Lisa Stevens	Postage ref Sinton Broadband project. Two letters (one intro leaflet and 1 week later one application form) to 40 houses plus response slips to those that have requested them.	£76	VAT nil.
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Appendix 2 – Items for payment

Mr G. Green	Reimbursement for equipment expenses. £39.90 (SBK), £8.13 (paint for marking). Ref MWGreen volunteer days.	£48.03	£1.36
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [Sept 2020] As per contract of 12 hours per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses Oct 2020. Including £17.99 zoom membership. Including £64.10 stakes for petty whin MWGreen	£151.22	Under calculation