



Highnam Parish Council



Lassington Oak

Highnam ~ Linton ~ Over ~ Lassington

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Highnam Parish Council

held on Tuesday 10 November 2020

Present: Cllrs: M Welch, V Tustin Smith, C Coats, K Emmerson, W Badham, W Nicol, Y Watkins and J Smith

In Attendance: R Hicks (Clerk), Cllrs P Awford, P McLain and R Keene

Public Forum:

No members of public present

Clerk apologised to those present for the difficulties in joining the meeting; meeting log in details were different to those received when meeting was scheduled

1 To receive apologies for absence

None

2 To approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 October 2020

The minutes have been circulated to all Councillors, and were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. They will be signed by Chairman in due course.

3 To consider Councillor Co-option

Rees Keene has submitted a resume which has been circulated to Councillors. Mr Keene was asked why he wanted to join Council; he replied that recent attendance had been interesting and he felt he might be able to make a contribution. It was proposed Cllr Tustin Smith, seconded Cllr Smith that Mr Keene be coopted; 7 votes in favour with 1 abstention

4 Members of the Council are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business set out below

Cllr Watkins at Item 13, parts 2,3 & 4; Cllr Welch at Item 13, parts 3 & 4. Cllr Keene at Item 13, part 1

5 To allow dispensations

Dispensation requested and allowed for Cllr Watkins on Item 13, parts 2, 3 & 4 and Cllr Welch on Item 13, parts 3 & 4. Dispensation also requested and agreed for Cllr Keene to answer questions relating to Over Farm

6 To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr Awford reported sadly the rising numbers of Coronavirus cases has lead to another lockdown and further restrictions and GCC is having to look at those demands for crucial services going forward. This has meant the closing of Libraries and Day Centres and Shire Hall reception together with visiting Care facilities. Household waste centres remain open on the booking system and of course the Community Hub remains staffed to signpost to crucial services. The County Council scheduled meetings continue by virtual platforms including County Council on the 25th of November. Locally, I have been lobbied about the state of the highways and pavements around the village and am asking highways to inspect as soon as practical. As I advised at the last Parish Council Meeting I do have funding available for Community Groups and this can be used to support work around Covid or to help grow Community networks. I do work with the TBC Grants Officer and she is aware of this funding, you will recall that there was a successful bid made to support the screening trees at Over. Obviously I am following the FODDC proposals for the housing development they are considering in their Local Plan and the impacts it would have on the area, not least those crucial infrastructure mitigation's that would have to be forthcoming should those sites be included. I continue to work with all those stakeholders that are looking at the A417 and a potential joint bid from GCC and the EA to mitigate the closures during flood events. Despite the current situation Council work continues with those Scrutiny and Statutory meetings together with those other Authorities in order to keep services as normal as possible. A long Adult Care meeting had focused on Covid, with cases doubling every 6 days. Q was asked why footpaths are not worked on by Glos Highways until they are deemed dangerous; priority

has to be on A and B roads

7 To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllrs J Smith & P McLain reported that there has been a lot of national, regional and local briefings this week to provide councils with more details behind some of the announcements already made eg grants, enforcement legislation, care of vulnerable residents. Many officers are deployed into other roles during this time which can slow down other services. Applications for the Council Tax reduction scheme appear to be levelling off with steady number of new applicants. The team responsible for business grants assurance is on standby to start paying business grants. The licensing team are developing licensing applications on line. A £100m scheme for public sector leisure centres, swimming pools and gyms has been announced at National Level by the Government – it is to help to cover at least some of the costs of the leisure centres being closed. The Covid Community Protection Officers scheme has been launched, with two officers covering Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Stroud in a bid to combat the spread of Covid 19. Ubico have been more stringent with checks on recycling and have not emptied but stickered blue bins with incorrect items in. This has been necessary to reduce the amount of contaminated recycling being sent to and potentially rejected by the MRF. There is still funding available for community grants of up to £1000 for each group undertaking charitable work within our villages. Parish Clerks have the details. All district Councils have just had additional Govt funding allocated to them

8 To receive Clerks Report and Correspondence

Clerk reported that discussion is continuing with TBC to try to reach a form of acceptable conditions with regard to the licence needed for the EWG projects. Highnam Neighborhood Watch have reported a need for street coordinators for Poole Ground, The Range/Chestnut Cottages, Poppy Field, Mimosa Avenue and Wisteria Grove. Reference Item 10 on agenda (footpath gate into Lassington Lane), costs incurred by GCC were £128 for the gate and £250 for the installation. In answer to question regarding Item 17 (Stauntons Hill) there is no public access to the bund area; this area is open only to residents and English Heritage. An update on the repositioning of the Village Sign on The Green, I had a meeting with the contractor yesterday and the post has now been received and should be installed before Xmas External Auditors report had been received today, which a clean bill of health. Also presentation to Derek Davies took place on 4 November; Reports will be sent to various press, and a framed photo provided to Derek.

9 Finance – to approve invoices for payment

28 October 2020	Admin Costs	S/o	17	£	547.95
12 November 2020	D Crofts (NDP)	Online	31	£	220.00
12 November 2020	C Coats (Biz)	Online	31	£	14.15
12 November 2020	John Malukas	Online	4	£	91.00

Payment of invoices approved

10 To discuss and decide contribution to Lassington Lane/Mary Grove Footpath Gate

Costs of gate were £128 plus £250 for installation; Cllr Coats proposed that Council pay half, £189, seconded Cllr Badham, all agreed

11 To receive update on Parish Plan Refresh, and Printing of EWG policies

Footpath is progressing to schedule; meeting was held with TBC to clarify points on the Recreation Park project; TBC will be checking for obstructions by dropping bore holes. 20 copies of EWG policy have been printed and most distributed; it will be available for residents to read if requested.

Licence has been issued by TBC for a Forest Schools organisation. TBC licence for sculptures is still under discussion, but cost of upkeep makes the installation of bat boxes prohibitive. TBC are averse to tree planting because of maintenance costs

12 To discuss Over Farm Activities

There is nothing more to add here

13 To receive and comment on Planning Applications

1.	20/00766/FUL		Over Farm, GL2 8DB	Change of use of land to Farm Park Attraction
2.	20/00987/FUL		21 Williams Orchard, GL2 8EL	Erection of summer house
3.	20/00927/FUL		Old School, GL2 8DG	Replacement single storey extension
4.	20/00928/LBC		Old School, GL2 8DG	Replacement single storey extension
5.	20/00997/FUL		12 Beech Close, GL2 8EG	Single storey front garage extension

Cllr Watkins interest for Items 2,3 & 4

Cllr Welch interest for items 3 & 4

Cllr Rees interest at Item 1

Item 1. Comment was made that jobs will be created and bring in visitors to the area; Facebook comments were generally favourable; clarification is needed with regard to existing planning approval for a new Farm Shop; concerns were expressed regarding A40, flood issues and car parking. A report from Planning Enforcement is still awaited. Concern was also raised with regard to access at the top end of cycle path for wheelchair users; It was mentioned that we have to take into consideration and be aware of illegal quad bike use of cycle path

Items 2 and 5 were not objected to

Items 3 & 4 were strongly supported with thanks to HCCT for their efforts in putting this application together

14 To discuss overgrown hedges/footpaths

It was suggested that a follow-up to the 'Pride in our Community' letter should be sent out regarding creep of hedges and weeds over footpaths, with the Glos Highways advice attached. Caution was advised as approach needs to be consistent, and follow-up thought through carefully. Suggestion was made that a list of properties be drawn up and submitted to Glos Highways for action; *Cllr Badham will compile list.*

15 To discuss NDP Review

Comment that Lockdown restrictions had caused presentation to Council to be postponed. It is hoped that it might be rearranged for Dec. TBC have critiqued NDP, with suggestions to help improve final version FOD Council are moving Churcham initiative forward quickly, but consultation period has been extended to 29 January 2021. Two options were being considered, one of dispersed housing around the district, and the other of two new settlements with limited dispersed housing. The Churcham initiative is likely to be initially of 2000 houses, up to 4000; the majority of the land is in one ownership. 40% could be in Highnam Parish. TBC say they have had no meaningful discussion on the matter. It appears that FOD have given no consideration to the infrastructure needs of such development. Five Parish Councils are collaborating on the matter, and Churcham Chairman has also been in touch with Tibberton, Taynton and Newent Councils. Suggestion that D Crofts be engaged at a cost of up to £1650, to be shared by 5 Councils with Highnam acting as paymaster. Cllr Coats proposed, seconded Cllr Nicol that subject to agreement by all 5 Councils to share costs, D Crofts be engaged, with Highnam contribution set at a maximum of £500. Agreed with 1 abstention.

16 To discuss Litter Bins

Action is needed to get Dog Waste and litter bins installed at Lassington Reach. *Clerk to contact Planning Enforcement*

17 To discuss and agree support for Tree Planting at Stauntons Hill

In answer to previously asked questions, it has been established that there is no general access to the bunded area, other than to residents and English Heritage. Plans of tree planting have been provided. It was proposed by Cllr Coats, seconded Cllr Watkins that a grant of £1000 be made towards the tree planting All in favour with 1 abstention

18 To discuss and agree support for Highnam Good Neighbour Scheme

This group are having difficulties in opening a bank a/c *Council to write to Mark Harper to seek his assistance.* Suggestion that a group of able bodied volunteers might be able to help some residents with weed clearance and hedge problems *Cllr Badham to contact HGNS*

19 To discuss Councillor Responsibilities

Comment was made that some Councillors are carrying most of work load, with suggestion that other Cllrs might take on some responsibility

20 Bank Reconciliation

Bank Reconciliation November 2020

Lloyds Bank Account

Bank Balance at 1 November	65,193.01	Payments November	3682.21
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		Outstanding Payments	0.00
Receipts November	1.00	Restricted Funds	<u>16,524.55</u>
		Available Balance	<u>48,436.67</u>
		Bank Balance at 30 November	65,190.45
		Petty Cash	<u>3.56</u>
		Total Balance	<u>65,193.01</u>
Restricted Funds			
Council Reserves	4,496.07		
Project Reserves	7,555.21		
NDP Reserves	4378.21		
Fun Day Proceeds	<u>95.06</u>		
	<u>16,524.55</u>		

21 Residual Items

- i. FC Highnam are open to suggestions to resolve parking issues and have already started introducing measures put forward
- ii. There are still grants available through TBC
- iii. Still waiting for Complete Utilities report ref Gigaclear installations in Highnam – *Clerk to contact*
- iv. It was reported that Gigaclear were doing more surveying in Highnam?
- v. Free from Gluten fish & chips was pleased with response to recent visit, and is planning monthly visits in the future
- vi. The need for Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators was stressed

Meeting closed at 21.01

Next Meeting 12 January 2021 at 7.30pm

Signed

Date