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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held on-line via Zoom professional at 7.30 pm on Monday 1st February 2021.

Present: Councillors: S Stacey (Chairman), P Evans (Vice Chairman), B Richards, F McKeown, P Sansom, B. Knight, J Pay and M Bennett

In attendance: Borough Cllr Andrew Eade, M. Atherton (Clerk) and one member of the public

(01/02/21)

Item 1 - Apologies: received from Cllr A Stokes (ill-health)

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session:

A member of public in attendance had indicated that they wished to observe but not to speak at the meeting.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th January 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th January were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Sansom with all members present voting in favour.

Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2021 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record as soon as possible on cessation of government restrictions relating to the Coronavirus (COVID 19).

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

(a) Signage in the Children’s Play Area: the Clerk confirmed that Adrian Corney (T&WC) had been asked to proceed with provision of additional signs at the play area. Adrian had agreed to carry out this work as soon as lockdown was over and the suppliers are back operating again.

(b) Lighting of the Church Hall Car Park: the Clerk confirmed that he had updated Bill Titley about the improved situation. Bill noted this and confirmed that he would continue to discuss with the Church Hall committee when they reconvene.

(c) NTC Request for a Boundary Review: Members noted that there was nothing further to consider at the meeting.

(d) Damaged Bus Shelter (The Dale): Cllr Evans reported that the damaged bus shelter had now been repaired.

(e) Dog Waste – new bin request: the Clerk informed Members that T&WC had confirmed agreement to provide a new litter / dog waste bin on The Dale adjacent the entrance to The Folly.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Representative Reports

Cllr Knight provided her regular comprehensive update report on the Village Hall, and Cllr Bennett confirmed that the centenary plaque is now ready to be ‘unveiled’ as soon as COVID 19 restrictions allow.

Cllr Stacey confirmed that he will be attending (via zoom) the Bus User Group meeting on Tuesday 2nd February.

Cllr Richards noted that a road closure of The Dale is scheduled which would affect the bus service and it was concluded that this was to facilitate felling of a tree in the garden of No. 6 The Close.

Item 7 – Communications:

(a) Community Leaders Meetings: the Clerk had previously circulated notes from a meeting of the group held on 21 January. The main function of the group at this stage is sharing of information with future actions to evolve.

(b) Correspondence / Facebook / website:

Correspondence: all relevant correspondence circulated prior to the meeting;

Facebook: Cllr Evans provided a summary briefing of Facebook traffic and messages;

Website: the Clerk confirmed that the website is up-to-date. Cllr Stacey asked for a web-link to be provided directing users to information about a new COVID 19 rapid test centre at Cosy Hall. **Action:** Clerk to ensure a link is provided.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 8 – Planning Matters

- (a) The **Planning Schedule** for February 2021 was noted. Cllr Eade agreed to pursue with the planners the quality and approach to reinstatement of hedges for applications 0062 & 0064;
- (b) **PE/2020/0543** the Clerk had previously circulated notes from a recent meeting with Bloor Homes, and validation of the planning application is awaited.
- (c) **Local Plan Review:** the consultation response was submitted by the deadline.
- (d) **DMMO Consultation:** Members briefly discussed the T&WC approach to public consultation on the DMMO and a draft response prepared by the Clerk. Cllr Evans expressed reservations about the proposed categorisation of public rights of way and the urban centric nature of the proposals. **Action:** Clerk to write to the PRoW Officer at T&WC seeking clarity on how communities have been involved in shaping the consultations – seeking a response before 12 February or asking for the consultation period to be extended. Specifically, the description of category 3 footpaths needs elevating in status and priority.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 9 – Accounts & Payments

- (a) Statement of Account: £17,466.21 at close of business on 31/01/2021
- (b) Cllr Richards proposed en-bloc, and Cllr Pay seconded, with all Members present at the meeting in favour of approving the following payments:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
HMRC (PAYE) – Jan 2021	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s112	£84.40
Reimbursement for Zoom Pro	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s9	£143.88
West Mercia Energy	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 sch 14	£212.08

Resolved: that the above accounts be authorised for payment at this meeting held on 1st February 2021.

Item 10 – Finalising the Budget 2021/22

The Clerk presented a report summarising progress of the budget setting process over the past 3 meetings. Fine tuning the draft budget essentially centres on a decision to either pay off the PWLB loan early or to let it run its course, and to agree specific budgets for the three identified priority projects.

On balance, Members preferred budget option 2 which involves paying off the PWLB loan early (i.e. in 2021/22) and they set provisional budgets for projects suggested by Cllr Richards as follows:-

- ✓ Allocate an additional £500 to the play area maintenance reserve fund;
- ✓ Allocate £1,000 for improved lighting of the Church Hall car park;
- ✓ Allocate £2,000 for new bus shelter(s);
- ✓ Allocate £750 towards village / community events

The above provisional allocations were proposed by Cllr Stacey, seconded by Cllr Richards and unanimously approved by all Members present at the meeting.

Resolved: that the draft budget for 2021/22 be amended to take account of the above proposals and then approved as the final budget for 2021/22.

Item 11 – Future Meeting Dates

The following future meeting dates were noted: 1st March, (Tuesday) 6th April and (Tuesday) 4th May 2021.

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a. Cllr Evans briefly referred to an Electoral Review of Telford & Wrekin that has been initiated by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This was noted by all present;
- b. Cllr Richards referred to the poor state of roads within the village and asked whether any works are scheduled in the T&WC maintenance programme. Borough Cllr Eade agreed to enquire and to feedback information;
- c. Cllr Bennett referred to flooding issues along the unnamed road (Manor Lane!). Borough Cllr Eade confirmed that further major flooding had recently occurred along the line of the former railway. Cllr Richards suggested involving T&WC engineers as they had proved very helpful in resolving flooding issues in Pinewoods. **Action:** Clerk to contact STW and T&WC.
- d. Cllr Richards suggested bringing forward the process for awarding community grants in 2021 to help facilitate re-starting of local groups particularly those who had lost income during the COVID 19 restrictions. Following brief discussions this was unanimously agreed. **Action:** Clerk to initiate the community grant awards scheme with a view to making awards in June / July 2021;
- e. Cllr Eade referred to a briefing on the Active Travel fund and it was agreed to carry this item to Matters Arising for the March meeting;
- f. Cllr McKeown informed colleagues that the area under the bridge remains untidy and appears to have got worse lately. **Agreed:** Clerk to raise with the Group Scout Leader.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date