

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2021.

The meeting was held remotely via video and audio conferencing as allowed under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police And Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present

Cllrs Arthur Evans (chairman), John Knox, Michelle Thompson,
Claire Lucas, Nick Heirons, Tony Pacetti (clerk) Nick Butler and Malcolm Wearn.

Buckinghamshire Council: none

Members of the public 0.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The chairman welcomed all participants and directed how the meeting would be conducted.

2. Apologies for Absence

Iain Macpherson

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Claire Lucas re HS2 re-affirmed

4 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Those Parish councillors present confirmed they had been both seen and heard.

RESOLVED c/2021/01 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2021

4. Matters arising from the December minutes.

The SID system had now been set up but training in its use was still to be completed.

Cllr Butler had responded to the recently adopted Neighbourhood plan and the Chairman raised his view in connection with the encouragement of other councillors to register their thoughts on this matter including specific approvals.

The new computer for use by the clerk was discussed with the outcome that the clerk would visit major supplier – PC World, e.g. – to obtain a machine that would meet the Parish Council's needs.

The main difficulty with the existing computer was its lack of performance in that the many emails received and sent during the day take up an inordinate amount of time to process and this leads to misdirection and errors. Additionally, there is no camera facility to host zoom meetings.

An especially important aspect of getting the new computer will be the attendant need to migrate existing information/processes to the new machine. This matter will be taken up during purchase

Chairman's Signature:

Date:

negotiations.

The clerk gave an update on the damaged street light in White Hart Field. He stated that the contractor had been unable to effect the repair before Christmas because of the corona pandemic which had left him without sufficient staff. He had promised, however, to attend to this in January.

It was agreed by councillors that Cllr Knox be allowed to use the Zoom facility of remote communication to conduct other pertinent meetings on Parish Council business.

5. Public forum and correspondence.

Two local parish councils had shared their way of defining vulnerable or needy families or individuals in their parish so that support might be centred on such residents when the occasion demanded.

In discussion on the proposed new prison at Springhill councillors agreed that Quainton Parish Council would compile a response to this proposal through Cllr Evans. Useful pertinent information may be drawn from Edgcott Parish Council e mail of 10th January and Cllr Lucas' of 11th January.

BC email of 23rd December last notified that Election material would be available for the May local council elections, which are likely to go ahead despite current pandemic restrictions. Councillors were in favour of supporting the Bernie's Voucher scheme as laid out in Paul Irwin's e mail of 19th January.

Cllr Heirons expressed his concern about the survival of Parish Councils, which might be further explored at the Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on 27th January. Both Cllrs Heirons and Knox had agreed to attend this meeting.

Cllr Knox noted there was significant unspent Community Board funds and it seemed there was considerable uncertainty as to what should be done with those funds. It was hoped that Parish Councils would have some say in the matter of distribution.

6. Review of Matters Outstanding.

Councillors were encouraged to respond individually to the Aylesbury Garden Town project.

The Green

The question of QPC taking over the Green from its present owner, the SLC, had been discussed in earlier meetings when it had been agreed there would be a need to explore certain legal requirements which the Clerk was undertaking. It was agreed that reclaiming some areas presently used as parking would require boundary posts to be installed. Consequently, parking provision would lessen.

Protection of community assets control period had ended for the following properties:

George and Dragon, Children's Playground, the old Butchers shop and the Top Shop. Renewal of this status was to be pursued although as the Top Shop had recently changed hands this renewal may have already taken place.

7. Transport and Infrastructure.

Cllr Knox spoke of the problems occurring once Station Road and Snake Lane bridges had official weight limit signage installed.

Chairman's Signature:

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The pressure which HS2 was able to exert, with its Act of Parliament authority, on Buckinghamshire Council led to decisions on road closures and other issues being made without any communication with affected parishes, TfB or utility companies. There have been occasions when all routes out of our village could have been closed at the same time had we not intervened. Combined with this was a need for better signage and repair of road surfaces.

Flooding was still a problem in repeated areas and it was agreed to raise these issues, particularly those at The Willows, with our County Council linked personnel.

The cycle way through Doddershall and onward to the Claydons is still planned.

Damage to sets and verges had been made by a bus belonging to Red Rose Travel along Upper Street would be taken up by the Clerk.

Improvement to the broadband service in Station Road was being pursued . The voucher scheme would be used and any shortfall might be met by HS2.

Planning

The PC has asked our County Councillors to 'call in' the planning application for housing to the rear of 135 Station Road. The drainage plans for the permitted development behind 151 Station Road had been rejected. Flooding in that area of the village was causing much localised concern with the continuing inclement weather worsening flooding problems. This would also be a relevant concern for 135.

There were still concerns about proposals for 2 Lower Street. These would be conveyed to the Planning Department.

Cllr Knox indicated that a sub-station to provide the power needs of the HS2 contractors was to be built close to the ongoing works in front of Finemere Wood.

8. Buckinghamshire Council Matters

There were no matters outstanding.

9. Current planning applications

Amendments to the year to date planning application schedule were sent separately.

These covered 2 Lower Street; 135 Station Road; HS2 application for overhead cabling and the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

10. Clerk's report

Some difficulty in arranging to get the White Hart Field lighting working again. This would be followed up and would yield a positive response by the next PC meeting.

11. Review of monthly finance report and bank statement

The report had been sent out previously for review and payments authorised.

Items of Expenditure			Receipts	
	OLB447 SLCC membership	112.00		
to be authorised	OLB448 Allotment Insurance	83.64	NP	1,294.00
already paid	OLB449 Website hosting	144.00	Refund	16.24

Chairman's Signature:

Date:

	OLB450 QMH room bookings	18.00	Bank interest	.19
	OLB451 Clerk salary (Dec)	321.40		
	OLB452 PAYE (Dec)	80.20		
	OLB453 Office expenses Q3	387.04		
	OLB454 Playground parts	43.20		
	DD Streetlight supply (Nov)	50.49		
	DD Zoom conferencing (Nov)	14.39		
	DD Allotment water (Dec)	19.74		
	DD Allotment water (Jan)	19.74		
To be authorised	DD Streetlight supply (Dec)	52.17		
Not already paid	OLB455 AVDC dog waste service	436.22		
	OLB456 Misc expenses	26.01		
	OLB457 Fresh Solutions NP	248.00		
	OLB458 Fresh Solutions NP	427.94		

Totals **2,484.18** **1,310.43**

RESOLVED C/2021/02 to approve list of payments shown.

Bank Balances		Beginning of year balance	
Current Account	(12,546.88)	bf balance 2019/20	(26,594.15)
Business Reserve	<u>(21,939.82)</u>	Receipts to date	<u>(33,416.56)</u>
Subtotal	.	Subtotal	<u>(60,010.71)</u>
Payments not drawn	.00	Payments to date	25,524.01
Receipts not banked	<u>.00</u>		
Closing Bank Balance	(34,486.70)		(34,486.70)

12. Report on recreational facilities and activities

Christmas Float monies to be received from the George and Dragon PH to be recorded under Project Accounts.

Cllr Heirons was assured that the ground and electrical connection for the Christmas tree will be restored and removed respectively when the ground is suitably dry.

He asked for the electrical supply be included in the schedule of street furniture.

Chairman's Signature:

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Brian Fludgate had reported that new bolts and caps for the elephant rocker had been obtained and will be fitted soon. The bin next to the cable way needs to be re-positioned but a way needs to be found to remove this without damage to the base.

The possibility was to be investigated whether an approach can be made to Trail Flatt to use stones piled up and re-lay them where the path is boggy, if only around the gate area.

Cllr Lucas reported her thanks to BF for organising and spreading the woodchips over the very boggy areas of the Upper Street Park. Children will be able to continue using the equipment since all hygiene and safety aspects have complied with regulations so the park may remain open during the third lockdown period.

Sports Field

Skate Park

Contractors have deferred their planned visit during the current lockdown but our contractor will repair damaged spots and return later to paint the apparatus. This amenity will remain open during the lockdown although the tennis courts must remain closed.

Cllr Lucas reported that work on the track had been deferred but a request to continue the small car park near the entrance to the courts up to the hedge was considered reasonable.

Football Club

No football matches can be played.

The Sports Field is boggy and the PC is still waiting to hear about the Heart of Bucks grant to dig the ditch that is needed.

13. Items of business for the next council meeting

White Hart Field -lighting electrics

Any further determination in regard to trustees for other charities issue raised by Cllr Lucas.

Neighbourhood plan consultation progress.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm and the next meeting will be held on 11th February 2021.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: