

# North Wootton Parish Council

## Clerk to the Parish

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### **Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Shimmin (Chairman), Cllr A Bovey, Cllr K Bissett and Cllr M Hoddinott

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

#### **11/20 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith.

#### **12/20 Declarations of interest**

The Chairman declared an interest in planning application 2020/1160/LBC. There were no other declarations of interest.

#### **13/20 Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the meetings of January 7<sup>th</sup>, January 28<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> were approved. It was noted that the March meeting had been cancelled due to lockdown but the clerk had a sufficient record of the conclusion of the Pilton bypass matter and no further discussion was required.

#### **14/20 Public participation**

The Chairman noted that a number of comments had been received from members of the public on the matter of the closure of Long Drove which would be considered when that matter was addressed during the meeting.

#### **15/20 County, District and Avon and Somerset Police reports**

Nothing had been received.

#### **16/20 Parish Council position on Long Grove closure**

Taken out of order.

The Chairman noted that all messages that had been received apart from those in the last two hours before the meeting had been circulated to all councillors for consideration of the issues raised. The Chairman noted that during his conversations with Mendip District Council officers on the matter they had apologised for not consulting the parish council as the council had only become aware of the matter when residents had approached the Chairman asking why the drove had been closed. MDC officers added that the closure was to facilitate the use of cycles during the Covid-19 crisis and alleviate pressure on the bus route between Glastonbury and Wells. It was not intended to facilitate leisure cycling nor as part of a broader sustainable transport agenda. The Chairman was aware that a number of residents had also contacted MDC expressing their opposition to the closure of the road and

he was not aware of any resident voicing support for the closure. Councillors agreed that all comments made by members of the public on the matter had been taken into consideration whilst formulating their views. Councillors unanimously agreed that the saw no reason to alter their position which was to oppose the closure of Long Drove to vehicles. Councillors unanimously agreed their support for better and additional signage on the road to facilitate mixed use. The Chairman agreed to draft a response to MDC and Somerset County Council.

## 5 Finance Matters

- I. **Resolved:** the council certified that it was exempt from a limited assurance review having an income and expenditure below £25,000 for financial year 2019-20. The Certificate was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer
- II. The council noted the Annual Internal Audit Report. **Resolved:** the council further agreed and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2020. The statement was signed on behalf of the council by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- III. **Resolved:** the council agreed and approved the Annual Accounts as presented and signed by the clerk for the year ending 31st March 2019. The Chairman signed the accounts on behalf of the council as previously signed by the Responsible Financial Officer.
- IV. The clerk's expenses covering February to July were approved.
- V. Two invoices from SALC for training and subscription fees for 20-21 were approved.
- VI. **Resolved:** it was unanimously agreed that Mr Bradfield remain as council's internal auditor. **The council passed on its thanks to Mr Bradfield for his work on behalf of the council and for which he makes no charge.**

### 17/20 Planning matters

**I 2020/1197/CLE:** Residential mobile home/chalet with outbuilding at Bramble Caravan Dark Lane North Wootton Shepton Mallet BA4 4AQ

**Resolved:** Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application for the Certificate of Lawfulness

**II 2020/1160/LBC:** Replacement of existing open fireplace in living room with wood burner, installation of air inlet, flue liner and chimney modifications to two chimneys. Permanent repair to vertical crack on east gable wall. Roof renovation of north facing stairwell turret and installation of insulation. Installation of gutter over main entrance door. Minor repairs to stonework mullions on windows on south face. Refurbishment of first floor part leaded window on north face at Chapel Farm House Stocks Lane North Wootton Shepton Mallet BA4 4HB

The Chairman was placed in the Waiting Room whilst the remaining councillors discussed the application.

**Resolved:** Councillors agreed to unanimously support the application.

In addition to the two applications the council had been formally consulted on, it had also received an informal approach from a resident asking for its view prior to the application being submitted to MDC. Councillors agreed a neutral response to the application and continued to recommend that the applicant seek pre-application advice from MDC and consult with the neighbours on the ridge height alteration when the application was formally submitted. The council would be able to form a definitive view once the views of neighbours were understood.

Councillors noted they had received consultation documents from MDC on strategic flood risk assessment, highways investment strategy and a general planning update. Cllr Bovey would go through the documents to ascertain the implications.

Councillors noted that the caravans towards Long Drove had been removed and a new structure had been erected.

Cllr Bovey noted that there appeared to have been changes to the affordable houses since the application has been approved including the location of the footpaths and wished to know if they had been built in accordance with the approved drawings. He would liaise with the clerk regarding the query to be sent to MDC.

### **18/20 Highways Report**

Cllr Bovey reported that the three refurbished fingerposts had been put back in place by Somerset Forge but any others requiring work would have to be looked at in the spring of 2021. The flooding on Lower Westholme Road was noted and had been reported to SCC Highways; the gully needing clearing has been marked. He had also reported more potholes at the Glastonbury end of Long Drove and would report the pot hole on Dark Lane.

### **19/20 Footpaths Report**

Cllr Hoddinott had nothing to report.

### **20/20 Moors and Levels Report**

Cllr Smith was not present at the meeting.

### **21/20 Date of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

There be no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:40.