

# North Wootton Parish Council

## Clerk to the Parish

Hazel Brinton PSLCC

35, Hannah Drive, Locking, Locking Parklands, North Somerset BS24 7JS

Tel: 07341 977235 Email: [northwoottonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northwoottonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

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

Also present was District Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper and Edward Drewe, agent of for the applicant under item 48/20.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30.

### **42/20 Apologies for absence**

None.

### **43/20 Declarations of interest**

There were no declaration of interests.

### **44/20 Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the extraordinary meeting of September 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 were approved.

### **45/20 Public participation**

The Chairman noted that Edward Drewe was present as agent for the applicant under item 48/20.

### **46/20 County, District and Avon and Somerset Police reports**

The brief report from PCSO Guy Dury had been forwarded to members by the clerk earlier in the day.

District Cllr Hewitt-Cooper reported on the following matters from MDC:

- Planning determinations are taking longer due to a huge backlog as a result of Covid-19 and an emerging issue highlighted by Environment Agency over the level of phosphates on the levels which need to be managed by the planning system. MDC requires a policy to mitigate the problem.
- Affordable housing – MDC has none. There are pockets of land around the district owned by the council which the Cabinet has decided to sell.
- Refuse regime – continues to be rolled out. Any comments can be direct to Cllr Hewitt-Cooper. There is currently a 95% success rate regarding recycling pick up and 9 tonnes of flimsy wrappers were collected in one week which would previously have gone to landfill.

The Chairman noted that the experience with the recycling regime seemed overwhelmingly positive. He also expressed concern over planning applications

which have drainage on them and may be delayed as a result of the Environment Agency's policy on phosphate levels.

#### **47/20 Matters arising**

The Chairman noted the collaborative working that the parish council was undertaking with St Cuthbert Out on the Planning for the Future White Paper. Cllr Hewitt-Cooper undertook to email details with MDC's perspective on it.

The Chairman reported that the residents group set up to challenge the Pilton bypass issue have engaged James Heappey MP in the debate as there is concern over the loss of rural countryside as a result of the White Paper. Mr Heappey has been invited to join them in an online meeting and members agreed that the Chairman would represent North Wootton parish council at this meeting.

#### **48/20 Planning matters**

- i. **Application Number 2020/2099/FUL** Positioning of Cess pool, septic tank, mobile toilet and shower unit at Land At 356799 141317 Lower Westholme Road Pilton Shepton Mallet Somerset for Mr Keith White  
**Resolved:** that the parish council did not support this application on the basis the conditions of a previous application had not been complied with and the stables on site not built as per the drawings submitted. Members were concerned that this application breached the condition previously imposed that the site would not be used for commercial purposes.
- ii. The Chairman noted that applications in the Mendip area requiring drainage of any sort are not currently being progressed due to the phosphate issue highlighted by Environment Agency.
- iii. It was noted that a new farm building had appeared near Hobhouse Farm which is a temporary building to house cattle over the winter for a local vet. It was noted there is no drainage on the site currently. Members expected the building to be regularised by an application in the future.

#### **49/20 Finance Matters**

- i. It was resolved that the cover provided under the Zurich policy was sufficient for the parish council's needs.
- ii. It was resolved to approve the payment of the following items of expenditure
  - Clerks expenses of £50.80 for October and November 2020 including any items paid on behalf of council
  - Clerk's salary for October and November 2020
  - Zurich Insurance renewal premium £167.44
  - SALC/NALC Affiliation fees to March 21 £87.87
- iii. Members discussed the budget for 2021/2 and agreed to budget for an increased grant of £2k for the Village Hall and £2.5k for additional finger posts to be restored. It was agreed that the budget would be finalised at the January meeting once the discussions around the clerk's salary and allowance had taken place.

### **50/20 Highways Report**

Cllr Bovey noted that he had reported two blocked gullies to Somerset County Council at the end of the High Street and near to Lower Westholme Farm. He would report the subsidence on New Road to the county council again and check to see if the issue was still on their list as it had been reported previously.

### **51/20 Footpaths Report**

Cllr Hoddinott asked residents to let the council know if they become aware of any issues with stiles in the parish. He informed members that the fencing and slight moving of a footpath at Bark Mill appears to have resolved the issue of users encountering dogs belonging to the property on their walk.

Cllr Hoddinott brought the issue of the temporary diversion of the footpath at The Forge to members' attention and noted that the diversion was still in place. The footpath as per the Definitive Map appears to be fenced off in a permanent fashion and users are having to cross someone else's land to use the temporarily diverted footpath. The owner whose land the diversion crosses expects to see the temporary diversion removed without further delay now that the works to The Forge are completed. The council agreed an informal approach to the owners of The Forge in the first instance.

The Chairman updated members on the situation with Batts Bridge and the repairs required. An officer from SCC had inspected the condition of the bridge and whilst there was no funding currently to allow for extensive repairs, the parish council may be offered a grant to carry out minor repairs. As a listed structure, listed building consent would be required. The officer from SCC would issue a formal report in due course.

The Chairman advised members and residents of a national exercise to review the Definitive Footpaths Map. The deadline is 2024 but there will be a restatement of footpaths in the parish. A view will need to be taken on informal paths some of which are heavily used and which may need regularising on the Definitive Map.

### **52/20 Moors and Levels Report**

Cllr Smith had nothing to report.

### **53/20 Date of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**54/20 To resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

It was so resolved.

There be no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:50.