



FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 10th December 2020

Due to COVID 19 the Parish Council met virtually via Zoom as permitted by The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (coronavirus)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present: Chairman Brunt, Cllrs Baskin, Hamilton, McNaught, Cooke, Lovatt, Oxby, Wilkinson, Deeth, Noblett, Elliff

PART 1

1. Declaration of Interests

None recorded

2. To consider any matters raised by members of the public.

Chairman Brunt: Showed an award given to the Fulford Parish Council Community Action Group (CAG) that was awarded to Fulford Parish for its efforts during Covid-19

Chairman Brunt: Litter being thrown over a property at Sandon Road. Chairman Brunt reported that a resident was very upset that rubbish (nappies, cans etc were being thrown into his garden). Council agreed to ask the PCSO's to look into it as it is not a Parish Council matter.

Chairman Brunt: Dog Fouling – Golborn Avenue. A complaint had been submitted about the amount of dog waste being left on pavements around the area, particularly Golborn Avenue.

The council discussed the matter and agreed to look at a new signage campaign, stencils on the ground, to contact the Dog Warden and to consider additional bins in key locations.

Cllr Noblett: Councillor thanked the Christmas Team on behalf of members of the public she had spoken in that the displays had delivered a much-needed joy to the area.

Cllr Elliff: Councillor asked if signs regarding Horse Riders could be installed in Saverley Green – Council agreed this was not a Parish Council matter and should be referred to Staffordshire County Council's Highways and possibly to Cllr Ian Parry.

Cllr Cooke: Councillor Cooke had been approached by a member of the public complaining about the damage to grass verges around the Parish, particularly Meir Heath (Grindley Lane). Council agreed this was a problem and that Ward Councillor would report back to the Clerk with a list of addresses for action to be sought.

Cllr Cooke: Speed along Hilderstone Road was continuing to be a problem despite the Speed Watch Group who hadn't been seen for a while. Council agreed to contact the Speed Watch group to ask for more presence.

3. Apologies for absence. **Cllr Colclough, Cllr Flackett** – Council approved absence.

4. Minutes – To receive the minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 12th November 2020

No legal amendments needed – Cllr Baskin proposed / Cllr seconded. Minutes signed by Chairman Brunt

5. County Councillor and Borough Councillors' reports and questions.

Borough Cllr Dodson reported that the red car plaguing Fulford had been removed but that a small convertible had now seemed to take its place. This is being monitored.

Cllr Dodson mentioned the work on the mini roundabout at Stallington was imminent as the Highways signage had now appeared.

Cllr Dodson informed the Councillor that SBC Enforcement were now aware of the ongoing issues of mud from farm vehicles on Sandy Lane (Spot Gate) and the matter was being monitored.

Cllr Dodson made positive comment about the Christmas displays throughout the Parish.

6. Finance: -

(a) Accounts updates/review

Payment list was previously circulated and agreed by full council

7. Planning: –

(a) To receive information on applications received by the Council;

20/33417/TCA - 50 Tudor Hollow, Fulford – no objection

20/33409/FUL - 54 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath – objection on the grounds that the access and egress is dangerous straight on to Hilderstone Rd from a multi property sign with no highway's signage or proper junction. Further objection was made to the number of properties suggested for the site location and size. Additional objection was made to the number of car parking spaces required as well as the impact on neighbouring properties for light and boundary issues. Council to request from Borough Councillor Roycroft that the planning application be called in.

20/33341/HOU - 7 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath – No objections in principle as it appears to be within the building line of the properties.

20/33365/HOU - 359A Sandon Road, Meir Heath – no objections on the ground that the impact from the plans appears minimal and that precedent has been set elsewhere on Sandon Rd.

8. Other Matters requiring a decision by the Council: -

a. Item from the last meeting or included at the request of members:

➤ Dog waste bins – Cllr Cooke

Cllr Cooke explained that a budget of over £1000 was set each year for Stafford Borough Council to empty the red dog waste bins across the Parish c.6. Cllr Cooke explained this was unnecessary as dog waste can now go into any general waste bin.

A motion was made to cease having these red dog waste bins emptied and to cover them until they can be removed. Cllr Baskin Seconded.

Action: Unanimous decision to cease the contract with Stafford Borough Council and to have them removed at another convenient time by the Parish Maintenance person

➤ Moss gate defibrillator – Cllr Cooke

Cllr Cooke proposed that a budget of £2500 could be allocated to procure Defibrillator for the Moss Gate red kiosk due to the distance from Moss Gate to the nearest Defib at Fulford Village Hall. Chairman Brunt seconded

Action: Unanimous decision to agree the budget and to get a quote from Weston Power to re-connect the power to the red kiosk.

➤ Councillor government emails – Chairman Brunt

Chairman Brunt informed Councillors that using personal email addresses as a Councillor meant that Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests also covered their person email addresses and that should a request be made then legally Councillors are obliged to hand over any information.

Chairman Brunt proposed that to remedy this problem and to be more professional the council should adopt corporate emails with the new council domain.

Action: Unanimous decision to move over to this and to

allocate an annual budget of a £1000 although not expected to reach this.

➤ Local Council Administration publication £149 – Chairman Brunt

Chairman Brunt made a proposal to purchase the new edition of the LCA publication for the use of the council and particularly the Clerk. Cllr Cooke seconded.

Action: Unanimous decision to purchase

➤ Office phone – Chairman Brunt

No action needed

➤ 2021 meeting dates – Chairman Brunt

Chairman Brunt explained that this would be deferred to the next meeting although some discussion was had about keeping it the same. Chairman Brunt explained he would liaise with the Clerk and Councillors to see if Thursday were still acceptable.

Action: To be deferred to the January meeting

➤ Newsletter delivery – Chairman Brunt

Chairman Brunt explained he was extremely disappointed to receive a phone call explaining that the regular delivery man for the newsletter was unable to deliver them as he was lead to believe by Councillor Oxby that there was no newsletter for December. Cllr Brunt asked Cllr Oxby about this and Cllr Oxby responded that he didn't believe a newsletter would be available before Christmas.

Cllr Brunt refuted this claim explaining that a newsletter was signed off at the prior meeting and that Cllr Oxby has refused to work on it with a fellow councillor.

Cllr Brunt therefore stated that the newsletter had almost not been able to be delivered until two families stepped in to help.

Action: Council agreed that the two families could help deliver the newsletter for the same regular fee.

➤ Councillor conduct – Chairman Brunt

Chairman Brunt informed the Council that he had recently been in to Natwest (the Council's bank) to chase up the online banking application. He explained he was extremely concerned to be told that the banking application had been cancelled by Cllr Oxby.

Natwest representatives had told Chairman Brunt that Cllr Oxby had cancelled the application over 3 weeks ago. Chairman Brunt asked Cllr Oxby why he had done this given that the full council had agreed to move to online banking with Natwest.

Cllr Oxby denied that this happened but offered no defence.

The Clerk informed the Council that she too was told the same information as Chairman Brunt on a separate occasion.

Discussion was had amongst the Council about their concerns that Cllr Oxby had allegedly done this or that someone was posing as Cllr Oxby.

Chairman Brunt informed the Council that the latter was unlikely as they would have to know security information and that we were even intending on applying to Natwest.

Action: The Council voted unanimously on the following:

1. To remove Cllr Oxby as a signatory on the Council's banking pending investigation.
2. To inform the Police of the matter so they can investigate
3. To raise a complaint with Natwest that they allegedly allowed one signatory to take such action.
4. To place two other Councillors on as signatories (Cllr Carol Baskin and Cllr Sarah Hamilton)
5. To place the Clerk as a non-signatory member on the account (Victoria Clerk)
6. To resubmit the online banking application
7. To report the matter to the Monitoring Officer

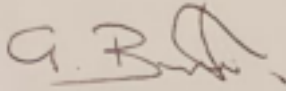
9. Matters for Report

Christmas: Cllr Hamilton gave an update on the Christmas Displays undertaken by the Council. It was acknowledged that the engagement was high and that lots of people had stopped to discuss them and say how much they were enjoying them.

Cllr Hamilton explained that the final budget was under what was agreed as the Community Action Group had been able to use some of their ring fenced allocation to offset.

Social Media / Communications: Cllr Cooke explained that the engagement on social media since mid-August when he and Cllr McNaught took it on had grown by over 1000%

There were more comments on the posts than ever before and the content was engaging more with core audiences. Posts around Christmas in particular were extremely high.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'G. Cooke'.

signed remotely due to current Covid Guidelines.