

AVENBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2021

PRESENT: Cllrs Gill Churchill (Chairman), Yvonne Berry, Ian Jones and George Churchill

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Eva (Parish Clerk) and Cllr Ellie Chowns, Herefordshire Council (HC)

PUBLIC: 0

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE ... apologies received from Cllr Alma Westwood (personal).

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION ... there were none.

47. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 16th November 2020.

A minor correction is required to Cllr Jones name in the apologies.

RESOLVED: with the above amendment the minutes were approved.

48. OPEN SESSION (10 minutes):

48.1 Cllr Chowns gave a verbal ward report which included the following information;

COVID-19

- 1) Rates of infection and hospital admissions are increasing county-wide and outbreaks are still happening. People can help reduce transmission by staying at home, if possible, and to remember the key message of HANDS – FACE – SPACE.
- 2) Vaccine rollout is progressing well in Herefordshire.
- 3) HC launched a new round of extra grants to businesses. HC is contacting those businesses that applied for a grant in November to see if they still require assistance. Information on business grants or support networks is available from HC's website or by contacting Cllr Chowns directly.
- 4) Provision of free school meals is in place for the holidays.

Other news

- 1) 2021/22 Budget Consultation has concluded. HC faces challenging financial times ahead that require significant savings.
- 2) Waste Consultation closes 8th February - people are encouraged to have their say.
- 3) A new CEO of HC will be appointed on 21st January.
- 4) Hereford Transport Strategy Review – the Cabinet to decide whether to stop plans for the western by-pass and to consider increased investment in walking, cycling and bus travel to help reduce congestion – these plans provide better value for money and can be implemented much quicker than the construction of a by-pass. Plans to construct an eastern bridge, to aid resilience, will be considered.
- 5) HC plans to build 2,500 affordable social houses over 10-years. The first site at Merton Meadow has been identified and this will incorporate care facilities for elderly residents.
- 6) Speeding – all monitoring actions requested are currently on hold during lockdown.

Cllr Churchill enquired whether plans to lift the housing moratorium have progressed.

Cllr Chowns confirmed HC is investing funds to construct integrated wetlands to try and reduce the levels in the water course, in order to lift the moratorium. Defuse agricultural pollution remains an issue that must be addressed to reduce phosphate levels and lift the moratorium.

Cllr Chowns left the meeting.

49. PLANNING

- 49.1 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – to consider next steps.
Members agreed to look into the viability of starting an NDP for the parish of Avenbury. This would require the support and input of the PC and local residents.
RESOLVED: to invite Lynda Wilcox, HALC CEO, to a virtual public meeting in March to talk to parishioners interested in starting an NDP. The clerk will prepare a flyer inviting residents to the Zoom meeting which councillors will help to distribute.

- 49.2 P204286/FH ... Avenbury, Bishops Frome & Cradley, Coopers Green Hereford Road, HR7 4EZ ... Proposed extensions to existing dwelling, detached garage & repositioned access.
RESOLVED: to support the application.
- 49.3 P204220/F ... The Brynn A465 From Panniers Lane to Cowarne Cottage Stoke Lacy HR7 4HA ... Proposed conversion of existing buildings into 3 holiday let units together with associated site works.
RESOLVED: to support the application.

50. FINANCE

- 50.1 To consider and agree the finance report.
- 50.2 To approve invoices for payment.
 - 50.2.1 Autela ... payroll ... £51.25.
 - 50.2.2 Lengthsman ... grounds work ... £427.20
 - 50.2.3 Clerk ... January salary**RESOLVED:** to approve above payments.

- 50.3 The following payments made since the last meeting were noted.
 - 50.3.1 HMRC ... PAYE ... £161.20
 - 50.3.2 Clerk ... November & December salary.

51. HIGHWAYS / GREEN SPACES

- 51.1 To consider any highways issues that need reporting to Herefordshire Council.
- 51.2 Speeding Indicator Device (SID), Munderfield – to receive an update from the clerk following the distribution of letters to residents, asking if anyone could provide a suitable space for the installation of a SID, along the B4214.
RESOLVED: the letters have not been distributed, so this item is deferred to the next meeting.

52. ST MARYS CHURCH

- 52.1 To receive a verbal update – *no update was available.*

53. CORRESPONDENCE

– to note correspondence received by the Clerk
Members noted BBLP plans to create a dedicated Locality Footpaths Officer role to deal with all county footpath issues.

54. NEXT MEETING DATES 2021

23rd March - 18th May - 20th July - 21st September - 23rd November

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.03pm.

Signed: Date:
Chairman Cllr Gill Churchill