

# AVENBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2020

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Gill Churchill (Chairman), Yvonne Berry and Ian Smith.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** J. Eva (Parish Clerk) and Ward Cllr Ellie Chowns.

**PUBLIC:** 0

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Wendy Smith (illness) and Alma Westwood.

**2. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation**

No declarations were received. received.

**3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was RESOLVED to approved the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**4. Open Session**

Cllr Chowns provided members with a verbal update which included the main points:

COVID-19

- Herefordshire Council temporarily redeployed some employees to other departments to help manage the situation – some of those employees are beginning to return to their normal posts.
- Cllr Chowns personally expressed her thanks to the many local volunteers who came forward to help the community.
- Local recycling centres – both the Hereford and Leominster centres have reopened and Herefordshire Council (HC) are looking at how they could safely reopen the others in the county.
- Phosphate and nitrate levels in the River Lugg catchment: Cllr Chowns confirmed that this long-term issue is being addressed and HC are working with Natural England and landowners to trace the source of emissions and how to mitigate the damage.

**5. Council Policies and bank signatories:**

- 5.1** Members noted that due to COVID-19, there is no requirement for an Annual Meeting of the Parish Council this year. (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) England and Wales) Regs. 20).

The Chairman confirmed that she and the Deputy Chairman are both happy to carry on in post until the annual meeting in 2021/22 – this was supported by all Councillors present.

**6. Planning – to comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**

- 6.1** [200622/L](#) Upper Venn, Avenbury, Bromyard, HR7 4LB ... Renovation of a Grade II Listed Building.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports this application.

- 6.2** [200996/FH](#) Avenbury Court, Avenbury, Bromyard, HR7 4LA ... Erection of outbuilding

comprising garage, workshop, store and stables.

It was RESOLVED for the Parish Council to object to this application for the following reasons:

- The close proximity of the development to the footpath and lane
- Visual impact the development will have on the surrounding area
- Potential for further phosphate and nitrate emissions into the River Lugg catchment.

**6.3** [201208/F](#) Avenholme, Munderfield, Bromyard, HR7 4JX ... Proposed barn for storage of equipment to be used in growing tea.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports this application.

## **7. Finance**

**7.1** Members noted and approved the following payments made since the last meeting:

7.1.1 Clerk ... February and March salary

7.1.2 HMRC ... PAYE ... £161.00

7.1.3 Clerk ... postage stamps ... £7.32

**7.2** Members considered and approved the following invoices for payment:

7.2.1 Autela ... payroll (March) ... £55.44

7.2.2 Clerk ... April and May salary

**7.3** Parish Council's annual insurance renewal.

Members considered two quotations for the annual insurance renewal from Came & Company and Community First.

It was RESOLVED to approve the quotation from Community First.

**7.4** To consider moving the Council's Current and Reserves Account to Lloyds Bank as NatWest has still not updated the Council's correspondence information to the current Clerk's address. This has adversely affected the Council's ability to access statements, complete the end of year return and make payments as a new cheque book is required.

Members agreed that the communication and assistance that has been received from NatWest Bank has been unsatisfactory and caused significant delays to making payments and preparing for the annual audit.

It was RESOLVED to change the Parish Council's current and reserves account to Lloyds at the earliest opportunity.

7.4.1 To consider bank signatories for new account with Lloyds Bank.

It was RESOLVED to add all 5 Councillors as signatories on the new account. This will ensure a signatory is available at all times during holiday periods or illness etc.

**7.5** Members noted the following receipts:

7.5.1 Herefordshire Council ... 1<sup>st</sup> Precept instalment ... £2,370.00

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman Cllr Gill Churchill

Signed: ..... Date: .....