

**MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL VIRTUAL ORDINARY PARISH MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2020**

Present: Cllrs: N Kirk (Chairman), T Griffin (Vice-Chairman), S Bryant, R Chandler, M Donovan, M Dury, C Lewis, P O'Leary, J Pearce, V Perry, Mrs S Dyer (Clerk) & District Councillor Paul May B&NES.

**2020/182 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Matt Donovan & Paul O'Leary for organising it.

He then thanked all the Councillors who have been helping residents in the village, collecting shopping and medical supplies. This has so far been working really well and residents are very grateful for the service being provided.

**2020/183 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Clerk gave apologies for Cllr P Orchard who is unable to attend the meeting due to technical issues. This apology and the reason for non-attendance was accepted by all present.

**2020/184 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012)**

Cllr Mark Dury declared an interest in agenda item 7.

**2020/185 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS (FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)**

None received.

**2020/186 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, previously circulated, were agreed and will be signed as a true record of the meeting, by N Kirk (Chairman).

**2020/187 TO REVIEW THE LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION TO HELP RESIDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS PROJECT**

Leaflets have been delivered to most residents in the village, to date we have helped 14 residents, some several times. We have six councillors who are able to help and a list of other residents who will help if needed. It is all very positive and the system set up is working well.

**Mark Dury was muted for the next item on the agenda**

**2020/188 TO NOTE THE STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS AND AGREE A TEMPORARY CONTRACT FOR A NEW MEMBER OF STAFF**

As Maureen the Assistant Clerk is over seventy, she is unable to work in the office at the present time. It was confirmed that she will still be paid as per the following advice received. 'Where employers receive public funding for staff costs, and that funding is continuing, we expect employers to use that money to continue to pay staff in the usual fashion and not furlough them'.

After discussion with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk, Jane Dury was asked if she would step in and help with the essential work to keep the cemetery open and to provide the volunteer service to the elderly and vulnerable and she has agreed to do

this. A temporary contract will be drawn up in due course and Jane will be able to provide cover should the Clerk be taken ill or need to self-isolate at any time. It was agreed by all councillors that these arrangements were sensible and in order.

**Mark Dury rejoined the meeting.**

**2020/189 TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE DELEGATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS TO THE CLERK DURING THE PERIOD OF RESTRICTED ACTIVITY DELCARED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS. SUCH DELEGATION TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO IT'S RESIDENTS.**

Advice has been received from ALCA with the above wording, as this has a wide-ranging scope to cover the Council's activities and things which must be carried out during a period of lockdown. It was resolved to pass the above delegation to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and/or the Vice Chairman until public meetings can be safely resumed. At present the Financial Regulations cover payments below £2,000 for items budgeted for and up to £2,000 for any other work which is necessary and not in the budget to be paid.

**2020/190 PLANNING AND TRAFFIC**

**a) To note the current Planning Application list.**

The current Planning application listed in Appendix A, previously circulated to all Councillors was noted.

**b) To consider and agree a response to the following planning applications:-  
20/00913/FUL – 30 Hamilton Way, Whitchurch – Erection of hipped roof conservatory to rear dwelling**

It was resolved to Support this application

**20/00897/FUL – Parkstone Estates (Chippenham) Ltd. 89 Bristol Road, Whitchurch- Demolition of existing storage building and erection of 2no 2bed flats.**

It was resolved to Object to this application for the following reasons:-  
Policy WV 1.5 – Retain employment in the village, Policy WV4.3 – Traffic and Safety, within the RA1 & RA5 of the approved Core Strategy the village has fulfilled its development needs and there is no evidence to indicate that further housing is required at the expense of a business property.

**2020/191 CLERKS REPORT**

The Community Clean Up has been postponed until September, an actual date to be agreed nearer the time. No VE Day celebrations will be taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> May as planned but hopefully something can be organised later in the year.

The Playpark has now been closed as instructed by the Government, the allotment site is still open and can be accessed through the cricket club, thanks to the cricket club for this temporary arrangement.

**2020/192 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES**

Paul gave updates on the Local Plan Partial Update, which is being consulted on from 6<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> June and the JLTP4. He has been invited onto the Local Development Forum and has been in contact with the Avon Wildlife Trust who are working to protect the Green Belt and its wildlife.

The Chief Executive of B&NES has been given emergency powers during the Corona Virus pandemic, all heritage sites are closed, car parking reduced and many businesses are closed in Bath.

Paul explained that he and his wife are vulnerable so have to self-isolate for 12 weeks.

## **2020/193 FIELD CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)**

### **a) To Grant Exclusive Rights of Burial**

None

### **b) To receive an update on the Playpark refurbishment tender**

The tender is nearly finished, there are concerns on how we can consult on any plans we may receive in the present climate. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Jane Robson B&NES Parks Department to ask if we can have an extension to the deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020, as at present we have restricted staffing capacity and do not know if all businesses are open to deal with tenders.

## **2020/194 FINANCE**

### **a) To note and agree the payment of accounts dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020**

It was resolved the schedule of payments dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, as listed in Appendix B be paid and that Cllrs N Kirk & M Dury will sign the cheques.

The Chairman would like to thank Richard and Sue Dean, of the Music Box for stepping in and changing their shop into a grocery store for local residents to use during the Covid 19 virus lockdown. It has been a great asset for the local community.

**Meeting ended at 8.10.p.m.**

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

## **Appendix A**

### **PLANNING APPLICATION LIST – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020**

#### **APPLICATIONS**

09/09/2019

19/02/19/MINW

Resourceful Earth Ltd, Charlton Field Lane, Queen Charlton  
A revised layout and design to the existing AD Plant (approved under `13/04126/MINW) with removal of all bund walling, ponds and soli & stock piles on site with introduction of hard standing, parking, bund walling, silage clamps CNG gas compressing compound, digestate storage bunker etc.

**OBJECT - Whitchurch Village Council support the comments of Compton Dando Parish Council. "Until the matters raised by B&NES Council Landscape Environments Team and Drainage and Flooding Team are addressed, and a full Environment Impact Assessment together with the ecology reports detailing bat roosting and feeding zone information are also addressed, the Village Council feel unable to consider the application fully. Matters relating to highways and traffic safety implications highlighted in the Highway Development Control response, also need addressing in order for the Village Council to fully consider the application."**

**At this stage we would not wish to see increased HGV traffic along local country lanes.**

**Our local councillor Paul May will be meeting with Chris Gomm to further discuss this application to include neighbouring areas.**

05/05/2020  
20/00452/FUL

Mama Bear's Day Nursery  
59 Bristol Road, Whitchurch, BS14 0PU  
Erection of single-storey extension to existing nursery facility, with associated works. Landscaping proposals to alter play area and car parking arrangements.

**NO COMMENTS**

05/05/2020  
20/00428/FUL

Ms Faye Dicker  
127 Bristol Road, Whitchurch, BS14 0PU  
Change of use of barn to be used for occasional use for Airbnb and/or as a meeting space.

**OBJECT - In the delegated report for the original changes permitted for the barn it states that it shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential dwelling known as 127 Bristol Road and shall not be occupied as an independent dwelling unit.**

**The reason states: The accommodation approved is not capable of independent occupation without adverse impact on the amenities of existing or future residential occupiers contrary to Policy D6 of the B&NES Placemaking Plan.**

**Policy D6 should be taken into account for the change of use of the barn to be used for Airbnb and/or as a meeting place. The level of privacy to existing properties in Blackacre will be compromised with the overlooking of their properties, either from Airbnb guests or people using the barn for meetings. This would therefore be contrary to Policy D6. b). There are no plans for the provision of parking if the barn is used for Airbnb or a meeting/workshop. There is very limited residential parking in Whitchurch Village and complaints are frequently received from residents regarding this issue. There is one bus service which runs from Wells to the centre of Bristol but if people are travelling from anywhere other than this they will be reliant on using their cars.**

**Policy ST7 of B&NES Placemaking Plan - Parking b) there should be no increase in on-street parking in the vicinity of the site which would affect highway safety and/or residential amenity. This policy will not be adhered to if permission is granted for a meeting space.**

06/03/2020  
20/00913/FUL

Mrs Saunders  
30 Hamilton Way, Whitchurch, BS14 0SZ  
Erection of hipped roof conservatory to rear dwelling

06/03/2020  
20/00897/FUL

Parkstone Estates (Chippenham) Ltd  
89 Bristol Road, Whitchurch, BS14 0PS  
Demolition of existing storage building and erection of 2no 2bed flats.

## Appendix B

### MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	52.80	8.80
Chq	Avon Local Councils' Assoc	Subscription	325.57	
Chq	Various	Salaries, stationery, travel expenses, postage	1,566.14	
Chq	WVCA	Rent & meetings March	211.50	
Chq	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	405.65	
Chq	H M Revenue Customs	Paye & NIC March	260.02	
Chq	Your Solutions	Maintenance	927.50	
Chq	On The Spot Signs	Village logo's	132.00	22.00
Chq	Martin Francis	Website updates & hosting	330.00	
Chq	Blooming Great	Thank you gift for a resident	28.50	
<b>Total Payments</b>			<b>£4,239.68</b>	<b>£30.80</b>