

MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL VIRTUAL ORDINARY PARISH MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2020

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

2020/65 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public explained that an email has been sent to B&NES Council regarding flooding over the weekend on the A37 past the bridge and had copied the Village Council into this.

A Councillor advised that there is now a fruit and vegetable van in the British Legion car park on Saturday mornings alongside the meat van. He bought some of the produce last week and it was very good.

2020/66 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk gave apologies for Cllrs M Donovan, P Orchard & J Pearce, who are unable to attend the meeting due to work and family commitments. These apologies and reasons for non-attendance were agreed by all in attendance.

2020/67 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7th NOVEMBER 2012)

None received.

2020/68 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS (FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)

None received.

2020/69 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2nd September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2020, previously circulated, were agreed and will be signed as a true record of the meeting, by N Kirk (Chairman).

2020/70 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS

The Clerk gave a report on this, a meeting was held with Jane Dury and Martin Francis to look at the website accessibility and how we would comply with the government requirements.

Different tools and visual comparisons were used to test the site and a statement produced listing the issues, which now appears on the website. Martin is correcting the non-compliant pages on a drip bases, so as not to use all the budget in one go. Moving forward we are now aware of what colours are better to use, font sizing and how articles should be titled.

Sue and Jane are now able to add items to the website and complete updates, which should save money in the future.

This report was noted and it was agreed that Martin should complete any corrections by March 2021, with the Clerk reporting when updates have been made.

2020/71 TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND SWITCH ON EVENT AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED

As agreed last month the Clerk has signed a one year contract with Blachere Illuminations, the existing contractor and agreed the dates of the light installation. A

resident will drive around the whole village in a suitable vehicle with Father Christmas on board and Christmas music playing. Father Christmas is happy to come along and do this.

The Clerk has spoken to Whitehall Garden Centre and the Christmas tree's need to be offered in the next couple of weeks. It was agreed that we will order two 12ft tree's the same as last year, Nick, Tony & Mark agreed to help Lee install these and put the lights on.

A member of the fete committee stated that they will pay for one of the trees, the Chairman thanked them for this kind offer.

The tree lights need to be checked to ensure they are still working, Ashton Broad will do this.

2020/72 TO REVIEW THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & EMPLOYEE RISK ASSESSMENT

The documents had previously been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, it was resolved that no amendments are required.

2020/73 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 planning application:-

20/03066/FUL – The Nest, Hursley Hill, BS14 0QZ – Erection of a single and second storey rear extension and conversion of loft space to form bedroom with en-suite
The planning officer has confirmed that the volume increase between the existing and proposed extension is 51.2%. It was therefore resolved that an objection is made to this application, as the property is within the Green Belt and the proposed extensions would represent a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original dwelling. Policy HG.15 & GB1.

c) To note the B&NES Local Plan Partial update consultation feedback and complete the survey regarding how effective the current forms of engagement are

The above documents, which had previously circulated to all Councillors was noted and it was resolved that the Clerk & Cllr Paul May will complete the survey together.

d) To note the information regarding updating the Neighbourhood Plan

Paul May enquired with Richard Daone, Deputy Head of Planning, B&NES Council, when/if the Neighbourhood Plan would require updating. He sent a detailed response stating it will need updating but after the B&NES Local Plan and the WECA Strategy Plan are both agreed and adopted, as the NP will need to generally conform with these two plans. This is likely to be towards the end of 2021.

e) To note the Planning White Paper consultations and whether the council would like to respond to these

These are very detailed consultations, which Paul May confirmed B&NES have responded to. After a long discussion it was agreed that we do not have the expertise to send in a meaningful response so would leave it to the district council.

2020/74 CLERKS REPORT

The flooded footpath which runs from Sleep Lane to the A37 & the BT manhole cover outside 141 Bristol Road have both been reported to B&NES.

Ann Leach & the Clerk planted up four of the planters around the village with winter plants, the other three will be completed next week.

The Clerk attended the B&NES Area Group meeting via zoom on 3rd September, ALCA are now proposing a 30% increase in their subscriptions, most people at the meeting said their councils would not be happy with this increase, also virtual meetings were discussed, most parishes will continue with virtual meetings until at least the New Year. B&NES Council consultation on live able neighbourhoods, which has been circulated to all councillors, has been extended to Sunday 18th October.

Meetings

ALCA AGM is on Sat 10th October from 10.30am – 12 noon, two representatives from each Town/Parish Council can join this meeting via zoom.

Society of Local Council Clerks AGM is being held via zoom on Thursday 15th October at 3pm.

The next Keynsham Area Forum will be on Monday 19th October at 5pm via zoom.

The Parishes Liaison meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd October via zoom.

2020/75 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES

Paul has heard nothing more regarding the flooding on the viaduct which was reported to B&NES after last month's meeting, he will chase this.

He has arranged a meeting with a resident to discuss setting up a community speed watch programme.

Funds have been secured from the Empowerment fund to help Whitchurch Primary School with their Forest School project.

He attended a meeting with Tim Ball, B&NES Council to discuss further housing in the village, the report on this meeting has been circulated to all Councillors. He felt the meeting was positive and he has agreed to consult again in the future.

Bristol Airport is appealing against North Somerset Council's objection to its planning application for expansion. B&NES are objecting against the proposals, which would have an impact on the surrounding roads, with more traffic and night flights.

B&NES Council are closing some of their offices in Bath, as more staff work from home.

The Chairman thanked Paul for the updates.

2020/76 FIELD CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)

a) To receive updates on the Playpark refurbishment & agree payments to the contractor

The section 106 funds have now been received for this project from B&NES Council. The contractor is requesting a schedule payment, with the cost being split into four payments.

After a long discussion on this it was resolved that the following payments will be made:-

on completion of week 1 - £10,000.00

on completion of week 2 - £20,000.00

on completion of week 3 - £20,000.00

The balance will be paid on total completion within the agreed time scale, subject to an inspection by the Village Council.

Paul May left the meeting at 8.35pm.

b) To note the Tree Risk Assessment and agree action required

The Risk Assessment has been completed by All Tree Services and circulated to all Councillors. It recommends work to be carried out on tree's which the Village Council are responsible for and gives a priority rating and when the trees should be reinspected. Two of the trees are on the verge outside the Playpark so the Clerk has sent a request to B&NES asking if they will deal with these, Lee Gillam has quoted to carry out work on two tree's and a Tree Surgeon is required to remove the Ash tree's at the cemetery.

It was resolved that this work should be completed within the time scales recommended. The Clerk to obtain quotes for the removal of the Ash trees and Lee Gillam to go ahead and complete the work on two of the tree's as quoted.

2020/77 FINANCE

a) To note and agree the payment of accounts dated 7th October 2020

It was resolved the schedule of payments dated 7th October 2020, as listed in Appendix B be paid and that Cllrs R Chandler & V Perry will sign the cheques.

b) To receive an update on the opening of a new bank account

The Clerk thanked those Councillors who have signed up to the new bank account to be able to authorise online payments. There are still three Councillors who have not signed up, please can those Councillors let the Clerk know if there are any issues and she will try to get them resolved.

The cheque issued last month to be paid into the new account was returned by Nat West Bank saying the signatories did not match, but they did. The Clerk put in a complaint about this and they have agreed to pay £200.00 compensation into the Village Council Account and put notes on the account so that this does not happen again.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 8.45.pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Appendix A

PLANNING APPLICATION LIST – 7th OCTOBER 2020 APPLICATIONS

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.

OBJECT – to this application for the following reasons:-
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. A developer has been unable to sell recently built dwellings in this location and has taken over a year to rent them, showing there is no evidence to support more development is required.

Policy WV 1.5 – Retain employment in the village
The above numbered policy in the Whitchurch Village Neighbourhood Development Plan has not been adhered to. This storage building has not been marketed as stated in this policy. A change of use from commercial to residential is detrimental to the sustainability of our village.

Policy WV4.3 - Traffic and Safety
The above policy should also be taken into consideration, as there will be an increase of traffic movement in and out of a small obscured entrance onto the busy A37 road. Also vehicles driving in and out of the proposed properties will cross a pedestrian footpath which is used by pupils of the local village pre-school and primary school, causing a safety issue and obstructing a safe route to school.
Small satellite businesses are essential to villages in B&NES, as has been shown at the present time, when they have been able to step up with providing food supplies to the vulnerable residents in our villages.

26/08/2020
20/03066/FUL

Mr Thompson
The Nest, Hursley Hill, Whitchurch, BS14 0QZ
Erection of a single and second storey rear extension and conversion of loft space to form bedroom with en-suite.

RESULTS

29/07/2020
20/02682/FUL

Mr Mitch Bull
54B Maes Knoll Drive, Whitchurch, BS14 0FF
Erection of rear single storey flat roof extension with glass lantern
PERMITTED

Appendix B

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

DATE: 7th October 2020

D/D	Southern Electric	Electricity Clock – Aug	36.02	1.71
D/D	Southern Electric	Electricity Clock – Sept	37.29	1.77
D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	44.97	7.49
D/D	Water2business	Water @ cemetery	36.29	
Chq	Various	Salaries & travel expenses	1886.03	
Chq	WVCA	Rent - September	180.00	
Chq	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	429.17	
Chq	H M Revenue Customs	PAYE & NIC Sept	289.18	
Chq	Your Solution	Maintenance	878.00	
Chq	Martin Francis	Website updates & Accessibility Statement	395.75	
Chq	Bateman Skips	Skip @ cemetery	288.00	48.00
Chq	All Tree Services	Tree survey	300.00	50.00
Chq	Blachere Illuminat	Hire of Christmas lights	883.01	147.17
Total Payments			£5,683.71	£256.14