

MINUTES OF WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL VIRTUAL ORDINARY PARISH MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2021

Present: Cllrs: N Kirk (Chairman), T Griffin (Vice Chair) S Bryant, R Chandler, M Dury, C Lewis, P O’Leary, P Orchard, V Perry, Mrs S Dyer (Clerk), District Councillor Paul May B&NES, one member of the public, Kerry Morgan, Chair of POKE (Protect Our Keynsham Environment) and three nominees for the vacancy.

2021/145 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public pointed out how well used the new playpark has been but that there has been issues with parking.

Other Councillors made the following comments:-

There were cars parking dangerously over the bank holiday weekend, with cars parked on both sides of the road, an ice-cream van parked outside, emergency vehicles would not have been able to get past.

A child with mobility issues visited the park and thought it was great with amazing facilities.

The three prospective candidates for the councilor vacancy spoke for 3 minutes each, the Chairman thanked each of them, a vote will be taken as an agenda item.

2021/146 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk gave apologies for Cllr J Pearce who is unable to join the meeting due to work commitments. This apology and the reason for non-attendance was accepted by all present.

2021/147 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCIL’S CODE OF CONDUCT (ADOPTED ON 7th NOVEMBER 2012)

None received.

2021/148 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS (FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)

None received.

2021/149 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd MARCH 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2021, previously circulated, were agreed and will be signed as a true record of the meeting, by N Kirk (Chairman).

2021/150 TO VOTE TO CO-OPT ONE OF THE NOMINEES TO FILL THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Each nominee has completed a questionnaire, these had been previously circulated to all Councillors and each one spoke for 3 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

A vote was made and each nominee had three votes, a further discussion took place and it was resolved to co-opt Joseph Fox to fill the vacancy. It was agreed that Joseph will sign the Acceptance of Office form before the next meeting on 5th May.

The Chairman thanked all the nominees as each one could have brought their own experience and skills to the Council but unfortunately there was only one vacancy.

The two unsuccessful nominees left the meeting.

2021/151 TO CONSIDER HOLDING COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE WVCA HALL

At the present time the government have not extended the legislation to allow Local Councils to continue to hold remote meetings after 6th May 2021. The meetings we have planned for 5th May 2021 are before this cutoff date. The Health Protection Regulations 2021 will not permit meetings of public bodies to occur until Step 3 of the government roadmap out of lockdown is implemented. The earliest date for this is 17th May. If the meeting planned for 2nd June is permitted a risk assessment must be carried out and the Government guidelines followed relating to community buildings. Most Councillors would like to get back to meeting in person as soon as it is safe to do so. The Clerk will continue to monitor the situation and advice given.

2021/152 TO NOTE THE DATES OF THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The Clerk explained that the Great British Spring Clean 2021 has been launched by Keep Britain Tidy and its partners, with a quest to clean up a million miles of UK streets, coastline, parks, footpaths and neighbourhoods.

The campaign is being held from 28th May – 13th June 2021, you can join by making a simple pledge online on how many minutes you'll clean up for during the campaign. You can pledge as an individual or as a group, ensuring you follow the latest Covid-19 guidance about group gatherings outdoors.

This information was noted, the Clerk has litter pickers and waste bags which can be borrowed on request.

2021/153 TO AGREE THE CONTENTS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCILS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WEEK IN COMMUNITY PAGE

It was resolved that the following items are included in this contribution:-

Details of the newly refurbished playpark to include a piece on parking, the Village shop and how they stepped up during lockdown, the volunteer scheme, the local food outlets each week in the British Legion car park, welcome newly co-opted Councillor and a positive piece regarding how the community pulls together on proposals for large scale development.

2021/154 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 agree the objection comments to planning application No. 21/00419/EFUL Resourceful Earth Ltd

The objection comments, which had previously been circulated to all Councillors & submitted to B&NES Council were ratified.

2021/155 CLERKS REPORT

During the last month the following issues have been reported to B&NES Council:-
Damage to the road surface around a manhole cover on A37 near Saltwell Avenue & the road surface along Staunton Lane. The Highways Officer has been out and fixed the manhole cover issue and has put in an order to fill some of the potholes along Staunton Lane.

Information has been received from Bateman Skips that the cost of the skip at the cemetery is being increased from £240.00 to £260.00 with effect from 1st April. An update has been received from ALCA regarding electronic banking and the signing of invoices, the Chief Officer brought this up at a recent Clerks meeting and got a real mixed bag of responses. The Clerk will take this up with the internal auditor. Essential Councillor training will be arranged for the new councillor.

2021/156 ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY BANES

Paul explained how the leader of B&NES Council has been replaced by a new Councillor Kevin Guy.

Paul has arranged another meeting with Tim Ball to discuss development.

B&NES Council have changed their annual meeting to 4th May.

There are two elections coming up in May, the WECA Mayor & Police Crime Commissioner.

Paul is being filmed outside Resourceful Earth regarding his objection to the current planning application on this site.

Paul is planning to deliver a newsletter and would like to include some village council information in this.

The Chairman thanked Paul for the updates.

2021/157 FIELD CEMETERY & COMMUNITY GARDENS (ALLOTMENTS)

a) To Grant Exclusive Rights of Burial

Paul Humphreys Plot No. F279 Deed No. 1441

Ref: (George Francis Humphreys &
Margaret Yvonne Humphreys)

P Orchard proposed, M Dury seconded and the meeting duly passed the Exclusive Rights of Burial.

b) To note the reopening of the Playpark and agree any further actions required

Further to the comments and discussion in the public participation section of the meeting it was agreed the Clerk will contact B&NES Traffic & Safety Officer & the Police regarding the dangerous parking outside the playpark and what can be done to address this issue. New signs will also be ordered stating No Dogs or Horses are allowed in the park.

c) To consider a reservation request for a cremation plot at the cemetery

The Clerk read out a letter from a resident asking if they can reserve a cremation plot in Whitchurch Cemetery. It was resolved that due to the circumstances meeting the criteria set out in the reservation policy, the Clerk can proceed with setting up the reservation.

d) To consider the report on business activities at the cemetery and agree actions

Reports on this issue had previously been circulated to all Councillors, it was resolved to send a Cease & Desist letter to the owner of the business to stop these business activities from taking place.

2021/158 FINANCE

a) To note and agree the payment of accounts dated 7th April 2021

It was resolved the schedule of payments dated 7th April 2021, as listed in Appendix B be paid and that Cllrs N Kirk & C Lewis will sign the cheques & Cllrs S Bryant & P O'Leary will authorise the online payments.

b) To consider a request for funding from POKE – Protect Our Keynsham Environment

Cllr T Griffin spoke how he thought this was an excellent cause and an issue which would have a serious effect on Whitchurch Village if the planning application was

granted. POKE have arranged for experts to investigate the issues and an excellent detailed report was sent in to B&NES.

Several other Councillor's agreed and after further discussion it was resolved to give a £750.00 grant to POKE on receipt of a completed Grant Application form and a copy of their audited accounts.

2021/159 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PARISHES LIAISON MEETING & SLCC VIRTUAL REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR

The Clerk attended both of the above on 24th March via zoom and gave a brief report on both, the contents of which were noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which ended at 9.10.pm.

The Annual meeting of the Parish of Whitchurch will take place on Wednesday 14th April & the next Ordinary meeting, and Annual meeting of the Village Council will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2021.

**Appendix A
PLANNING APPLICATION LIST – 7th APRIL 2021
APPLICATIONS**

07/03/2021 21/00419/EFUL	Resourceful Earth, Charlton Field Lane Development of an Anaerobic Digester Facility (including retention of the existing Feedstock Reception Building, Digester Tank (x5), Storage Tank, CHP Engine (x4), Transformer, GRP Substation, GRP Technical Room (x5) and Gas Equipment) to produce both gas and electricity for injection into the local grid networks, alongside the restoration of the former Queen Charlton Quarry Site with ecological and landscape enhancements. OBJECT – copy of objection attached.
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RESULTS

26/01/2021 21/00313/FUL	J P Philliskirk 7 Dobunni Close, Whitchurch, BS14 0FG Erection of single storey side extension PERMITTED
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Appendix B

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

DATE: 7th APRIL 2021

D/D	British Telecom	Phone/broadband	52.80	8.80
D/D	SSE	Electric Clock – March	46.56	2.21
DR	Unity Trust	Quarterly Charge (already debited on 31/03/21)	18.00	
BT	ALCA	Subscription	400.09	
BT	Various	Salaries, defibrillator pack, travel expenses, postage & stationery	1,992.99	19.80
BT	WVCA	Rent – March	225.00	
BT	Your Solution	Maintenance	611.50	
BT	J Ashman	Tree Surgeon	1,650.00	
Chq	B&NES Council	Pension Fund	458.88	
Chq	H M Revenue Customs	PAYE & NIC March	321.77	
Chq	Your Solution	Playpark Refurbishment	7,930.00	
		Total Payments	£13,689.59	£30.81