

Minutes of the Virtual Monthly Meeting of Stockton Parish Council
Held via Zoom at 7.15pm on 18th May 2020

Those present: -

Parish Councillors: Cllrs.: H.Collerson, D.Crate, J.Emberton, T. Warner, H.Kittendorf. W.Rumsey

District Councillor: Cllr.L.Adam

County Councillor: Cllr.A.Crump

Public:

Item 1. Open Forum

There were no items raised under open forum.

County Council Issues.

The Chairman invited County Cllr.Crump to address the meeting.

Cllr.Crump has previously given a report on issues at the county to Stockton's magazine.

Cllr.Crump noted that the Princes Drive recycling centre in Leamington Spa is open and seems to be coping well, this is in part due to the booking system employed (the centre is fully booked for the next four days), and the fact that there has been liaison between the County and Coventry City Council regarding the opening of the recycling centre to avoid large traffic flows from Coventry to Leamington Spa.

Cllr.Crump noted that the County Council should receive between £4M and £7M from central government to assist with the running of care homes.

Cllr.Crump noted that the Covid 19 infection hotspots were in the north of the county with a high death rate, but these numbers are now falling.

Cllr.Crump asked that B.Legg;s contact details be sent to him so that he can reply.

Cllr.Crump noted that request have been received at county from Voluntary Organisations (VO's) for additional funding

Cllr.Crump also noted that the major road works will be gradually commencing.

There were no further issues from Cllr.Crump and the Chairman thanked him for his attendance at the virtual meeting.

District Council Issues.

The Chairman invited District Cllr.Adam to address the meeting

Cllr.Adam noted that the District Council is playing a supplementary role in the Covid 19 crisis, but indicated that local businesses were taking up the offer of grants

Cllr.Adam noted that on 27th may the District Council will be meeting as a Council in order that a full democratic decision making process by elected Cllrs can recommence, this is importance especially in planning affairs where up to now decision making has been delegated to officers.

Cllr.Adam has sent a letter to the MP Wright pointing out that social distancing guidelines by contactors working on HS2 are being ignored, and the hedges have been removed in the nesting season thus ignoring planning law.

After listening to some comments on the progress of the Elm Row garages site (pavements being churned up, and the bank cut back hard) Cllr.Adam stated that he will visit the site to see for himself what is happening.

There were no further issues from Cllr.Adam and the Chairman thanked him for his attendance at the virtual meeting.

Item 2. Apologies for Absence

Parish Cllrs: Cllrs.C.Millidge

District Cllr:

County Cllr:

Item 3. Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors

It was proposed by Cllr. Warner and seconded by Cllr.Emberton that the apologies from Cllrs. Millidge and Rumsey be accepted – **This motion was unanimously agreed**

Item 4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

Item 5. Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2020

These minutes having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Emberton and seconded by Cllr. Warner that they be accepted as a true record - **This motion was unanimously agreed.**

Item 6. Matters arising from the minutes of the 16th March 2020

Hedge between the sports club and Nelsons way: Cllr. Emberton noted that the club has trimmed the hedge between both sports fields, and has used the trimmings to block holes in the hedge to stop people coming through the hedge onto the sports fields.

Item 7. Planning Matters:

a. New Planning applications

20/00686/OUT, Westfield House, Mount Pleasant: Outline application for the construction of a 4- or 5-bedroom house of approximately 200 square metres nett internal living accommodation with integral single garage and 2 parking spaces. The Chairman invited a member of the public to give comments on this application. The member of the public noted that proposed 1 garage space and 2 parking spaces are too few for a 4- or five-bedroom house. Parking at this part of the village is at a premium and if as is likely people either living or visiting the property will have to park on the road thus effectively closing the road to other users.

There is no pavement at all along this road and that the road is unusually narrow, given that there are a lot of walkers accessing the public right of way at the top, this will put them and motorists in danger.

Given that there is no turning point for vehicles (the waste disposal lorries already have to reverse back down the road when the waste bins are collected) this will put both drivers and pedestrians in danger.

Construction lorries are likely to block people within their homes as they cannot move off the road when delivering material and removing soil for construction.

The elevation of the property is likely to make any development overbearing to other residents.

When it rains this part of the village has water running like a river down the road and further dwellings are likely to exasperate the problem leading to a potential flooding problem.

The Chairman noted that this was an outline planning application, and given that the site is likely to be built on at some time, it might be a better move for the Parish Council to make a No Representation comment at this stage but to note the above comments to the planning officer and also to our District and County Cllrs.. **This course of action was unanimously agreed.**

b. Planning Decisions by District Council or County Council

APP/J3720/W/19/3242348, Green farm, Stockton: appeal against refusal of planning permission for the partial change of use of stable block to residential annex - **Appeal granted**

Item 8. Financial Matters

It was proposed By Cllr. Crate and seconded by Cllr. Emberton that all invoices listed on the 18th May 2020 agenda appendix 1 be paid - **This motion was unanimously agreed.**

Item 9. Correspondence

There were no items for discussion

Item 10. Annual Governance Statements

The Annual Governance Statement having been previously circulated to all Cllrs. it was proposed by Cllr. Warner and seconded by Cllr. Collerson that it be accepted as a true reflection of Council business – **This motion was unanimously agreed**

Item 11. Annual Accounting Statements

The Annual Accounting Statement having been previously circulated to all Cllrs. it was proposed by Cllr. Collerson and seconded by Cllr. Emberton that it be accepted as a true reflection of Council accounts – **This motion was unanimously agreed**

Item 12. Ongoing References

Playing Field: The Chairman noted that Mr. T Sharples has indicated that a 21-year lease is possible using the 999-year proposed lease as a template, the Clerk will talk to BTT&J to facilitate this.
Cemetery Extension: A report from the archaeological group re the cemetery extension was received and it raised a number of issues regarding their recommendation for some trenching to be carried out. Given that this was just a suggestion from the group it was agreed that a letter pointing out the flaws in their arguments be sent to the head of planning and to the archaeological group pointing out that in the Parish Councils view this trenching will be a waste of time and money - **This view was unanimously endorsed**

Item 13. Removal and Additions to Ongoing References

There were no removals or additions to ongoing references

Item 14. Parish Council Calendar Actions

Budget Monitoring: The budget monitoring spreadsheet was previously sent to all Cllrs. before the meeting and approved

Review Standing Orders: This item is put back until the next meeting

Review Financial Regulations: This item is put back until the next meeting

Publicise winner of the Villager of the Year: The Chairman noted that we cannot have an annual meeting to present this award, the Clerk will talk to A. Leeman and explain.

Audit of Parish paths: The Chairman has walked most of them and noted that some additions to the way markers need to be done. The Chairman will report at next meeting.

Other Issues for information only

Hedge at the Square: It was noted that this will soon need to be trimmed to stop it encroaching on the pavement, County Cllr. Crump noted that if P. Byrne of the highways department is informed he will write to the residents informing them of their obligations.

Dog waste bin at Elm Row: It was reported that this bin was full, the Clerk will contact Street Scene to have it emptied.

Phone box at the Square: It was noted that the phone box now belongs to the Parish Council, and in response to a query the Chairman will contact the defibrillator committee to ascertain the way forward.

Sports Club Grant; It was noted that the Sports Club has received a grant from Sport England, but that they wish to send the monies to the Parish Council, this will be signed for by the Clerk and then immediately forwarded to the sports club, the Parish Council does not wish to be involved with the disbursements to contractors.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm