MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL, OAKHILL

ON 12TH February 2020 AT 7.30PM

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| **Present** | Becky Batagel, Phil Briscoe, David Thorley, Lizzie Lewis, David Gilson, Bryan Wells, David Barlow, David Hine |
| In Attendance | Charlotte Stott (Clerk) 2 Parishioners. Mike Pullin Cllr, Sam Phripp District Cllr |

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|  | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** | **Action** |
| 01/2020 | Apologies were received from Sarah Emery |  |
|  | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS** |  |
| 02/2020 | None |  |
|  | **AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD** |  |
| 03/2020 | The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2020were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held. |  |
|  | **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (where not dealt with later)** |  |
| 04/2020  05/2020  06/2020  07/2020  08/2020  09/2020 | (347/19) Grass bank at Gurney Slade, A37 – Clerk has written to ID Verde with a scope of works and DB also spoke to Richard at Binegar PC to outline proposals. Ongoing. The main question is whether this bank is actually a highways issue rather than a parish one. DB to speak to highways to air the parishes concerns regarding this bank. Clerk to check if we have received a quotation as of yet for the cutting of this bank.  (349/19 & 204/19) Overhanging vegetation. Owner did not seem to think it was an issue, however it is believed it could be a highways issue if the vegetation is growing out of the wall. The owner did state they would look at the brambles, but it is believed that nothing has happened as of yet. EL is happy to try and discuss again.  (345/19 & 227/19) Additional light on the high street. County’s correspondence on this states that they require confirmation if we wish to go ahead with the quote provided. The quotation they have provided is a cost of £900, however this is only if they are able to site on the proposed telegraph pole sited at the end of Brewery Lane. If not, it is expected the cost to increase to in the region of £2,000-3,000. It is agreed that it may need to be placed back on the agenda next month for further discussion.  (344/19 & 228/19) No update – Oakhill Inn extending pavement  (365/19) Parishioners concerns regarding road markings. This has been passed to Mike Pullen.  (341/19) In the December meeting there had been a report that some of the pointing in the Memorial wall was going. Upon investigation the pointing that had been done a couple of years ago still stands ok, however it is the in the low flower bed wall where some stones are coming loose. It is hoped that the soil within the flower beds is to be replaced this year and this would then provide the best opportunity for the low retaining wall to be repaired. It is proposed that this is completed for VE Day. DB to obtain a quotation from a local tradesman. | **CS**  **EL**  **DB**  **CS** |
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|  | **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS** |  |
| 10/2020  11/2020 | **Mike Pullin Cllr reported**   * Unitary conversations still in place. Please keep an open mind for this. There are synergies * Cabinet reshuffle coming very shortly. * New tree policy coming is, is there anything regarding grass cutting? Looking to allow seeding and therefore less cutting but there are areas where safety is paramount and therefore grass cuts will be needed. It is expected that county will come out with something over the next few months. * Requested with Mike for speed to be fed back to county * Local planning policy is shaped by the parishes too. We need to speak up in order to shape this.   **Sam Phripp reported**   * Bin tape recycle more campaign by Somerset Waste Partnership. Looking to recycle more and reduce refuse collection * Mendip has been told by inspector to look at 500 more houses in the area. Not directly in this parish but at White Post roundabout. Mendip take the view that these could be found over a period of time, but inspector has said this is not good enough and has suggested areas to look at. Sam and Josh have been making points regarding the effects these plans will have on highways, and health services, as no increased provisions had yet been made. * It is being proposed by government to actually look at the meaning of affordability. It is currently set at 80% of market value, which doesn’t necessarily feel like affordable. * Highcroft quarry – There are meetings in the pipeline regarding the noise and planning applications. * Mendip has a climate change group which have been working on incentives. * Next Parish Forum on 22nd February 2020. |  |
| 12/2020 | **APPOINTMENT OF CLERK** |  |
|  | Phil and David to finalise contract and to email to Charlotte to then read and sign. Clerk to send details to David Barlow. | **DB/PB** |
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|  | **GRASS CUTTING 2020; AGREE SCOPE OF WORKS** |  |
| 13/2020  14/2020  15/2020  16/2020  17/2020 | To discuss what we would like to include.  It is felt that the current work being carried out is to a satisfactory standard and it has been noted that the BMX track is also being kept tidy with a strimmer. There is potential to change the scope of the works this year especially when looking at climate change and whether we would like to include strips of uncut grass or reduce the number of times a year these areas are cuts. The thought process is ‘what is best for nature?’ guidance can be sought from the Countryside Stewardship scheme. The grant for the wild flowering has been agreed however, there is a shortfall of £200-£300.  It is noted that the Village hall have the responsibility for the upkeep and the running of the grass area, and the Parish Council only pay the costs. The Parish Council will invite the Village hall to enter discussion for the scope of the work this year, before the contract is put in place.  **VE DAY FUNDING**  Parish council have placed their support for the VE Day celebrations. It is felt PC should be contributing towards the cost of this. The aim is to rekindle the spirit of the community. It is hoped to embrace all age groups. The VE day Funding group would like for the events to be free if possible, and therefore will be seeking sponsorship to cover costs. The two main costs are the marquee and the band. These costs come in at just under £2,000.  It was proposed and agreed to donate £750 towards the VE Day celebrations, with this figure subject to review if more funding is required. It is felt that this is something to support as benefits the parish as a whole.  **SPRING CLEAN UP**  Date confirmed 28th March 10am - 1pm. Lizzie to register this. David to advertise in parish magazine. Pickers and bags provided  **SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL MEETING (2nd Wednesday in May)**  It is noted that last year’s speaker did not turn up. It has been questioned what has happened to the village agent. A proposal was put forward that the speaker could be someone regarding he climate change emergency.  **MENDIP LOCAL PLAN PART II: SITES AND POLICIES: CONSULTAIONS ON PROPOSED MAIN MODIFICATIONS**  Nothing has changed for Oakhill as currently over target.  Some designated green spaces have been removed, which would mean that these would then be open to build on potentially.  Chapelfield is no longer mentioned.  David has agreed to fill in the response form on the behalf of the council all comments to be into David ASAP. |  |
| 18/2020  19/202 | **PLANNING**  **Update on previous planning applications**  **2020/0087/TCA; Pooh Corner, High St,** Oakhill; T1, Laburnum, reduce x25%. T2, Ash, Pollard back to previous points and cut back from public footpath. - This has been granted.  There seems to be some confusion regarding the church trees. There had been no objection from Parish council. It has been suggested to go back to tree officer. DH had wanted to have a discussion with the tree officer. |  |
|  | **FINANCE** |  |
| 20/2020  21/2020  22/2020  23/2020  24/2020  25/2020  26/2020  27/2020  28/2020 | Financial Statement –to be emailed out to all Parish Councillors.  Statement to 7th February 2020 to then be -agreed and signed.  Noticeboards has been quoted at £328 - DB to clarify whether this price is for both notice boards.  Benches – to repair has been quoted at £696 due to badly rotting in many areas. New benches have also been quoted at £698 + £50 delivery. The quotation has stated it would be more economical to replace rather than repair. Members of PC to re look at benches as they believe the quoted work seems a lot due to recent years work on the benches. To review when the benches went in what was the original cost. Benches have been in place for 7 years clerk to look to see if we hold the original quotations and specification.  Clerks Invoice – S. Valliant - £133.40 (905)  SLCC Invoice – CS to speak to Sandrine regarding how to renew as there is no invoice present  ICO- £40 - Speak to Sandrine regarding  ID Verde – £801.10(906)  **Matters to report**  No representative present from the Police but a report was emailed stating the calls they have received this month and any outcomes. Nothing to report but a copy to be sent out to the Parish Councillors.  No representative present from the school  Village hall – heating goes off at 8.30 although can be boosted if required. Repairs have started on adult swing. The next things to be looked at are, the loft insulation followed by decorating and curtains. On the next Village hall meeting agenda is the seating and it is proposed these improvements are to be completed by VE celebrations.  Hedge at Zion Lane - coming out into the road which makes it dangerous to pedestrians. Brian to ask Lee to get this sorted.  Seat by Galleybatch road requires repair. Brian has agreed to have a look at this and potentially repair.  Complaints have been received regarding the state of Simbriss lane. Discussed whether a letter could be written to the individual felt to be responsible but at this time it was felt best to place a notice in the Parish magazine asking road users to be more respectful of the verges. |  |
|  | **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING** |  |
|  | The next parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th March 2020, 7:30pm, at the Village Hall. |  |
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