MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL, OAKHILL

ON 11th March 2020 AT 7.30PM

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| **Present** | Becky Battagel, Phil Briscoe, David Thorley, Lizzie Lewis, David Gilson, Bryan Wells, David Barlow, David Hine |
| In Attendance | Charlotte Stott (Clerk) Josh Burr District Cllr |

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|  | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** | **Action** |
| 18/2020 | Apologies were received from Sarah Emery and Mike Pullin. |  |
|  | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS** |  |
| 19/2020 | None |  |
|  | **AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD** |  |
| 20/2020 | The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2020were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held, with minor amendments to spelling errors. |  |
|  | **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (where not dealt with later)** |  |
| 21/2020  22/2020  23/2020 | (04/2020 & 347/19) Grass bank at Gurney Slade, A37 – Raised bank does not form part of the Highways scope. Is owned by SCC therefore should be maintained by their property services team in Taunton. Highways do not have resources to maintain for aesthetic reasons. However they are happy for Parish to maintain using a suitably qualified contractor. This is to be pursued with Somerset as this obstructing the footpath. Becky has agreed to email Claire regarding the matter and further information.  (05/2020 &349/19 & 204/19) Overhanging vegetation. It is felt that the original discussion was only had with the owner in January in order to allow time for them to deal with we would not yet repeat the request. It has been questioned on social media. David contacted Neil regarding the footpath and a site visit has been arranged, if needs be they will then raise with the land owner concerned.  (06/2020 & 345/19 & 227/19) Additional light on the high street. To be discussed further on the agenda. | **RB**  **Clerk** |
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|  | **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS** |  |
| 24/2020 | **Mike Pullen Cllr – Apologies received**  **Josh Burr Cllr reported**  SCC are ensuring that administrative staff can be transferred between areas if required if the current situation regarding coronavirus looks like it will disrupt services, this will then ensure that essential services can still run.  Food recycling has gone up by 30% with the slim my waste tape. It is anticipated that refuse bin collection will go to 3 weekly from June. Special briefings will be issued to parishes, along with news briefings and a media campaign to ensure that the general public understand what can and can’t be recycled. There has been a successful trial in Bristol. An app is also being produced to allow the public to be reminded what is being collected and when.  The budget has now been passed for the council. There is a council tax increase in line with inflation. There will be a balance in terms of investment going forward, commercial property investment rather than bank for higher return, it is currently being looked at to invest in renewable energy.  BANES council are challenging the planning applications proposed for White Post area. Objections have been placed by both Sam and Josh along with other parish councils. They feel that it would double the size of the Stratton parish and there has no work carried out towards traffic surveys of which it is belived the traffic increase will have a huge impact on the surrounding area. Mendip is stuck in a difficult position regarding this planning application as the Government has stated they must build x number of houses and if not these will be implemented by themselves. Mendip are trying to make the best job they can of a bad situation.  **Highcroft Quarry**  Highcroft quarry have agreed to invest in a better flag sign, and have agreed to attend the annual parish meeting in Binegar, to answer any questions. Going forward a Whatsapp group has been developed so that people can sign up to receive updates of when blasts may happen. However, there are other groups which use the quarry which has caused issues as no warning has then been given. It has been pointed out as a reminder that Highcroft quarry does actually also benefit the community as it does provide jobs but also runs courses of which people attend from outside the area and require B&B.  **Traffic Nettle bridge**  Country are looking to place yellow lines at the junction and also look into the concerns raised regarding the speed limit. |  |
| 24/2020 | **GRASS CUTTING 2020; AGREE SCOPE OF WORKS** |  |
| 25/2020 | 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.  **SPRING CLEAN UP**  Date confirmed 28th March 10am - 1pm. Lizzie to register this. David to advertise in parish magazine. Pickers and bags provided | **Clerk** |
| 26/2020 | **PLANNING**  **Update on previous planning applications**  **New**  David T proposed approval seconded by David G.  7 in favour and 1 abstaining – to cover both applications.   1. No significant change on footprint but a much more sensible use of space inside. Removing of cosmetic beam 2. Removing asbestos roof – slate roof to match house – surfaces being blended by rendering. |  |
| 27/2020  28/2020  29/2020 | **Relocation of finger post**  County has no dealings with finger posts we need to deal with this. County have provided a list of contractors. Clerk to contact several contractors in order to obtain quotation. Looking to just re site.  **Noticeboards and seating**  Prices quoted for the seats and noticeboard – two in total £328, benches two in total £698.  Agreed to do noticeboards at this time, will be taking contractors recommendation in regards to the finish, would like the varnish look rather than paint. Clerk to ensure what shipshape are proposing to use for the finish.  Seating to be discussed at a later date.  **Repairs to flower bed**  Contacted Julian Ball regarding the repair. He has inspected. Short wall has been slightly knocked at some point and thus separated slightly from the Pooh Corner walls. Julian would do it, does not need to be lime mortar, existing wall sand and cement. Believes would take 3 hours work. No quote of money has been given. Is aware that we would like done before VE day. Would be looking to make good of what was there. To ask what he would like us to provide and whether he would like the soil to be removed before hand. | **Clerk**  **Clerk** |
| 30/2020  31/2020  32/2020  33/2020  34/2020  35/2020  36/2020  37/2020 | 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.  Clerks Invoice – C Stott  **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 – VE Day celebrations are key at the moment. Further details will be in the parish magazine. Events are to be synchronised across the country. There will be a small charge for the big band party – this will be in order to allow for numbers. Donations from the community are being received and the £750pledged by the Ashwick Parish Council has been matched by another donor. Other social events are planned and will be advertised in the parish magazine. Discussion are ongoing in the village hall committee regarding to upkeep and mowing of grass areas.  The rejuvenation project is going well with the next stage being the redecoration and lagging. The first week in April the village hall will be closed for maintenance.  Litter picking day – Lizzie to collect the equipment on the Friday. Clerk to post regarding the litter picking on Facebook – 28th March 2020 10am – 12pm. Meet at the village hall.  Parish website – ask Matt Brookbank to create a footpath page on the parish website. Place the litter pick details on the website.  Gallybach lane – looking at changing the right of way – proposed as an agenda item for next month.  Highways – potholes appearing the in road. High street is looking bad now. A conversation to have with Mike.  Lighting to be placed on the agenda again next month. | **Clerk**  **Clerk**  **Clerk** |
|  | **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**  The next parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th April 7:30pm, at the Village Hall. |  |
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