

Trudoxhill Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7.30pm (Virtual Meeting)

Present: T Pace (**TP**) (Chair), D Francis (**DF**), C Kenyon (**CK**), S Salmon (**SS**), R Masson-Taylor (**RMT**),
C Bonham Christie (**CBC**)

CLlr Michael Gay (**MG**), Chris Alton (**CA**)

Clerk: Sam Winstanley

21/205 Apologies

D Valentine - Delayed

21/206 Disclosure of Interest

None

21/207 Minutes of the last meeting

SS proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. **DF** seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION: The draft minutes of the February meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Meeting suspended to take questions or comments from the Public

CLlr Gay reported as follows:

- PCC is being elected, so all councils are in Purdah and must be careful not to be party political, any concerns should be directed to the Monitoring Officer at Mendip DC.
- End of virtual meetings – The government have stated they have not allocated parliamentary time to discuss extending virtual meetings, so councils are expected to return to face to face (with social distancing) from May 7th. Mendip regret this and are trying to work out how to hold larger meetings. The LGA is making representations to have the government rethink, and there is a consultation period opening, as many have voiced the opinion that virtual meetings are more accessible to residents than perhaps driving down country lanes to village halls in the evenings.
- Attended AI quarry liaison meeting to discuss parking at Nunney Catch. Management have spoken to drivers about parking and commented that they would be glad when bollards are in place to enforce good practice.
- Work on fly-tipping continues. Aiming to work on tip costs and on audit requirements to provide better information and enforcement for residents.
- Further investigation on St Lawrences Congregational Chapel. It was noted that the chapel underwent a change of use in 1997 to a village hall. The Historic Chapels Trust are interested and have said funding may be available, dependant on future use applications. The Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust is also interested. Both have requested a written statement for their trustees which CLlr Gay is providing. The estate agent was also made aware of an error listing the building as Grade 2, where it is actually Grade 2*. **RMT** asked if there was a guide

price, **MG** noted it was being sold by a charity and no further information was offered, although the liabilities that come with the purchase are evident. **DF** mentioned that the existing restrictions meant the pews could not even be moved, **MG** suggested that anyone interested in understanding development options might want to search out specialist 'church reorganisation' architects, who do exist.

- Lastly, **MG** would like to express his joy at seeing the bees return, and offered this article for those who wish to take positive actions to help them, [by doing nothing!](#)

21/208 Planning

21/208.1 Variation to Premises License - Lilley's

There were no objections to this application.

RESOLUTION: After discussion, Councillors voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

21/208.2 2021/0548/HSE – Detached Office at the Parsonage, Gare Hill Lane

RMT and **DF** thought the proposal looked fine. **RMT** noted that the neighbour had something similar so why not here too, especially as it is shielded by the hedge. **TP** noted that the resident who had made a representation against the proposal seemed to be more concerned about noise, but it was not clear. The council asked Chris Alton (**CA**), the applicant, present at the meeting, to comment. **CA** stated that they wanted to construct a home office and a gym, their neighbour was worried that his existing drum studio might offend future users of the planned office and the applicants might then complain about noise in the future. **CA** noted that if he were to complain, he would have done so already, as he can hear the drum studio from existing occupied areas of the property. He did not want to move the proposed location; they want the office located there for aesthetic and functional reasons. **CK** spoke to both the applicant and the concerned neighbour and understood both points of view, he suggested perhaps the council should abstain. **SS** noted that drumming and noise is not part of the planning application and suggested that the council's duty was to look at the application for the building alone, **DF** agreed. **RMT** voiced support for the application due to fairness as the neighbour's application was approved. **TP** called for a vote.

RESOLUTION: The council voted to approve the application. For x 5, Against x 1

21/208.2 New footpath gates FR21/83

Although this application was pre-approved, the council expressed that the new gates were an excellent addition, making the footpath near Iron Mills and Wiltshire Smokehouse safer and more usable for the public.

21/209 Finance

21/209.1 Financial Report

The clerk reported £105 advertising income this month, with £1834.34 in current account. After the payments agreed at this meeting, the parish will have no outstanding invoices or debts and can close the year. There is £5471.27 in the fundraising account and £454.94 in reserve. Once the precept arrives, the clerk suggested sweeping any remaining balance into the reserve, which was agreed. The clerk is attempting to finalise year end accounts and AGAR this month, and is aiming to have '21-'22 budget for

next meeting, including a plan for building the reserve. Councillors were happy with the proposed approach and **RMT** noted he was available to assist with year end financial tasks and agreed to discuss with the clerk further.

21/200.2 Accounts for payment

- Clerk's Salary – £146.55
 - Catch up payments to Rachel Nield – £319.23 (zoom reimbursement + salary)
 - Kevin Gale, Grass Cutting – £100
 - ICO, data protection - £35
 - Moson, website SSL certificate – £29.99
 - PKF accountants, admin charge for late AGAR - £96
- The clerk suggested challenging this charge, which the council agreed to.*

21/210 Reports

To receive reports and updates on:

21/210.1 Highways (SS)

SS shared a great success, there are now bollards on the grass at Nunney Catch. **RMT** noted that it is still dangerous and councillors agreed that the double yellow lines were needed for the full effect. **SS** reported that she is following up on an expected timeline for those, but that they were from a different department. **MG** noted that he had been consulted on an application for an advertising totem pole for Nunney Catch garage. He asked for support in composing a response, which **SS** and **CK** offered.

21/210.2 SpeedWatch (SS)

SS noted that SpeedWatch had resumed, now that it is legally compliant to do so, and that they were active again in their favourite spots.

21/201.3 The Village Hall (TP)

TP reported a partial reopening on May 17th to regular users who demonstrate Covid compliance. Full opening scheduled for June 21st. The hall committee is organising a fete for July 4th and is looking for volunteers and stall holders to contact them. **SS** asked after the green energy grant application, which **TP** reported had unfortunately been returned with a rejection. **SS** noted that coffee mornings would start again when they could and **DF** and the clerk offered advertising assistance.

21/201.4 Traffic Calming Measures (DV)

TP deferred to **DV** and in his absence this report would be heard next meeting.

21/201.5 Environment Agenda (SS)

SS is planning a renewed focus once public meetings and engagement are possible. Plans are for a speaker to kick off the agenda.

21/211 Correspondence and Emails Received

21/211.1 Co-Op HGV lorries using main road through village

The clerk reported a resident had written expressing concern over seeing Co-Op lorries using the village road. **TP** asked how often they had seen them, suggesting once might be a lost driver. **CK** commented that unfortunately there are no posted restrictions on the road, so stopping certain drivers using it is difficult. **DF** and **SS** noted that they had success working with the quarry lorries, and to do the same here was possible, but they would need further evidence of frequency, time and photographs, if possible, to make representations to the Co-Op. The clerk was asked to reply to the resident and coordinate further evidence so the council could act on their behalf.

21/211.2 Keep Britain Tidy million mile litter pick

The clerk shared the campaign to Keep Britain Tidy. **DF** and **SS** were interested in participating and asked the clerk to get more information and share with them.

21/211.3 Littering in Trudoxhill – Letter

The clerk shared a resident's letter, expressing deep concern with litter at the underpass of the A361. The clerk also reported that the same resident wrote again, expressing their thanks for the litter pickers work in clearing it up.

21/212 Other Business referred to the Clerk

21/212.1 Your View April Edition

TP noted that with **DV** absent, it was best to hear further at the next meeting.

21/212.2 Vote on Virtual Meetings

TP noted that in light of the **MG** report on this, and that the next meeting was within the guidelines and still able to be virtual, this would be discussed next month.

21/212.3 Village Hall Fete

TP referred to the previous discussion, renewed the call for any volunteers or participants and said further information was to come.

21/212.4 Clerk Remuneration Discussion

The clerk was asked to recuse themselves so the council could discuss this, and did so.

DF had pointed out that the Clerk's current pay grade was below the recommended level. It was therefore proposed to increase the grade to SCP 8.

RESOLUTION: The council voted unanimously to increase the clerk's salary to SCP 8

21/213 Date of next TPC meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6th May and would continue to be a virtual meeting at 7.30pm