

HIGHAM ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes



Date: Monday 15th February 2021
Time: 7.00 pm
Present: Cllr Golder (Chair), Cllr Jenkins (Vice-Chair), Cllr Gayton, Cllr Waterton, Cllr Grimes, Cllr J Collett (HBBC), Cllr I Ould (LCC), A Perkins (Clerk)

02/21/1 APOLOGIES

Cllr Whitehead

02/21/2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

02/21/3 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 4th of January 2021 were agreed by the Parish Councillors present as a true record of the meeting. To be signed when possible.

02/21/4 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORTS

Cllr Ould confirmed that from May 2021 should the Parish Council wish to resurrect the plan to close Wood Lane at the A5 junction, permission would be needed from LCC, WCC and the Highways Department. Regarding planning for housing in rural villages, Osbaston, a small hamlet of 106 houses, is fighting an application by HBBC to build 55 homes on land that it owns. A letter requesting our support against the continual overdevelopment of rural villages will be sent stressing that it goes against the local development framework. Cllr Ould also commented that more and more Parish Councils are considering adopting a policy for dealing with vexatious complaints.

Cllr J Collett reported that HBBC finances are better than expected and will be finalised at the end of Feb 2021. He confirmed that there is planning controversy all over the Borough and there is a question whether the 5-year land supply exists. New Neighbourhood Plans are being blocked by obstacles preventing/delaying them which is very demoralising for lots of rural villages. Higham on the Hill has no Neighbourhood Plan – it was muted 15 years ago but no-one in the village was prepared to take it on due to the work involved. Dadlington and Sheepy Magna have just got theirs approved and would be helpful to talk to in terms of time, cost and methodology.

02/21/5 CLERKS REPORT

Previously 01/21/09 (i)- Letter sent to Mr J Francis confirming the area behind 21 Main Street is council owned land and the permissions given regarding a temporary fence.

01/21/09 (iii) - Precept confirmed to HBBC as an increase of 1% for 2021/22

01/21/09 (iv) - No Mow May – Michael Smith contacted and requested not to mow in May.

01/21/09 (v) - Savings account (currently 0% interest) opened with Unity Bank and reserves transferred.

01/21/10 - PROW T49 – contact made with LCC footpaths officer and meeting arranged with Cllr Jenkins.

11/20/9 - Vexatious Complaints Policy – circulated to all Cllrs by email.

02/21/6

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- i. Cllr Grimes reported that a mini quad bike was being ridden in the recreation ground (King George Field) and had damaged the path surface and grass. Cllr Jenkins confirmed this had also happened in Moo Meadow. Cllr Gayton suggested new signs confirming no access to motorised vehicles be purchased and erected: 1 for Moo Meadow and 3 for the recreation ground. It was resolved that this should be done. **Action: Cllr Gayton and Cllr Jenkins**
- ii. Cllr Jenkins informed us that Orbit Housing had confirmed that they would be attending to the large leylandii trees at the rear of Cherry Orchard Close/Mill Gardens.
- iii. Cllr Jenkins confirmed membership of Leics. & Rutland Wildlife Trust and that once lockdown is lifted, they will send a representative to assess and advise on improvement that can be made to encourage biodiversity on Moo Meadow.
- iv. Cllr Gayton noted that the block paving on Main Street opposite No. 11 was sinking and needs attention. Clerk to report to LCC Highways. **Action: Parish Clerk**
- v. Cllr Gayton advised that the kissing gate had been installed replacing the stile adjacent to Elms Farm on PROW T52 and that he had received positive feedback from residents.

Cllrs Ould and Collett left the meeting at 7.20pm.

02/21/7

ITEMS TO BE TAKEN INTO PRIVATE SESSION

None

02/21/8

PLANNING

None

02/21/9

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND RESOLUTION

- i. Cllr Jenkins confirmed her meeting with PROW Officer Sarah Bowler had taken place and that the route of T49 would be addressed. She confirmed that Mr Collett had made improvements to the path entrance from Hilary Bevins Close into the field he leases from Mr Stew, the landowner. Cllr Jenkins had thanked Mr Collett in person and the clerk had sent a letter of thanks from the Parish Council.
- ii. Cllr Jenkins researched the idea of planting some Leicestershire species of fruit trees in the recreation area in the verged area parallel to Station Road which would provide free fruit to residents and bolster the biodiversity of the area. It was resolved that 6 be purchased at approx. £25 each and that the school be invited to assist with their planting in Autumn 2021.

iii. Grit Bins – there are 8 in the village, but only 5 are on contract with LCC to be filled annually. For a one of payment of £325 per bin the remaining can be added to the contract. Alternatively, we could purchase grit and fill them ourselves, but this is a task someone will have to do with manual handling involved. It was resolved to add the 3 bins to the LCC contract. **Action: Parish Clerk**

iv. Speed cameras: one working, one broken. It was agreed that the location on Nuneaton was still appropriate however Cllr Golder asked if the sign could be turned around to face traffic coming into the village not leaving. It was resolved that the broken camera be taken to be repaired with a view to purchasing another camera if the repair is not possible or un-economical. **Action: Cllr Gayton**

02/21/10 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Litter Bin Service Agreement 2021/2022. £1.65 per bin x 10 x 52 wks = £873.60 per annum or less if fortnightly emptying adopted.

An email had been received from a resident re the surveying of land behind Cherry Orchard Estate owned by Mr R Jones. Cllr Jenkins received no response to her enquiry to Mr Jones.

New Community Speed Initiative – information from Cllr Ould forwarded to all Councillors. Problem areas need to be identified and criteria met before LCC will take action. Clerk to review previous findings and investigate possibilities of assistance. **Action: Parish Clerk**

02/21/11 FINANCE

| Outgoings | Cheque | Minutes | inc | VAT | non | Date |
|---|--------|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| | No | | VAT | 17.50% | VAT | |
| BHIB Councils Insurance | Trf | 15.02.21 | £775.78 | | £775.78 | 20.01.20 |
| Microsoft Office 365 Annual Subscription | Trf | 15.02.21 | £79.99 | | £79.99 | 31.01.21 |
| HBBC - Quarterly Litter Bin Service Agreement | Trf | 15.02.21 | £205.92 | £34.32 | £171.60 | 31.01.21 |
| HBBC - Quarterly Litter Bin Service Agreement | Trf | 15.02.21 | £128.70 | £21.45 | £107.25 | 31.01.21 |

BALANCE AT BANK £21,941.31

Section 137 spend limit for 2021/22 is £8.41 per head x 685 (2018/19) on electoral role = £5760 max.

02/21/12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 29th March 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom. The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

07/04/2021