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BURTON OVERY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD – Tuesday 15th December 2020

Present : Cllr Carolyn Carson (Chairperson)
Cllr Kate Goddard
Cllr Dave Fletcher
Cllr Sarah Rankine
Cllr Bob Warwick

The Clerk and Phil Woodward (Clerk from 01.01.21)

20/307. Apologies – None

20/308. Questions from members of the public – Taken under item 20/311

20/309. Declarations of interest – None

20/310. Approval of Minutes 17.11.20 – Approved and signed

20/311. Matters arising not on the agenda – The Clerk reported that the blocked drain at the cross roads opposite the church, which was discharging water down Scotland Lane, had been raised with Highways and it would be cleared within 28 days. The continual erosion of the Scotland Lane road edge had again been raised with Highways and a response was awaited. The issue of the re-instatement of the road edges and small off-road triangle at the lower end of Scotland Lane, which had been agreed by the developers, was raised. Cllr Carson to follow up.

20/312. Emergency Covid information and measures arising between meetings – None

20/313. Replacement of Chairperson and recruitment of new Councillor – Cllr Carson reported that February was likely to be her last meeting. Cllr Fletcher proposed Cllr Warwick as replacement Chairperson, seconded by Cllr Rankine. There was unanimous approval and Cllr Warwick was thanked for undertaking this role. Handover to be discussed outside the meeting. Clerk to book Cllrs Warwick and Rankine onto Chairman's training.

It was agreed that no further action could be taken to recruit a new councillor until Cllr Carson had resigned. At this point the HDC Casual Vacancy procedures would be followed and the vacancy advertised on the notice boards, Whatsapp groups and email contact list.

DRAFT

20/314. Council asset safety checks – No safety issues to report.

20/315. Planning – Scotland House, Lower End – It was noted that this application had been refused by HDC and that all reasons given would have applied equally to the previously approved application. Clerk to inform users of Whatsapp and email contact groups.

20/316. Planning decisions – The following decisions were noted.

- a. Ref. No: 20/01745/TCA – Wheatridge, Main Street – Approved
- b. Ref. No: 20/01614/TCA - Sunnyside, Scotland Lane – Approved
- c. Ref. No: 20/01572/FUL - Land OS 9798 0203 0001, Carlton Lane - Withdrawn

It was agreed that the Carlton Lane application had demonstrated how important the Neighbourhood Plan (N.P) was and remains.

The revision of the N.P. could usefully reflect the increasing importance of open green spaces and swathes.

20/317. Finances

a. Payments of £52 (Clerk's homeworking allowance Oct – Dec) and £40.50 (Cllr Fletcher Christmas tree light expenses) were agreed.

In addition, payments of £22 (Climate Change conference) and £211.27 & £52.80 (Clerk's December net pay and PAYE) not on the agenda were agreed.

It was noted that debit card payments of £82 (village Christmas Tree) and £95.98 (replacement defibrillator pads and starter packs), agreed with the chairperson, had been made between meetings.

b. On-line bank statement – Payments of £14.39 (Zoom Pro), £52.80 (Clerk's PAYE Oct), £20 (training), £92 (SLCC annual membership) and £30 (broadband) were agreed. Clerk to investigate interruption of broadband contract while village hall is closed.

c. Christmas Tree – It was noted the total cost of tree and lights was well within the £150 allocated to this initiative and that funds for an additional battery pack for the lights around the church gate would be donated to the village hall committee for the benefit of the village.

d. Registration of Phil Woodward as Full Access Delegate and for on-line banking was agreed and forms signed.

e. Budget 2021 – 2022 – The Clerk reported that the HDC 2021-22 tax calculator had been received earlier that day and the precept for a budget set at £12,427 would be ££80.23, an increase of 21.1% over the previous year.

A budget of £12,427, proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Warwick was unanimously agreed.

20/318. Annual Review of Procedural Risk policy – The Clerk reported that changes made reflected the increased frequency of safety checks to monthly. Agreed and signed.

DRAFT

20/319. Annual Review of Personal Device Acceptable Use policy – Noted that no changes had been necessary - received and noted.

20/320. Community matters – to discuss matters arising – Noted that use of the defibrillator required replacement pads and starter pack to be purchased (Item 20/317 a.). Two sets had been ordered so that in case of use, there would always be a spare set which would be kept in the village hall cupboard.

It was agreed that annual CPR training would be resumed when Covid 19 restrictions were removed and that in the meantime, a useful reminder about how easy it was to access and use the defibrillator would be given in the next newsletter and on Whatsapp and email contact groups. The defibrillator would also be shown via Zoom at a parish council meeting.

It was agreed that all Whatsapp and contact groups would be reviewed in 2021.

20/321. Highways – village road safety – Cllr Warwick to forward HDC road safety pack to all councillors. Cllr Rankine to follow up.

20/322. Wildflower verges – Cllr Rankine reported that the application had been accepted. It was noted that the council would become responsible for the end of summer cut and removal of clippings and details would be discussed nearer to the time. Cllr Rankine to follow up.

20/323. Virtual Climate Change Action Day – Cllr Goddard reported on the conference attended. Cllr Goddard to begin a costed plan to be put to the parish council for consideration. The importance of community led initiatives involving people of influence in every generation and the necessity for any input by the council to be professional and informed, was noted.

20/324. Report on Parish Liaison Meeting – Cllr Warwick commented that the revision of the planning system white paper had been discussed at the meeting and parish councils were informed that HDC would come under real pressure if the annual housing requirement was raised from 557 this year to the proposed 1238. Road traffic issues had been a topic of interest for many councils but that compared with many other councils, Burton Overy appeared to have a very small problem usually.

20/325. Harbourough Local Plan consultation – Noted and agreed that it was barely relevant to Burton Overy and it was not necessary to respond.

20/326. Items for the next agenda – Precept 2021 – 2022, road safety, wildflower verges, newsletter items.

20/327. Date of next meeting - was agreed as 19th January 2021.

The meeting finished at 9.18pm

Signed

Date

Members of the public are invited to all Parish Council meetings