

26.01.21

Summonses to a virtual business meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held using 'Zoom' on Tuesday 26 January 2021, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members by e-mail on 20 January 2021 by the Clerk.

Agenda

As distributed.

2020/21/057

The Chairman of SPPC, Cllr David Cutts, declared the meeting open at 7.01 pm. He welcomed all present and thanked Cllr Culpin for setting up the meeting on 'Zoom'.

2020/21/058

Parishioners' Open Forum: there were no parishioners present.

2020/21/059

Apologies: none.

Parish Councillors present: Cllr D Cutts (Chairman): Cllrs T Burt, H Culpin, B O'Connell, L Taylor, S Taylor, A Mackenzie, H Jackson and B Perks.

Cllr J Norton (MDDC) was also present.

Cllr R Radford (DCC) and Cllr C Collis (MDDC) were not present. The Clerk confirmed that they had been invited to attend.

2020/21/060

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 November 2020 were accepted as a true record by the unanimous vote of Members that had been present.

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Parish Council held on 8 December 2020 were accepted as a true record by the unanimous vote of Members that had been present.

- pdf versions of these minutes will be sent to Cllr Culpin for posting on the website. The approved Minutes will be signed by Cllr Cutts at a later date.

- Matters arising: none.

- Declarations of Interests: none made.

2020/21/061

Planning matters: the Clerk had circulated a summary list of planning applications updated to 20 January 2021. Details noted, also an update re 21/00052/HOUSE (no objection by SPPC).

- 20/00748/FULL: change of use of land from commercial to residential use, including demolition of a building and erection of a single storey dwelling: 22 Lower Town.

Cllr Norton, having been asked to call this application into Committee if the Planning Officer is minded to grant permission under delegated powers, is awaiting a response from Alison Fish.

- Higher Town Appeal: Public Inquiry is now closed: we await the Inspector's decision following an exchange of submissions regarding the NE access to the site from Higher Town.

2020/21/062

Finance

a) Payments made since last business meeting (8.12.20): none.

b) Statement of Accounts: as at 1 December 2020 balances were as follows...

Business Reserve account: £3,967.35 (sheet 121)

Current account: £18,176.41 (sheet 351): Members noted that this balance now includes £888.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £194.00 held in the name of the Sampford Peverell Play Park Appeal. Members, who had been sent this Statement of Accounts on 21 January 2021, were asked to note

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2020/21/062, continued.....

that the Clerk had not received a statement from NatWest covering current account transactions in December 2020. A copy statement had been requested and Members would receive an updated statement of accounts as soon as possible. Members voted unanimously to accept the statement given, scans of the relevant bank statements (nos.121 and 351) having been sent to the Chairman on 21 January in order to demonstrate reconciliation.

c) Authority to pay accounts rendered:

- i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary 12/20 & 1/21: £641.60
- ii) M J Aspray: Clerk's expenses to 31.12.20: £57.80
- iii) Bernard O'Connell: toilets locking (70 days @ £2.00 per day): £140.00 \*\*
- iv) Bernard O'Connell: toilets cleaning (70 days @ £7.00 per day): £490.00 \*\* ##
- v) Peter Bowers: agreed contribution towards Christmas Tree expenses  
(December 2020): £17.50
- vi) Citizen's Advice (Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon): donation 2020/21:  
£50.00
- vii) Mid Devon Mobility: donation 2020/21: £50.00
- viii) Aero Healthcare Ltd: defibrillator and external cabinet (for Higher Town):  
£1,637.03
- ix) MDDC: grass cutting 2020/21 season: £1,872.20

\*\* for the period 21.11.20 to 29.1.21 (10 weeks (70 days))  
## to be charged to MDDC

Nine cheques to be issued with unanimous approval of Members.

[Note 1. Details/invoices sent to Members re items ii), iii), iv), viii) and ix) on 20 January.

- 2. A credit note was issued by MDDC in the sum of £1,872.20 on 26 January (and received by the Clerk on 29 January). A revised invoice in the reduced sum of £1,471.24 was issued at the same time. This lower sum was paid in lieu of that agreed at ix) above and the original cheque cancelled.]

d) other finance matters: none.

2020/21/063

Public Convenience Development Group: the new subcommittee (Cllrs O'Connell, Cutts, S Taylor and Jackson) has had no collective involvement since the August SPPC meeting, but Cllr Cutts was able to announce that MDDC had increased its offer to £6,300.00 upon surrender of the lease. It is hoped to be able to complete the surrender on 31 March 2021. Cllr Cutts reported that Mr Elkins has left the village: there is therefore the need to obtain three quotations for the proposed initial works to convert the gent's section into two cubicles. Bernard O'Connell continues to clean the disabled toilet on a daily basis (the gent's and ladies' sections remaining closed) combining this work with daily locking and unlocking. He has submitted further invoices for this and for the cleaning and light maintenance for the 70-day period of 21 November 2020 to 29 January 2021. These invoices have been submitted, and the payments involved authorised by this meeting.

2020/21/064

Climate Change issues: Cllr Burt had circulated his draft response to the Devon Carbon Plan. Members confirmed their agreement that this document can go forward to represent the views of SPPC, Cllr Burt being authorised to sign it and complete an accompanying questionnaire. It was agreed that Cllr Burt will represent SPPC in the Culm Valley group.

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2020/21/065

Reports from Working Group (WG) Chairmen and holders of individual portfolios:

- a) Communications and Engagement WG: Cllrs Culpin and Jackson had nothing to report.
- b) Roads, Pavements and Paths (Environmental) WG: Cllr Burt reported a change in the PRoW Officer (DCC) covering the parish, Richard Spurway having taken over from Stuart Howell.

The issue of potholes in village roads was raised. Members were asked to report these problems direct to DCC Highways via the website address given in 'Parish News'.

- c) Affordable Housing WG: Cllr Culpin had nothing to report. All concerned are awaiting the outcome of the Higher Town Appeal.

d) Snow Warden: Cllr S Taylor has used some of the salt stock held to fill grit bins around the village. He has also left a supply at the Surgery. Regarding the remainder of the stock held he proposes offering bags at £1 each for parishioners' use, will consider Cllr Jackson's suggested use at the Canal bridge and access ramp at Chains Road and, at Cllr O'Connell's suggestion, store the remainder in the unused ladies' toilet area at the Play Park. It was suggested that the Churches and the School might appreciate a supply. Cllrs O'Connell and S Taylor will meet to discuss the disposal of the deteriorating stock held.

e) Tidiness: Cllr Burt had nothing further to report on the possibility of a village litter pick because MDDC cannot make the necessary equipment available due to the continuing Covid-19 crisis. Cllr Mackenzie reported that he had picked litter in Lower Town and Station Road, attracting comments from interested parishioners.

f) Defibrillator maintenance: Cllr S Taylor has registered his name in connection with the defibrillators already installed with the Ambulance service. He will also check the heater in the unit at the village hall. It was agreed that the cheque to be issued in payment for the new defibrillator in Higher Town will be passed to him. He will then place the order and arrange for the installation and testing. (It was noted that the caretaker, who could have installed the defibrillator, being a retired electrician, has left his post at the School.)

2020/21/066

Other highways and village matters:

a) grant from the Parish Magazine team: the Clerk had circulated on 4 January the news that £2,200.00 had been allocated as a grant to SPPC. Members had been asked to suggest what projects of benefit to the local community might be supported. In addition to making a contribution to the new Higher Town defibrillator, Cllr Burt asked if some of this money could be used to fund the purchase of trees for planting in the village as a contribution to carbon reduction. Planting of suitable trees in private gardens as well as in the open countryside could be considered.

Suitable trees for private gardens (say, fruit trees) could cost about £25.00 each: Cllr Burt thought they could be made available in batches of ten per year. He will seek further advice from Peter Bowers. Cllr O'Connell will speak to local farmers.

Cllr O'Connell suggested the creation of a Memorial Window for the Village Hall and Cllr S Taylor supported a village sign in the centre of the village.

b) dog/litter bins: three damaged/defective dog bins reported by Cllr L Taylor are to be examined by MDDC staff. An application for an additional litter/dog bin on Station Road (as recommended by Cllr L Taylor) has been made to MDDC.

2020/21/067

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members:

Cllr Radford (DCC) was not present but had written a report on County issues which has been circulated to Members by the Clerk. It was largely concerned with budget issues.

Cllr Collis (MDDC) was not present.

Cllr Norton (MDDC) reported on the work of the Environment Policy Development Group which is looking to move refuse collection to once per three weeks, employing black bags  
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2020/21/067 continued.....

as at present, or wheelie bins (which would restrict the volume that could be disposed of). Cllr Norton confirmed her involvement with the SOL application for development at 22 Lower Town: see 2020/21/061, above. She also spoke of the Ward boundary changes effective from 2023 in which the parish of Uplowman will move into Canonsleigh Ward.

2020/21/068

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

- a) VH & RG Charity Committee: Cllr Cutts reported that the Hall remains closed. The conifers on the southern boundary of the Whitnage Road Sports Field have been reduced by Hi-Line acting to protect overhead power lines on behalf of WPD.
- b) Canal Advisory Committee: the monthly newsletters of the Friends of the Grand Western Canal for December 2020 and January 2021 have been circulated by the Clerk. Mark Baker has explained the reasons for the use of metal poles at the access ramp from Whitnage Road. No further action envisaged.
- c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin reported that the Committee will meet in February, with a public meeting in March, both employing 'Zoom'.
- d) SP & District Twinning Association: Cllr L Taylor had nothing to report.
- e) Tree Wardens: the Clerk read to the meeting a report from Peter Bowers. He is shortly to collect three apple trees for the Community Orchard, their purchase having been funded from Cllr Radford's Locality Budget as part of the wildflower meadow development. Working as individuals because of Covid-19, the Wardens will plant these trees and carry out essential pruning in the orchard, as well as coppicing willows on the edge of the orchard. They will also continue to deal with bramble growth in various locations around the village. The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Bowers to express the thanks of SPPC for his work in providing and installing the Christmas Tree. The meeting expressed thanks to Cllr O'Connell for his work assisting Mr Bowers.

2020/21/069

Correspondence has been circulated by e-mail: noted. The meeting discussed the recent communication from MDDC regarding the Public Spaces Protection Order as applicable to closed churchyards in the village. The Order allows for a range of restrictions for publicly accessible land to control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners permitting dogs on leads or imposing a total ban on dogs. Cllr O'Connell felt that this is not an issue at the Parish churchyard, but the Clerk will refer the MDDC enquiry to representatives of both churches.

2020/21/070

Other matters by leave of the Chair: none.

2020/21/071

It was noted and agreed that the next bimonthly business meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 23 March 2021. It will be virtual meeting using 'Zoom'.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.