

24.1.22

Summonses to a business meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held in the main hall at the Memorial Hall, Lower Town on Monday 24 January 2022, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members by e-mail on 18 January 2022 by the Clerk.

Agenda

As distributed, but with one additional payment (re tree works in The Brendons) to be made, as notified to Members by e-mail on 19 January 2022.

2021/22/086

The Chairman, Cllr David Cutts, declared the meeting open at 7.03 pm. He welcomed Cllr Jo Norton (MDDC Ward Member) and SPPC Members present. Members were aware of the risk assessment for meetings of the Parish Council which had been updated and circulated.

2021/22/087

Parishioners' Open Forum: not held because there were no parishioners present.

2021/22/088

Apologies: Cllr R Radford (DCC Division Member) (Covid precautions)

Parish Councillors present: Cllr D Cutts (Chairman): Cllr H Culpin (Vice-Chair):

Cllrs T Burt, B O'Connell, S Taylor, B Perks, A Williams and E Castle.

also present: Cllr Jo Norton (MDDC Ward Member)

Cllr C Collis (MDDC Ward Member) was not present. The Clerk confirmed that an invitation and agenda had been sent to her.

2021/22/089

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 November 2021 and of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Parish Council held on 6 December 2021: both unanimously approved by those present as true records and both signed by the Chairman.

- Matters arising: none

- Declarations of Interests: none made.

2021/22/090

Planning matters: the Clerk had circulated a summary list of planning applications updated to 17 January 2022. Details noted.

The Clerk was asked to submit a response to MDDC regarding planning application 21/02081/FULL in support of the proposal, noting that, from data provided by the applicant, external radiated noise would not be a problem in the location concerned, also the agreement with the applicant that vehicular access would be via Shutehanger and Willand.

A response to application 22/00040/MARM would be made by the Clerk and will incorporate stated objections by local residents, in particular regarding the relocated play area and the loss of daylight to 44 Higher Town.

The Clerk reminded Members of the series of training sessions on various planning issues being provided by MDDC using 'Zoom'.

The Chairman wished to place on record his thanks to Cllr S Taylor who has taken on the lead role in examining new planning applications.

2021/22/091

Finance

(a) Payments made since last meeting (6.12.21):

i) Npower Commercial Gas Ltd: electricity account 17.12.21: £26.72

ii) DALC: invoice 3464 re training: £96.00

continued.....

2021/22/091(a) continued.....

- iii) Peter Bowers: refund of 50% of cost of Christmas Tree: £20.00
- iv) Pip & Stone Ltd: balance outstanding for fruit trees purchase (invoice 2374): £371.28
- four payments noted.

(b) Statement of Accounts: report dated 21 January 2022: balances were as follows...

Business Reserve account: £3,967.74 (sheet 125)

Current account (at 10 January 2022): £28,155.67 (sheet 363A): Members noted that this balance now includes £888.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £105.00 held in the name of the Sampford Peverell Play Park Appeal. Members voted unanimously to accept the statement given. The relevant bank statements (nos.125 and 363A) were agreed by the Chairman to demonstrate reconciliation.

(c) authority to pay accounts rendered:

- i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary 12/21 & 1/22: £650.00
- ii) Bernard O'Connell: toilets daily locking and cleaning (62 days @ £12.00 per day): £744.00 **
** for the period 1.12.21 to 31.1.22 (62 days)
- iii) Npower Commercial Gas Ltd: electricity account for December 2021: £37.79
- iv) Mr Samuel Manaton: tree works in The Brendons (on 18.1.22): £810.00

It was noted that Cllr O'Connell will submit a claim to cover:

- a) purchase of cleaning materials for toilets,
- b) additional labour following the criminal damage to the disabled toilet, and
- c) travel costs associated with the collection of fruit trees.

(d) charitable donations for 2021/22 to be paid. The Clerk sought clarification of the decisions taken at the recent Finance Committee meeting. It was confirmed that £50.00 will be donated to Mid Devon Mobility and £100.00 to CHAT, with no donation to Citizens Advice Bureau.

(e) 2022 donation from Parish Magazine: a donation of £2,200.00 towards community projects will be made following a decision on a suitable project. The Parish Council wishes to place on public record its thanks and appreciation for this. The meeting believes that work to promote road safety by reducing vehicle speeds in the village would be worthwhile and could include signage and the creation of gateways. A recent survey of vehicle speeds is to be discussed with the Highways Authority (DCC) and the Police. And it may be that DCC will provide funding or equipment. It is thus too early to state specific financial needs of SPPC.

[Cllr Perks left the meeting at 7.50 pm]

2021/22/092

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

a) Communications and Engagement (publicity): Social media WG: Cllr Culpin reported that, following the notice of retirement of the present Clerk and RFO, advertisements for the vacancy for a Clerk have been placed in 'Parish News' and on the website. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Culpin for putting together a job description and application form.

continued.....

2021/22/092 continued.....

b) Climate change and environmental issues WG:

- Cllr Burt reported that the fruit trees had been collected from the grower. All (totalling 43 trees) had been distributed. The Clerk has written to Peter Bowers thanking him for placing the orders and arranging payments for the trees.
- Cllr Burt is now working to claim from DCC, under its Emergency Tree Fund, about 500 native broad-leaved whips. He is seeking planting sites in SP and adjacent parishes. Under this scheme, the whips are supplied and planted free of charge: DCC will also look after the trees for the first five years, with the landowner agreeing to leave the trees for a minimum of a further 15 years.
- Cllr Burt continues to maintain a watch on outflow data from the SP wastewater treatment works. He was sorry to report that in a recent national survey the Culm is reported as the eight worst polluted river in the whole country.

c) Roads, Pavements and Paths (Environmental) WG: Cllrs Burt, Williams and Castle:

- vehicle speeds have been monitored in Lower Town and Turnpike: Cllr Castle has circulated detailed data that demonstrates that significant numbers of vehicles are exceeding the speed limit of 30 mph. The engineer who set up the tests is to discuss the results, acting on behalf of the “20 is Plenty” group of parishioners, with DCC Highways staff.
- a posting by the Police on Facebook reporting that no vehicles had been found to be exceeding the speed limit in the village is to be queried by the Clerk to establish when and where the observations were made.
- grass cutting in 2022/23: Cllr Burt questioned the work that MDDC is proposing to do in Station Road: strimming the grass verge does not remove bramble and nettle growth from the adjacent hedge. This growth obstructs the footway, sufficient to cause pedestrians to have to step out into the road. Cllr Burt will meet an officer from MDDC on site to agree the way forward for keeping the footway in Station Road clear. The Clerk will confirm with MDDC that other verges will be cut three times during the year as in 2021/22.

d) Public Convenience Development Group: Cllrs Cutts, O’Connell and Taylor:

- a quotation received from local builder, Andy Brown, in the sum of £2,395, has been accepted. A site visit is to be arranged and it is hoped that work can start at the end of February 2022.
- Cllr O’Connell reported that the disabled toilet has been open since 1 December 2021.
- Utility accounts as received have been paid.
- Cllr O’Connell has been paid for daily locking and cleaning for the months of December 2021 and January 2022.
- accounts for repairs and for materials used, and for additional labour following the criminal damage, will be paid on the basis of claims made at the meeting.

e) Affordable Housing WG: Cllr Culpin’s written report to Members states that while contact between the CLT and Edenstone has been made, there is no commitment on either side.

f) Snow Warden: Cllr Taylor reported that there remains about 60 bags of salt left in store. The School has asked for ten bags.

g) Tidiness: Cllr Burt and Members agreed the date for the next litter pick as 23 April 2022, which will be confirmed when booked with MDDC.

h) Defibrillator maintenance: Cllr S Taylor reported that all three defibrillators in the village are OK. They are now all registered on the national database, “SURCUIT”.

continued.....

2021/22/093

Other highways and village matters:

- a) tree works in The Brendons: the works agreed at the November meeting of SPPC have been completed.
- b) additional litter/dog bin on Station Road: this is now in place
- c) vandalism/ASB/criminal damage in the village: damage to the decorations on the village Christmas Tree and to residents' Christmas decorations in their gardens has continued. There has been a report of an attack on a youngster by a group of boys and a girl in the play park, with a threat of stabbing being overheard.
- d) book swap kiosk: Cllr Culpin reported that painting of the exterior of the kiosk will now have to be done when the weather is drier later in the year.
- e) Jubilee celebrations: Mr Howitt has asked the PC what events are being planned to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Perks has already offered her assistance. At the meeting, Cllrs Williams, Taylor and O'Connell offered to help. An initial meeting between these Members will be convened to produce an outline plan, possibly involving other parishioners and including a party (Village Hall Committee/Sports Field management), open gardens (the Garden Club) and lighting of the beacon.
- f) Chains Road name sign: the name sign has been reported missing by a local resident and details of its original location supplied by Cllr Taylor. The Clerk to contact MDDC to arrange replacement.

2021/22/094

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members:

Cllr Norton confirmed her involvement with the planning officer regarding the SP2 application, acting on behalf of the residents of 44 Higher Town and their right to light. She also spoke of the "Slow down" signs produced by the school in Burlescombe. It is believed that these signs should not invalidate the existing 30 mph speed limit.

Cllr Radford's report had been circulated before the meeting.

2021/22/095

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

- a) VH & RG Charity Committee: Cllr Cutts reported that bookings are good.
- b) Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee: Cllr Cutts reported the work of the Rangers in the parish, including the laying of the hedge next to the tennis courts, fitting the new name signs on the two Canal bridges and an extra seat in the Country Park, as well as rustic fencing at the side of the Community Orchard. The monthly newsletters of the Friends of the Grand Western Canal continue to be circulated by the Clerk. Each includes a detailed report by Mark Baker outlining work done by the Ranger and volunteer teams.
- c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin has circulated her report on Society activities.
- d) SP & District Twinning Association: Cllr Castle reported the cancellation of a Cheese and Wine party.

continued.....

2021/22/095 continued.....

e) Tree Wardens: Peter Bowers' report has been circulated. It refers in particular to the assistance given to the Canal Rangers and their volunteer team in the hedge laying adjacent to the tennis courts, also the planting of 300 beech saplings on the southern boundary of the sports field.

2021/22/096

All correspondence received has been circulated by e-mail: noted.

An enquiry from a land agent asking if the Parish Council wishes to "maximise land value and development opportunities" to assist meeting the government's target for new homes. Members asked the Clerk to respond stating that there is no wish to develop housing on the Whitnaga Road sports field.

2021/22/097

Other matters by leave of the Chairman:

- Cllr Cutts reminded Members of the vacancy on the Parish Council. He expressed his thanks to Cllr Culpin for her work assessing the reserved matters application for the SP2 site.
- the vacancy for a Clerk and RFO has been placed on the DALC website.
- the meeting agreed the usual donations of wine for the parishioners responsible for maintaining the planters and surrounding areas, The Clerk to organise.
- Cllr O'Connell reported a phone call received at the beginning of the meeting. There is a large water leak in Higher Town. Mr Heeley has reported it to South West Water, only to be told that DCC Highways had not given permission for the road to be closed to enable repairs to be carried out. Clerk to investigate.

2021/22/098

Next general business meeting of SPPC will be on 21 March 2022.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.