

26.03.19

Summonses to the bi-monthly business Meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 26 March 2019 in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall, Lower Town, Sampford Peverell, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members by e-mail on 19 March 2019.

Agenda

As distributed.

2018/19/086

The Chairman, Cllr David Cutts, opened the meeting at 7.05 pm and welcomed Cllr R Radford (DCC), Cllrs H Bainbridge and C Collis (MDDC) and the Members present.

2018/19/087

Parishioners' Open Forum: no members of the public were present.

2018/19/088

Apologies: Cllrs L Taylor and A Mackenzie. Cllr H Culpin had apologised for possible late arrival but in the event was unable to get to the meeting.

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr D Cutts, Chairman:

Cllrs I Adlington, T Burt, J Disney and B O'Connell.

2018/19/089

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2019 were unanimously approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- Matters arising: Cllr Burt stated the need for 30-mph repeater signs in the areas covered by the recent extension of the 30-mph limit in Lower Town and Station Road. The positioning of 30-mph signs was questioned, with the need for better signage in both Lower Town and Station Road. Speeding traffic has been observed, with drivers possibly unaware of the recent extension of the 30-mph limit.

The Clerk was asked to discuss the matter with Ian Sorenson (DCC Highways) rather than to involve the Police at this stage.

- Declarations of Interests: none made.

2018/19/090

Planning matters: applications considered by sub-committee/planning decisions notified by MDDC/Appeals notified/new applications and matters notified after 19 March 2019 and enforcement matters: see attached spreadsheet (Planning Applications - January 2019 to March 2019). Details noted. The Clerk has not received notification from MDDC of the approval of 19/00085/CAT, although MDDC's website shows that approval for the works has been given.

It was noted that the Placelands application for development at Higher Town/Turnpike, which is to be determined by MDDC's Planning Committee, has again been delayed and will not be heard on 3 April.

2018/19/091

Finance

a) Payments made since last meeting (15.1.19) as listed under item 5(a) on the meeting agenda.....

001442	10.2.19	SP VH Charity: Play Park insurance 2019	£604.54
001443	8.3.19	SP VH Charity: Grant 2018/19 (2 of 2)	£1,000.00
001444	8.3.19	P Bowers: refund re Tree Wardens' expenses	£49.97

Three payments already made as above.....noted.

continued.....

2018/19/091 continued.....

b) Statement of Accounts: as at 1 March 2019 balances were as follows...

Business Reserve account: £3,956.67 (sheet 114)

Current account: £6,823.57 (sheet 320): Members noted that this balance now includes £938.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £1,312.87 held in the name of the Sampford Peverell Play Park Appeal.

Reconciliation to bank statements was demonstrated and the Clerk's statement unanimously accepted.

c) Authority to pay accounts rendered:

(i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary for February and March 2019: £570.00

(ii) M J Aspray: Clerk's expenses to 26.3.19 as presented to the meeting: £32.66

Two cheques issued with the unanimous agreement of Members.

d) Finance correspondence:

- Members unanimously approved the transfer of the Parish Magazine's donation of £1,680.00 to the Village Hall Charity, being a contribution towards the costs of a fence on the eastern side of the Playing Field, once their cheque had cleared.

- letters of thanks for donations received from Citizens' Advice (Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon) and from Mid Devon Mobility noted.

- letter from Love Musgrove (re MRI scanner appeal, which has reached its £1,000,000 target) noted.

- Council Tax increase for Sampford Peverell: stated by MDDC on bills to be 10.8% but the increase in parish precept is only 6.06%. The explanation offered, a reduction from 2018/19 to 2019/20 of 14.11 band D equivalent properties, is to be clarified by the Council Tax department.

e) Play Park finances: the Village Hall Charity is to take over the finances of the Play Park.

The Parish Council presently holds a balance of £1,312.87 (see minute 2018/19/091 b) above) plus the un-paid balance of a grant to the Play Park Appeal of £369.00. In addition, the next claim for refund of VAT to be made should include the VAT paid on Play Park purchases. On the proposal of Cllr Disney, seconded by Cllr Cutts and agreed *nem con*, the Clerk is authorised to transfer relevant funds when requested by the Play Park Committee. It was pointed out that payments made each month by Standing Order under the Giving Scheme to the Play Park Appeal will need to be made to the Village Hall Charity direct instead of to the Parish Council as at present.

f) Viridor legal charge: investigation is still ongoing.

2018/19/092

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

a) Communications and Engagement WG: no report received.

b) Roads, Pavements and Paths WG: grass cutting in 2019/20: it appears that for 2019/20, MDDC will charge £291.86 per cut for the first four cuts (the contribution of DCC reduces the cost to this figure for just 4 cuts a year). Additional cuts will cost SPPC £724 per cut. Bernie O'Connell expressed interest in quoting for this work: he will submit his proposal by e-mail within a fortnight of the meeting.

The meeting agreed with Cllr Disney that, in consideration of the annual cost for grass cutting, another external quotation should be obtained.

c) Affordable Housing WG: no report received. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the AGM of the CLT is to be held on Saturday 30 March 2019 at 2.30 pm.

d) Snow Warden: Cllr Adlington had nothing to report.

e) Tidiness: the spring litter pick will take place on Saturday 13 April. Cllr Burt will work with Cllr Cutts to organise equipment for the event (which has been advertised in the Parish Magazine).

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2018/19/093

Other highways and village matters:

a) Public toilets: the Chairman thanked Cllrs Disney and O'Connell who had met with Steve Densham (MDDC). The toilets are now re-opened, but they are locked during hours of darkness. Three keys have been provided: they are held by Cllr O'Connell, his assistant, and Cllr Cutts. Bernie is keeping an eye on the building. Cleaning and power problems have been resolved, with no further vandalism observed.

Cllr Disney proposed the setting up of a group to consider the future of this important parish amenity. Cllr O'Connell seconded this and other Members agreed *nem con*.

b) Emergency Plan development: deferred.

c) trees in the Play Park: Cllr Cutts proposed that the Parish Council should engage A. M. Lane Ltd to conduct a survey of the trees in the Play Park with a request to report on their safety and recommended action, accepting their quotation dated 9 March 2019. This was seconded by Cllr Disney and agreed *nem con*. Cllr Cutts to contact Tony Lane.

2018/19/094

General Data Protection Regulation: the process of drawing up a statement of policy for SPPC was again deferred.

2018/19/095

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members: Cllrs Radford, Bainbridge and Collis had nothing to report.

Cllr Disney, referring to the contractors working on the highway on the approach to the NDLR overbridge, reported vehicle wheel ruts in the grass verges, and asked that the contractors be asked to tidy up the mess they had made. Cllr Radford undertook to contact the appropriate DCC staff.

Cllr Radford reminded the Parish Council of his Locality Budget: he had authorised a grant of £1,000.00 towards the sports ground fence.

[Cllrs Radford, Bainbridge and Collis then left the meeting (at 8.30 pm)]

2018/19/096

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

a) VH & RG Charity Committee: Cllr Adlington had circulated the minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting that had been held on 6 March. The delivery of new chairs and tables for the Committee Room was confirmed. Cllr Adlington additionally reported the grant from Cllr Radford's Locality Budget for the sports field fence. Work will start in April.

b) Canal Advisory Committee: Cllr Cutts had not received a report from Mark Baker, but the February and March newsletters of the Friends of the GW Canal had been circulated: both contain updates from Mark Baker.

Cllr Burt reported that the Canal towpath between Boehill and Holbrook Bridges was in a poor state. The Clerk was asked to pass this on to Mark Baker.

c) Sampford Peverell Society: no report received.

d) SP & District Twinning Association: Cllr Taylor had circulated the minutes of the most recent Committee meeting (held on 3 February 2019). The visit to France this summer is being planned.

e) Tree Wardens: no report received. It was acknowledged that the bank on the south side of Turnpike had been greatly improved by the cutting back of bramble growth.

f) Play Park Committee: Cllr Disney had circulated her report which included details of a very successful Quiz evening and acknowledged the 'Globe Inn' which had donated all the hot food. The 'Picnic in the Park' will be held on Sunday 30 June 2019.

2018/19/097

Correspondence has been circulated by e-mail: noted.

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2018/19/098

Vacant seat and Local Government elections 2 May 2019: the Chairman confirmed that Cllr Holland had resigned for family health reasons effective 31 January 2019. Because of the timing within 6 months of elections, no attempt to fill her seat was made.

The Clerk has already written to Mrs Holland thanking her for her services to the Parish Council and in particular for her work in overseeing the recently completed Lower Town/Station Road improvements.

The Clerk explained the procedure for the Local Government elections due to take place on 2 May 2019. Nomination packs had already been distributed to all present 8 Members (none having indicated that they would not be seeking re-election). The absolute deadline for return of completed nominations is 3 April (4 pm). Members were urged to deliver the papers in person at Phoenix House ahead of this deadline so that any errors or omissions could be dealt with and the papers re-submitted ahead of the deadline.

The Clerk explained that if there are nine or fewer successful nominations there would be no election (with considerable saving in expenses). It would then be possible to co-opt parishioners to fill vacant seats. [Recent advice from MDDC is that this must be done within 35 working days of the election.]

2018/19/099

Other matters by leave of the Chairman:

Cllr O'Connell reported that he will be able to deal with the tree problems raised by Cllr Mackenzie at the previous meeting.

2018/19/100

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 7 May 2019 starting at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall. This will be the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, being the first business meeting of the new council and the first meeting of the 2019/20 municipal year.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.42 pm.