

22.09.20

Summonses to a virtual business meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held using 'Zoom' on Tuesday 22 September 2020, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members by e-mail on 15 September 2020.

Agenda

As distributed.

2020/21/015

In the absence of the Chairman of SPPC, Cllr David Cutts, Members present unanimously agreed that Cllr Heather Culpin should Chair the meeting. Cllr Culpin took the Chair and declared the meeting open at 7.00 pm, welcoming all present. In taking over as the meeting host, she thanked Cllr Jackson for setting up the meeting.

2020/21/016

New Members. The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Jackson and Perks had completed Declarations of Acceptance of Office. Their completed Declarations of Registerable Interests have been deposited with the Monitoring Officer at MDDC. Cllr Jackson was welcomed to her first meeting as a Member.

2020/21/017

Parishioners' Open Forum: there were no parishioners present. It was agreed that Mr Mike Rowe would address then meeting during the discussion of planning issues.

2020/21/018

Apologies: Cllrs D Cutts, B O'Connell and B Perks

Parish Councillors present:

Chair and meeting host: Cllr H Culpin

and Cllrs T Burt, H Jackson, A Mackenzie, L Taylor and S Taylor.

Cllr J Norton (MDDC)

Cllr R Radford (DCC) and Cllr C Collis (MDDC) joined the meeting later (with apologies for lateness)

Mr Mike Rowe was also present.

2020/21/019

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 August 2020 were accepted as a true record on the proposal of Cllr Burt, seconded by Cllr L Taylor and agreed *nem con*. A pdf version will be sent to Cllr Culpin for posting on the website. The approved Minutes will be signed by Cllr Cutts (who chaired that meeting) following his return from holiday.

- Matters arising: Cllr S Taylor will accept the role of Snow Warden (for which he was thanked).

- Declarations of Interests: none made.

2020/21/020

Planning matters: the Clerk had circulated a summary list of planning applications updated to 18 September 2020.

It was noted that the Higher Town Planning Inquiry is now due to start on 1 December 2020 with a newly appointed Inspector, Helen Heward, to lead the Inquiry.

The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP): it was noted that MDDC is no longer participating in the original scheme, but that MDDC is keen to continue participation in a similar scheme following a series of sackings and appointments to the MDDC Cabinet by Leader, Cllr Deed.

Cllr Burt warned the meeting that Members need to keep a careful eye on any future developments. Cllr Jo Norton (MDDC Ward Member) promised to remain vigilant on this issue.

continued.....

2020/21/020, continued

Planning matters:

20/01333/FULL & 20/01334/LBC: reinstatement of side access, including realignment of boundary wall: Merriemeade Hotel, 1 Lower Town. The Chair observed that whilst work that was obviously repairs and maintenance would not have been of concern to parishioners, the works that had been carried out without planning permission (demolition of the road frontage wall, earth works to create an access on the east side of the building, with removal of vegetation, trees and bushes) did attract attention and action leading to the stop being ordered by MDDC's planning enforcement officer. Mr Rowe explained that the work that is continuing on the site, the construction of a retaining wall, is vitally necessary to ensure that rain does not result in the undermining of the foundations of the building.

Mr Rowe went on to explain that the works were necessary to improve delivery arrangements and to avoid brewers' drays having to park on the main road. Ensuing discussion included the suggestion that the reconstructed wall adjacent to the new entrance should be lower and with the original railings to improve visibility for vehicles leaving. The use of the word 'reinstate' was queried, since the original entrance appears to be only a footpath. There was concern that the proposed driveway extending to the rear boundary, while providing alternative access to the fields to the rear, would create a health and safety hazard for children playing in the beer garden. It was suggested that a wall across the driveway would overcome this. There were fears expressed that delivery vehicles could damage the telegraph pole, affecting electrical supply to local properties.

Mr Rowe undertook to get his architect to address these issues with the view to submitting revised drawings to MDDC.

In the meantime, the Clerk will write to MDDC in response to the consultation (deadline 28 September) conveying Members' observations from their site visits.

[Cllrs R Radford (DCC) and C Collis (MDDC) joined the meeting at 7.20 pm]

20/01485/CAT: notification of intention to crown lift one copper beech tree by 4m, reduce the height by 3m and shape by 2m within the Conservation Area: 11 Boobery. Several Members commented that this work was indeed necessary and on the proposal of Cllr L Taylor, seconded by Cllr Culpin, and agreed *nem con*, the Parish Council supports this application.

2020/21/021

Finance

a) Payments made since last business meeting (11.8.20): none.

b) Statement of Accounts: as at 31 August 2020 balances were as follows...

Business Reserve account: £3,967.25 (sheet 120)

Current account: £11,089.42 (sheet 347A): Members noted that this balance now includes £888.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £155.00 held in the name of the Sampford Peverell Play Park Appeal.

Reconciliation to scanned bank statements e-mailed to Cllr Culpin was demonstrated and the Clerk's statement unanimously accepted.

c) Authority to pay accounts rendered:

(i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary 8/20 & 9/20: £641.60

(ii) M J Aspray: Clerk's expenses to 17.8.20: £58.35 (as per claim submitted on 10.9.20)

(iii) SPPCC: annual grant re churchyard: £300.00

(iv) SP Methodist Church: annual grant re churchyard: £70.00

The meeting unanimously agreed to issue four payments by cheque.

Cllr Mackenzie asked for details of the payments made to the Village Hall Charity for room hire at the last meeting of SPPC. Clerk to respond.

continued.....

2020/21/022

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. The Clerk reminded Members that the hand-over of the toilets by MDDC to SPPC, due initially in April but put back to July because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the surrender of the lease of the land, had not taken place. Legal advice was that the conditions applied by MDDC were unreasonable. The toilets have not been maintained in good order in breach of the conditions of the lease. It has now become clear that the £5,000 offered to SPPC upon surrender of the lease is to come from S106 monies (rather than from MDDC funds). A further complication is that MDDC considers that the proposed works constitute repairs and maintenance, which rules out the use of S106 monies. The Chairman has written to MDDC seeking clarification. The response from Steve Densham has been circulated to Members.

Bernard O'Connell has submitted invoices for unlocking and locking of the play park public conveniences from 24.7.20 to 21.9.20 and for cleaning and light maintenance for the same period. (Since the play park has re-opened, only the disabled toilet is in use. Mr O'Connell is cleaning this on a daily basis, combining this work with daily locking and unlocking. The ladies' and gents' sections remain locked.) The invoices were submitted too late to be included in the payments to be issued by this meeting.

2020/21/023

Climate Change Emergency policies:

Cllr Burt had nothing to report.

2020/21/024

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

- a) Communications and Engagement WG: Cllr Jackson suggested the use of social media to advertise the business of future SPPC meetings. Cllr Culpin spoke of the possibility of setting up a Facebook page for PC activities ahead of the next meeting. Cllr Jackson offered her assistance in this.
- b) Roads, Pavements and Paths WG: Cllr Burt has reported various footpath issues to the PRoW officer at DCC, the latest being the flooding of the bridleway at Newhill Farm. Cllr Burt also reported the obstruction of the footway in Lower Town caused by the parking of cars during a recent Saturday football competition day. Cllr L Taylor suggested the use of boulders to prevent parking at the corner of Whitnage Road/Lower Town.
- c) Affordable Housing WG: Cllr Culpin reported that the CLT remains unable to secure suitable land. It is hoped that an AGM can soon be organised.
- d) Snow Warden: Cllr S Taylor has examined the stock of salt, which he found to be in a poor condition. He believes that the spreader is OK and is to examine the state of the various salt bins in the village.
- e) Tidiness: Cllr Burt has investigated with MDDC the possibility of holding a litter pick in October, but the necessary equipment cannot be made available due to the Covid-19 crisis.

2020/21/025

Other highways and village matters:

- a) cutting of road-side verges: MDDC has advised that the cut due in August was completed on 13 August. Cllr Burt stated that hedges adjacent to the footway in Station Road are causing obstruction and need cutting back.
- b) Cllr L Taylor reported the need for pot-hole repairs in Boobery. Cllr Radford recommended use of the reporting system on the DCC website.
- c) Hedges in Whitnage Road are obstructing the footway. Cllr Mackenzie will speak to the householders concerned.

continued.....

2020/21/025, continued.....

d) It was reported that stickers on the defibrillators have faded. Cllr Cutts to be asked to follow this up with the equipment supplier. Cllr S Taylor suggested that an article in 'Parish News' giving their location details would be useful.

2020/21/026

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members: Cllr Radford has written a report on County issues which has been circulated to Members by the Clerk. He spoke to emphasise the return by pupils to schools of over 90%, also the government initiative for the creation of unitary authorities in Devon. Cllr Radford also mentioned the fears that the 5G system is not safe: DCC is to write to central government for clarification. He also reported the grant recently made from his locality budget. The £685 will be used to create a wildflower meadow in the community orchard in the village. He advised the meeting that he still has some funds available to support local good causes.

Cllr Collis said that she is watching carefully for future GESP proposals, stating the need for local employment opportunities for occupiers of new housing. She reported that the District's leisure centres are struggling due to Covid-19.

[Cllrs Radford and Collis were thanked for their contributions: they then  
left the meeting at 8.20 pm]

Cllr Norton, referring to GESP, asked to be kept informed with any local information. She told the meeting about an Extraordinary Meeting of Mid Devon District Council called for 30 September to discuss the make-up of the Cabinet following changes made by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Bob Deed. She also gave notice of a meeting of the Canal Joint Advisory Committee on 6 October.

2020/21/027

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

- a) VH & RG Charity Committee: No report received from Cllr Cutts or Cllr O'Connell.
- b) Canal Advisory Committee: the monthly newsletters have been circulated by the Clerk. No additional information reported by Cllr Cutts.
- c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin reported that the Society had recently held a Committee meeting using Zoom. Its AGM will be held on 9 October, again by Zoom. The AGM will see the launch of the Society's new book on the Shops of Sampford Peverell.
- d) SP & District Twinning Association: Cllr L Taylor had nothing to report.
- e) Tree Wardens: Peter Bowers has nothing to add to his report presented at the August SPPC meeting. The joint venture with the Grand Western Canal Country Park involving the creation of a wildflower meadow in the community orchard is to go ahead with the benefit of a grant from the Locality Fund held by Cllr Radford.

2020/21/028

Correspondence has been circulated by e-mail: noted.

2020/21/029

Other matters by leave of the Chair: none raised.

2020/21/030

The next business meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 24 November 2020 starting at 7.00 pm. It will be a virtual meeting using Zoom (Cllr Culpin to organise).

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.