

24.11.15

Summonses to a bimonthly business meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 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 on 17 November 2015.

Agenda: as distributed.

2015/16/066

Chairman Cllr C Passey opened the meeting at 7.00 pm, welcoming Mr Andrew Jarrett (Head of Finance, MDDC), Mr Andrew Busby (Estates Manager, MDDC), Cllr R Radford (DCC), Cllr Mrs H Bainbridge (MDDC) and Members present.

2015/16/067

The future of the amenity car park in Lower Town and arrangements for grass cutting in the village: financial implications. The Chairman stated that SPPC is willing to take on work currently done by the District and County Councils, but to do so in an orderly way. Mr Jarrett explained that MDDC faces significant cuts in funding from central government from which arises the need to consider all options to cover a £800,000 shortfall this coming year. The amenity car parks bring in no income, but they represent a liability in terms of maintenance, safety and enforcements inspections. The car park in Sampford Peverell is recognised as an important resource for the village (the shop and Post Office, the Village Hall and the Surgery, as well as for the canal). To set up a 'pay & display' operation would cost in the order of £2,000, and would cost a further £2,000 pa to cover Officer visits, business rates, maintenance, lighting and H&E inspections....clearly not an economic proposition.

[Cllr Mrs C Collis joined the meeting at 7.10 pm]

Mr Jarrett said that he was seeking a transfer of maintenance responsibility to the Parish Council: payments made to MDDC each year would avoid high financial carry-overs in the accounts or the PC could set up its own allocated fund.

Mr Busby explained that DCC had reduced its grant to MDDC in 2015/16, and that MDDC had funded the grass cutting operations in the village this year, but this cannot be continued. The Parish Council is invited to make a contribution in order to maintain the service in 2016/17.

2015/16/068

Parishioners' Open Forum: there being no members of the public present, the Open Forum was not held.

2015/16/069

Apologies: Cllr M Stott (work commitment) and Cllr C Holland (on holiday).

Parish Councillors present:

Chairman: Cllr C Passey

Vice-Chairman: Cllr D Cutts

Cllrs D Sweatman, H Culpin, L Taylor, C Mason and I Adlington.

An invitation had been sent to PCSO J Sims: not present, although he had indicated to the Clerk his intention to attend the meeting.

An e-mail from Cllr Stott to the Clerk indicated his wish to resign his seat due to continuing work commitments: the Chairman to speak with him.

2015/16/070

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 October 2015 approved on the proposal of Cllr Cutts, seconded by Cllr Culpin, agreed *nem con* and signed by the Chairman.

A copy of the approved Minutes and of the relevant planning list will be sent in pdf format to Cllr Culpin for posting on the website.

- Matters arising from these Minutes (other than items to follow): none.

- Declarations of Interests made by Members at the above Meeting: none.

2015/16/071

Planning matters

(a) applications considered by sub-committee:

(b) decisions notified by MDDC:

(c) Appeals notified: (none):

continued.....

2015/16/071 Planning matters continued.....

(d) new applications (to 17 November 2015):

(e) matters notified after 17 November 2015:

(f) enforcement matters: (none):

.....refer to summary spreadsheet.

(g) other planning matters and correspondence: 15/01108/MFUL: further information has been presented in connection with the proposal to install a ground-mounted PV solar farm at Wiseburrow Farm, Burlescombe: agreed no comment as before. Noted that the application had been called into Committee, but the decision to refuse deferred pending an implications report.

2015/16/072

Reports from Parish Council Working Groups (WGs):

(a) Community Safety WG: Cllr Sweatman: nothing to report.

(b) Environment WG: Cllr Sweatman reported that 18 volunteers had taken part in a successful autumn litter-pick on 10 October. General agreement that the appointment of litter wardens to work in specific portions of the village would be a better solution than the present seasonal litter-picks. Six sets of equipment have been obtained from MDDC (free of charge) and are held by Cllr Sweatman. Higher Town is picked about once a month. Perhaps 12 "rounds" could be devised to cover the village: idea to be floated at the "Showcase" event next April.

- Cllr Holland's report dated 18 November also includes.....

- an update on the task of providing a new pedestrian/disabled access to the Sports Ground at Whitnage Road (Cllr Passey seeking quotations)(see also 2015/16/073):

- footpath complaint: given the location of the path across the flood plain it is expected to be wet at this time of the year. Cllr Mason has reported that the dropped gates, which are so difficult to shut properly (as per the original complaint, repeated by Simon Townley more recently) remain unrepaired. Cllr Sweatman to speak again to Graeme Cottrell. Cllr Radford explained that grants are available under the P3 scheme to assist with the cost of upkeep of footpaths. Stuart Howell (DCC Public Rights of Way Officer) to be invited to a meeting to explain details.

- Cllr Mason reported that the stone steps at Chains Road are being repaired by DCC staff.

- Richmond Close bus shelter: unanimously agreed that the repairs can be done by Andy Brown using polycarbonate sheet. Cllr Mason to contact him.

- drain cover (footpath by Spar shop): the plastic cover has been broken and a metal one put in its place by a parishioner. Cllr Passey to report to MDDC.

(c) Publicity WG: Cllr Passey to organise a meeting of the WG to decide on next action re the village "Showcase" event.

(d) Parish Plan/Funding WG: confirmed that there are no bids in place for the 2015/16 funds.

2015/16/073

Other highways and village matters;

a) new disabled/pedestrian access to Sports Field: Cllr Passey proposed, Cllr Adlington seconded that the quotation from Courtiers be accepted, this being significantly lower than the quotation from Four Seasons. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Passey will seek funding from the TAP Fund and from Cllr Radford's Locality Budget towards the cost.

b) Housing Needs survey/Site Appraisal report. Several errors noted in Sue Southwell's draft report. Cllr Sweatman to check and correct the report before it is returned to Sue as approved.

c) it was noted that DCC is installing dropdown kerbs in Richmond Close.

d) complaints regarding mud on the highway at Little Orchard, Lower Town, had been referred to Highways. The builders involved have been warned by Willy Pike to clear mud debris regularly during their works at the property.

2015/16/074

Report from the Community Police Officer: PCSO Sims was not present and no report had been received.

2015/16/075

Reports from County and District Councillors:

Cllr Radford (DCC) reminded Members that Hemyock PC has set up a Land Trust in connection with the provision of affordable housing. He offered to support an application for funding for the proposed continued.....

2015/16/075 continued.....

sports field disabled access from his Locality Fund. Cllr Radford expressed concern over the costs of supporting young persons: DCC's expenses are way over budget.

Cllr Bainbridge (MDDC) reported that a new Chief Executive has been appointed.

[Cllrs Radford, Bainbridge and Collis left the meeting at 8.45 pm]

2015/16/076

Finance:

a) Statement of accounts

Business Reserve account: £3,949.81

Current account: £8,338.31 (which includes £1,191.39 held in the name of the Parish Plan

Group. Unanimously agreed.

b) Authority to pay accounts rendered:

i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary for October 2015: £283.00.

ii) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary for November 2015: £283.00.

iii) M J Aspray: Clerk's expenses for the period 20.7.15 to 21.11.15: £45.54.

iv) The Grand Western Canal Association Ltd (Friends of the Canal): corporate membership for 2015/16: £25.00.

v) The Royal British Legion: annual donation in support of the Poppy Appeal: £50.00.

Five cheques issued as above on the proposal of Cllr Passey, seconded by Cllr Sweatman and agreed *nem con*.

c) Financial correspondence: an exchange of e-mails between Cllr Passey and Christopher Chesney confirms nil charge for the hire of the Committee Room for the October meeting in view of its untidy state.

d) MUGA finance: up-date given by Clerk.

2015/16/077

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

a) Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity: Cllrs Passey and Adlington: no meeting details given. Cllr Mason presented a paper relating to proposals to build a new village hall incorporating a doctors' surgery, public toilets, a new play area and car parking. The Village Hall Committee is due to meet on 26 November to discuss further.

b) Canal Advisory Committee: Cllr Cutts: concerns over possible cuts in funding from MDDC had been expressed. Mark Baker's note expressing thanks to all who had supported resistance to the proposals has been circulated. Also Mark's up-date (20 November 2015) and proposals for works in SP during the winter months circulated. Proposal to fell a weeping willow and a conifer at the Old Rectory noted with regret. Damaged dog bins (Battens Bridge and Minnows) now repaired.

c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin: minutes of 12 November meeting, which include notice of General meeting on 27 November 2015, tabled.

d) Sampford Peverell & District Twinning Association: Cllr Taylor: reminder of Twinning Reception on Friday 22nd July 2016. The Village Hall has been booked by Jenny Worsfold. Request to the PC to provide light refreshments. Budget implications: to be included in 2016/17 budget.

e) Tree Wardens: Cllr Mason: reported that bulb planting at the car park is now completed.

2015/16/078

Correspondence as listed on the agenda noted.

Additional items

i) Regional Foster Placements (via website): noted.

2015/16/079

Any other matters by leave of the Chairman:

i) Council Standing Orders: to be researched by Cllr Passey.

ii) Village composting site has been temporarily closed due to unauthorised use (see "Parish News", November 2015, page 30).

continued.....

2015/16/080

Next meetings:

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday 15 December 2015 at 7.00 pm (please note change of date to avoid clash with DCC Tough Choices meeting).

The next bimonthly business meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.