

26.11.19

Summonses to the bi-monthly business Meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 26 November 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 18 November 2019.

Agenda

As distributed.

2019/20/062

The Chairman, Cllr David Cutts, declared the meeting open at 7.00 pm, welcoming Members present.

2019/20/063

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

2019/20/064

Apologies: Cllrs L Taylor (unwell) and J Disney.

Parish Councillors present:

Chairman: Cllr D Cutts

and Cllrs I Adlington, A Mackenzie, H Culpin, S Taylor, T Burt and B O'Connell.

Apologies from Cllr J Norton (MDDC) (work commitments), also from Cllr R Radford (DCC) (other meetings) who joined the meeting later. Cllr C Collis (MDDC) was not present.

2019/20/065

Minutes of the bimonthly business Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 September 2019 were unanimously approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- Matters arising: none.

- Declarations of Interests: D19/20/001: a statement by Cllr B O'Connell concerning his on-going work for the Village Hall Charity (including at the Play Park and the public toilets) and in particular in connection with payments when made through the Parish Council, was accepted as a statement of non-conflict by Members and signed by the Chairman.

2019/20/066

Planning matters: applications considered by sub-committee/planning decisions notified by MDDC/Appeals notified/new applications and matters notified after 18 November 2019 and enforcement matters:

- Members noted the approval given by MDDC for the construction of a slurry lagoon at Little Landside, Westleigh, also the application for Listed Building Consent for repairs to a roof truss at Turberfield House, for which no comment would be offered by SPPC.

- Members also noted the new outline application for the erection of 60 dwellings on land at Higher Town which appears identical to the previous application that was refused by MDDC's Planning Committee and is currently under Appeal by the applicants. A response outlining matters previously raised by the Parish Council has been submitted to MDDC.

- The process of the seeking of approval by MDDC of the proposed Main Modifications of the Local Plan proposed by the Inspector was noted to be underway: Cabinet, meeting on 21 November, recommended approval and referred the matter to full Council which will meet in early December. There is local concern about the continued inclusion of the site SP2 and the removal of conditions relating to development at J27 and new west-facing slip roads on to the NDLR at Sampford Peverell.

2019/20/067

Finance

a) Payments made since last business meeting (24.9.19):

continued.....

2019/20/067 a) continued.....

- (i) 11.10.19 Bernard O'Connell: toilets daily locking/unlocking (two 4-week periods):
(this was a replacement cheque issued following a stop placed on an earlier cheque which had been refused by the payee's bank): £224.00
- (ii) 11.10.19 Bernard O'Connell: payment for toilets cleaning over a 3-month period:
£600.00
- (iii) 11.10.19 MDDC: election expenses: £147.35

Three payments already made noted.

b) Statement of Accounts: as at 7 November 2019 balances were as follows...

Business Reserve account: £3,960.60 (sheet 116) (unchanged).
Current account: £11,983.37 (sheet 330B): Members noted that this balance now includes £938.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £2,841.55 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 October and November 2019: £566.00
 - (ii) M J Aspray: Clerk's expenses to 12.11.19: £40.94
 - (iii) The Royal British Legion: donation to Poppy Appeal 2019/20: £50.00
 - (iv) MDDC: grass cutting 2019/20: £1,466.08
 - (v) K Chantler: refund of payment for Play Park signage: £60.02
 - (vi) SP VH Charity: transfer of Play Park monies held by SPPC: £2,841.55
 - (vii) SP VH Charity: residue of Play Park Fund allocation: £369.00
 - (viii) Bernard O'Connell: payment for toilets cleaning (3 months): £600.00
 - (ix) Bernard O'Connell: toilets daily locking (two 4-week periods): £224.00
- Nine cheques issued with the unanimous agreement of Members.

d) Finance correspondence:

- Members noted that surpluses in the funds of 'Sampford Peverell and Uplowman Parish News' will enable a sum of £1,960.00 to be made available for SPPC to fund one or more projects 'something that benefits the whole community - which would not get done otherwise'. Various projects suggested included a night-landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance, repairs to the cast iron bench in Boobery, renovation of the information boards around the village, a water-capture system for the cricket pitch, repairs to the Village Hall roof and the provision of a canopy over the walkway leading to the Committee Room entrance.

- letter of thanks from Margaret Dinnage, Treasurer to SP Methodist Church, for the grant of £70.00 towards upkeep costs in 2019/20 for the closed churchyard. It was noted that grass cutting costs for April to August 2019 were £84.00.

e) Play Park finances: transfer of funds held by SPPC to the Village Hall Charity requested. Now done (see (vi) and (vii) in minute c) above: cheques handed to Cllr Adlington). It was noted that this had been delayed due to the uncertainty of the appointment of a new treasurer to the Charity. Cllr Disney has advised (e-mail of 26 November) that the bank details of the Charity have been provided to enable new Standing Order forms to be sent to donors.

f) Viridor legal charge re clubhouse: awaiting response from Piers Makin.

g) Authorised signatories: no further action has yet been taken. continued.....

2019/20/068

Public Convenience Development Group: Cllr Disney reported (by e-mail) that Steve Densham (MDDC) has not yet responded to her queries regarding the high running costs included in previously supplied figures. In consideration of the proposed conversion of the existing facility Cllr Disney has raised the question of the possibility of asbestos in the present building.

2019/20/069

Declaration of a Climate Change Emergency:

Cllr Burt reported that he had had a small response to the article published in 'Parish News'. He proposes the holding of a public meeting in the Village Hall in the New Year, also that SPPC needs to declare a climate emergency, possibly at the January meeting.

[Cllr Radford joined the meeting at 8.05 pm]

Cllr Radford advised that Cllr Phil Norrey is chairing the DCC Climate Change Committee: at MDDC, Cllr Mrs Wainwright chairs the Environment Policy Committee on which he sits.

2019/20/070

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

- a) Communications and Engagement WG: the Chairman reminded the meeting of the involvement of SPPC in matters relating to SP2 in the Local Plan.
- b) Roads, Pavements and Paths WG: the meeting noted that some patching of the surface of Boobery had now been done, as confirmed by Cllr Mackenzie, but further work is much needed along the whole length of the road. Cllr Burt confirmed the 'bashing down' of nettle growth next to the footway in Station Road in response to the PC's request to DCC Highways for cutting. The Chains Road fence still has not been repaired. The Chairman to contact Mark Baker, Canal Manager.
- c) Affordable Housing WG: Cllr Culpin reported that the new housing needs survey is nearly finished, with a 32% response rate (which is thought to be 'good'). It confirms the need for a small development of suitable dwellings for local people. But there is still no definite news on suitable land.
- d) Snow Warden: Cllr Adlington reported that all grit bins are full.
- e) Tidiness: the autumn litter pick Saturday 19 October had again been successful. Thanks were expressed to those parishioners who had assisted on the day, also to the 'Globe Inn' for provision of coffee/tea for the pickers after the event. The next pick will be in April 2020, possibly on 18th.

Mr Ron Holmes, who had reported the dirty condition of the bus shelters in the village, has written to acknowledge the work of Cllrs Cutts and L Taylor in helping him to clean them.

2019/20/071

Other highways and village matters:

- a) Public toilets: Cllr O'Connell confirmed that arrangements for night-time locking remain in place and that no vandalism problems have arisen. Cleaning by Bernie O'Connell also continues, with payment by MDDC made through the Parish Council. Sluggish drainage will be investigated by MDDC in the New Year. Turning off of lights overnight should reduce the cost of electricity used.
- b) Emergency Plan development: Cllr Disney has not taken this forward yet.
- c) willow tree at car park entrance: following its removal by DCC (a 3 foot stump has been left to avoid a possible trip hazard) it has been decided to erect a large timber-framed planter at the site and to plant in it a suitable tree, this being the suggestion of the Tree Wardens. An anonymous benefactor will provide the materials for the planter and a tree for planting in the Spring. The Tree Wardens will assemble the planter and place in it a decorated Christmas tree.
- d) Public Rights of Way: Cllr Burt, now that crops have been removed from the fields

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2019/20/71 d) continued.....

and he has been able to walk the paths again, reported that there are obstruction problems at Landside Farm and at Sampford Barton, both of which require the involvement of the PROW Officer, Stuart Howell (DCC). Cllr Burt will contact Stuart. There is a need for clear way-marking at Sampford Barton.

e) Sampford Lands Charity: Cllr Cutts reported that the former Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs Liz Sanderson, had completed the Annual Return for the Charity Commission. He has suggested to the Chairman, David Sweatman, that an Extraordinary General Meeting should be called to appoint a new secretary and treasurer.

f) Devon Air Ambulance: a meeting has been held involving the Chairman, Fred Harding and Toby Russell (Community Landing Sites Development Officer) on site to establish what needs to be done, but information on costs involved and the possibility of grant aid is yet to be received.

g) Alcohol licence for Sports Ground: Cllr Adlington explained the reasons for seeking a licence to cover the sale of alcohol and the playing of music at events like the annual CLIC Sargent Fun Run when in excess of 499 people will be present. Members expressed concern about the possibility of other such events and wondered how many there would be.

2019/20/072

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members: Cllr Radford has written a report on County issues for Parishes within the Willand and Uffculme Division which he will send to the Clerk for circulation to Members. [This was circulated on 27 November]

Cllr Radford referred to the coming MDDC Council meeting on 4 December and the proposal to seek the removal of SP2 from the Local Plan.

No report from MDDC in the absence of both Ward Members.

[Cllr Radford left the meeting at 9.00 pm]

2019/20/073

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

a) VH & RG Charity Committee: Cllr Adlington had nothing further to report.

b) Canal Advisory Committee: Cllr Cutts had nothing to report. The Clerk stated that Mark Baker's reports are published in the Friends' monthly newsletters: those for October and November 2019 had been circulated since the last SPPC meeting.

c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin had circulated her report. It was noted that Cllr S Taylor will not be able to act as the Parish Council's representative on the Committee and thus make these reports to PC meetings, due to family-related commitments.

d) SP & District Twinning Association: Cllr L Taylor had circulated the November 2019 newsletter of the Association. Members are asked to note the dates of the 2020 visit of the French 'twins' Thursday 6th to Monday 10th August. The Reception will, this be held on 6th August. The Association is holding a fund-raising jumble sale on Saturday 11th January.

e) Tree Wardens: Peter Bowers had written a comprehensive report, circulated by the Clerk on 21 November. It outlines the proposed work programme for this winter.

f) Play Park Committee: Cllr Disney had nothing to report.

2019/20/074

Correspondence has been circulated by e-mail: noted. Attention drawn to the amended Model Code of Conduct produced by MDDC.

2019/20/075

Other matters by leave of the Chairman: none raised.

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2019/20/076

Next meeting of the Parish Council's Finance Committee will be on Tuesday 10 December 2019 starting at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall.

Cllrs O'Connell and Burt gave apologies.

The next bimonthly business meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 28 January 2020 starting at 7.00 pm in the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.