

24.11.20

Summonses to a virtual business meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held using 'Zoom' on Tuesday 24 November 2020, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members by e-mail on 17 November 2020.

Agenda

As distributed.

2020/21/031

The Chairman of SPPC, Cllr David Cutts, declared the meeting open at 7.05 pm, welcoming all present. In taking over as the meeting host, he thanked Cllr Culpin for setting up the meeting.

2020/21/032

Parishioners' Open Forum: there were no parishioners present.

2020/21/033

Apologies: Cllr A Mackenzie (also from Cllrs H Jackson and B Perks who will be late) (and from Cllr J Norton (MDDC) and from Cllr R Radford (DCC) who will also be late).
Parish Councillors present: Cllr D Cutts (Chairman): Cllrs T Burt, H Culpin, B O'Connell, L Taylor and S Taylor.
Cllr C Collis (MDDC) was absent.

2020/21/034

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 September 2020 were accepted as a true record on the proposal of Cllr L Taylor, seconded by Cllr S 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 Culpin (who chaired that meeting).

- Matters arising: none.

- Declarations of Interests: none made.

[Cllr Jackson and Cllr Norton (MDDC) joined the meeting at 7.15 pm]

2020/21/035

Planning matters: the Clerk had circulated a summary list of planning applications updated to 15 November 2020 on 17 November. Details noted.

- 20/01776/HOUSE: erection of a replacement single storey front extension and first floor extension above garage: 16 Boobery. The Chairman had asked Members to examine this application before the meeting in order that a response could be decided at this meeting. Members agreed unanimously to support the application: the Clerk to write to MDDC accordingly.

- 20/00748/FULL: change of use of land from commercial to residential use, including demolition of a building and erection of a single storey dwelling: 22 Lower Town. This application has been strongly opposed by SPPC: the site, by virtue of its position and the surrounding land-use, is considered to be unsuitable for residential development. The Clerk, investigating the delay in determination by MDDC, has discovered that there is an agreed extension to the time limit to 20 January 2021 to allow time for a detailed flood risk assessment to be made by the applicant in response to the Environment Agency's response. Correspondence between the Planning Officer (Mrs Alison Fish) and the applicant's agent suggests that there are no other outstanding issues. Members thus agreed to ask the Ward Member, Cllr Jo Norton, to call this application into Committee if the Officer is minded to grant permission under delegated powers. [This request has been confirmed in writing with Cllr Norton.]

- Higher Town Appeal: Public Inquiry: to open on 1 December: timetable has been circulated.

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2020/21/035 Planning matters continued.....

The report of a RTA on Turnpike involving a motorcyclist who came off his 'bike going down Turnpike on the morning of 11 October was noted with concern. The motorcyclist was overtaking another vehicle within the 40 mph-limit area.

- land clearance activity in the old orchard behind dwellings in Higher Town had been noted by local residents. It is the site of the failed planning application and appears only to involve the clearance of brambles in the orchard.

2020/21/036

Finance

a) Payments made since last business meeting (22.9.20):

- i) 10.10.20: M J Aspray: refund re seeds purchase: £210.00 *
- ii) 10.10.20: R J Webber: ground works (wildflower area): £456.00 *
- iii) 10.10.20: Bernard O'Connell: toilets locking (60 days): £120.00
- iv) 10.10.20: Bernard O'Connell: toilets cleaning (60 days): £420.00 #
- v) 10.10.20: Royal British Legion: donation 2020/21: £50.00
- vi) 20.10.20: Peter Bowers: refund re apple tree purchase: £58.56 *
 - * charged against Locality Grant (Cllr Radford, DCC): £685.00
 - # charged to MDDC (invoice 005)

- six payments that have been made noted.

b) Statement of Accounts: as at 11 November 2020 balances were as follows...

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

Current account: £18,265.41 (sheet 350): Members noted that this balance now includes £888.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £177.00 held in the name of the Sampford Peverell Play Park Appeal.

Members noted the receipt of £685.00 from Cllr Radford's Locality Fund (re the creation of a wild-flower meadow in the Community Orchard) and £8,277.50, being the second half-year instalment from MDDC of the parish precept for 2020/21.

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

c) Authority to pay accounts rendered:

- i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary 10/20 & 11/20: £641.60
- ii) Bernard O'Connell: toilets locking (60 days): £120.00 **
- iii) Bernard O'Connell: toilets cleaning (60 days): £420.00 ** ##
- iv) Sampford Peverell Team Mission Community Fees: printing costs
(Covid-19 advice, 2nd edition): £70.00

** for the period 22.9.20 to 20.11.20

to be charged to MDDC (invoice 006 to be raised).

Four cheques to be issued with unanimous approval of Members.

[Cllr Perks joined the meeting at 7.40 pm]

d) other finance matters:

- grants to SP PCC and Methodist Church have been acknowledged.
- Mr Peter Bowers has purchased a Christmas tree for the car park entrance: cost to be shared equally with the VH Charity. Members unanimously agreed that a £30.00 contribution may be paid by SPPC.

2020/21/037

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. There has been no clarification of funding issues from MDDC.

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2020/21/037 continued.....

There is thus nothing new to report to this meeting.

Bernard O'Connell continues to clean the disabled toilet on a daily basis, combining this work with daily locking and unlocking. He has submitted further invoices for this and for the cleaning and light maintenance for the 60-day period of 22 September to 20 November 2020. These invoices have been submitted, and the payments involved authorised by this meeting.

2020/21/038

Climate Change issues: Cllr Burt had nothing new to report. His suggestion that he write an article for 'Parish News' was welcomed.

2020/21/039

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

a) Communications and Engagement WG: the Chairman thanked Cllr Culpin for her work in putting together the revised Coronavirus lockdown leaflet which has now been printed and distributed around SP and Uplowman.

Cllr Jackson, working with Cllr Culpin, has created a 'Facebook' page to present communications from SPPC. Her report, circulated on 17 November, set out her proposals for developing this page. She felt that it is proving to be beneficial as judged by the levels of interaction observed.

b) Roads, Pavements and Paths (Environmental) WG: Cllr Burt has reported to the PRow Officer (DCC) a blocked culvert under the track leading to Boehill Bridge from Lower Town. Cllr Burt remains concerned about traffic speed on Lower Town and is advocating a 20 mph-limit through the village. He is unsure about Community Speed Watch (CSW) and its monitoring: the Clerk will try to establish if any neighbouring parishes have found this of use. The Clerk will also seek information about vehicle-activated speed signage from the local Highways officer.

c) Affordable Housing WG: Cllr Culpin reported on the Community Land Trust's AGM held on 7 November. Newly appointed Officers are: Chairman of the board - Colin Passey; Treasurer - Peter Drew; Secretary - Heather Culpin. A potential site for affordable housing has been found, with further developments to be announced as soon as Coronavirus restrictions allow.

d) Snow Warden: Cllr S Taylor has now registered with DCC Highways as the Parish Snow Warden. He will undergo a training course and receive equipment including a hi-viz jacket. He is to recruit volunteer assistants to form a response team and produce a snow plan. Steve has located all seven grit bins in the parish, three of which are only half full, the remainder holding sufficient grit. David King is currently accommodating 40 bags of grit, some of which, being old, are degrading as previously reported. Steve proposes that he distributes this material around the village, filling the grit bins as necessary. He will leave 3-4 bags with the spreader for use on footways.

[Cllr R Radford (DCC) joined the meeting at 8.15 pm]

Cllr S Taylor seeks an additional grit bin for the village car park: he will follow this up with MDDC. He also considers that grit should be available at the Canal pedestrian bridge.

e) Tidiness: Cllr Burt had nothing further to report on the possibility of a village litter pick because MDDC cannot make the necessary equipment available due to the continuing Covid-19 crisis. However, with the assistance of Cllr Jackson, he will ensure that the main road through the village is kept clear.

f) Defibrillator maintenance: Cllr S Taylor is to take over this responsibility from Cllr Cutts with whom he will arrange an update-meeting. Steve proposes an additional unit in Higher Town by the School. Cllr Radford stated that he has Locality Budget funds available to assist in this, perhaps £600 to £900 if awarded jointly with the School. Steve will meet with the School's Headteacher to seek approval to site the unit on the road-facing wall of the main building. He will then take forward the application for the Locality Fund grant.

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2020/21/040

Other highways and village matters:

a) Two ash trees on the Cornlands play area have been reported as suffering from ash die-back disease by local residents to MDDC and on the village website. The Clerk has ensured that MDDC's Property Services department is aware. The trees will be examined next summer by Property Services.

b) A large alder tree in the area of the MDDC car park, adjacent to the coach bay, has been reported by Cllr O'Connell to be beginning to up-lift kerb stones and damage the car park asphalt surface. The adjacent stream may also be undermining the roots. The Clerk has made Property Services aware and been assured that this tree is on their 'watch list'.

c) Another tree in this area may have honey fungus: Cllr O'Connell to investigate.

d) Christmas activities:

i) Christmas tree to be erected near to car park entrance. Cost to be shared with the Village Hall Charity (see 2020/21/036d above).

ii) Christmas decoration competition organised by Mr Ron Holmes noted: it will be supported if necessary.

iii) The meeting unanimously agreed that the Clerk should again present a bottle of wine to Mr Bruce Brown as a token expression of appreciation for his work in keeping the grass around the two planters cut during the year. It was suggested by Cllr O'Connell, and agreed unanimously by the meeting, that a similar expression of appreciation for their work in caring for the planters throughout the year should be made to Mr & Mrs Ian Moore.

2020/21/041

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members:

Cllr Norton (MDDC) reported on the governance review being undertaken by MDDC: a consultation will take place in the New Year. She also referred to discussions at the recent Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee meeting regarding the need to raise the profile, especially of the eastern section of the Canal. A working group is to be set up to take this forward. One idea is to produce an interactive map of the Country Park. Cllr Norton also reported that MDDC's Environment Committee is to review collection methods for recyclable materials and asked Members about existing problems experienced. Cllr Burt asked that consideration be given to the reinstatement of the hard copies of the collection calendar sent to all households. Cllr Norton will take this forward.

Cllr Radford has written a report on County issues which will be circulated to Members by the Clerk. He spoke to reinforce the need to raise the profile of the eastern section of the Canal. He also stated that the DCC recycling centre at Ashleigh is considered as not fit for purpose: it is likely to be moved to a new site in the Willand/Cullompton area. Cllr Radford spoke of the DCC budget over-spend of £2 to 3 million, which it is planned to remove by claw-back or from reserves. Specifically, there is, in addition, a shortfall in government funding to meet the Covid-19 crisis.

2020/21/042

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

a) VH & RG Charity Committee: Cllr Cutts reported that the Hall is currently closed. Bernie O'Connell is acting as caretaker. Fred Harding (Cricket Club) has reported that the Club has been successful in securing S106 funding towards ball-stop netting for the Parkway Hotel boundary. Works to reduce the oak tree on the Whitnage Road boundary have been cleared by MDDC: the tree is not protected by a TPO, neither is it within the Conservation Area.

b) Canal Advisory Committee: the monthly newsletters of the Friends of the Grand Western Canal have been circulated by the Clerk. At the recent meeting of the Grand Western Canal Advisory Committee concerns had been expressed about the effect on the Country Park of the proposed residential development at Tidcombe Hall in Tiverton, also of incidents of conflict between cyclists and other users of the Canal. It is recognised that the Canal is becoming too popular for recreational use.
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2020/21/042b) continued.....

The repair of the handrail at the Canal access ramp at Chains Road has been completed in timber, bringing favourable comments from several Members. Cllr Burt, however, considers that the use of metal poles at the access from Whitnage Road is most unsuitable.

c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin's report was circulated on 23 November. It includes details in the change of officer roles following the AGM in October (when Cllr Culpin took on the Chairmanship of the Society). She invited Members to consider joining the committee and acting as the PC's representative. The latest book published (Shops) is selling well. Cllr Culpin outlined future projects.

d) SP & District Twinning Association: Cllr L Taylor had nothing to report.

e) Tree Wardens: the Clerk had circulated Peter Bowers' November 2020 report on 13 November. It outlined recent work undertaken including clearance of brambles etc on the Turnpike embankment and the planting of daffodil bulbs in various locations in the village. The work to create a wildflower meadow at the Community Orchard has now been completed. Three further apple trees will be planted during the winter.

2020/21/043

Correspondence has been circulated by e-mail: noted. The Clerk asked Members to note in particular the Avian influenza restrictions (circulated on 12 November) and the MDDC press release (circulated on 24 November) regarding a recent prosecution for fly-tipping waste.

2020/21/044

Other matters by leave of the Chair: the Chairman spoke of the Sampford Peverell Lands Charity, set up in 1897, which provided relief for the poor by distributing the income from 13 properties. These had been sold in the 1930s to enable the purchase of War Bonds. The Charity is controlled by 9 Trustees, 5 of whom are appointed by SPPC. Cllr Cutts is now the Chairman of the Trustees: there is one PC vacancy for which Cllr Perks had been nominated. Her appointment as a Parish Council Trustee was unanimously supported by the meeting.

[Cllr Radford left the meeting at 9.00 pm]

Cllr S Taylor reported damage to a post box (thought to be due to fireworks) at the Boobery/Whitnage Road junction. He also reported anti-social behaviour in Whitnage Road (under the NDLR bridge) involving graffiti and signs of alcohol and drug abuse. The Police have been involved.

2020/21/045

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be that of its Finance Committee on Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 7.00 pm (with the next bimonthly business meeting to be held on Tuesday 26 January 2021). Both will be virtual meetings using 'Zoom'.

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