

22.11.21

Summonses to a business meeting of Sampford Peverell Parish Council to be held in the main hall at the Memorial Hall, Lower Town on Monday 22 November 2021, starting at 7.00 pm, were distributed with the agenda to all Members by e-mail on 16 November 2021 by the Clerk.

Agenda

As distributed, but with one additional payment (utilities (water) account) to be made.

2021/22/060

The Chairman, Cllr David Cutts, declared the meeting open at 7.00 pm. He welcomed five parishioners, Gemma Clark, Michelle Curtis, Sara Roppert, Susan Heard and Amy Thornley-Heard. Cllr Cutts welcomed Emily Castle and Anne Williams to their first meeting as Members: he also welcomed the other Members present. Cllr Cutts announced the resignation, for family reasons, of Cllr Angus Mackenzie.

Members were aware of the risk assessment for meetings of the Parish Council which had been updated and circulated.

2021/22/061

Parishioners' Open Forum: the Chairman invited the parishioners present to address the meeting. Sara Roppert, acting as spokesman for the group, spoke of concerns regarding vehicle speeds in the village. She also expressed concern about the number of large vehicles passing through the village. It was felt that signage is adequate, but being ignored by some motorists. They hope to work through the village school and spoke of success in Burlescombe. It was agreed that speed monitoring needed to be done, with Police involvement if necessary. Various members of the group made supportive comments. They were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting.

2021/22/062

Apologies: Cllr R Radford (DCC) (unwell: in self-isolation): Cllr J Norton (MDDC) (other council meeting).

Parish Councillors present: Cllr D Cutts (Chairman): Cllr H Culpin (Vice-Chair):

Cllrs T Burt, B O'Connell, S Taylor, B Perks, A Williams and E Castle.

Cllr C Collis (MDDC) was not present. The Clerk confirmed that an invitation and agenda had been sent to her.

2021/22/063

Co-option of two Members: Anne Williams and Emily Castle signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office of Parish Councillor and agreed contact details to be placed on the website and in 'Parish News'. They will submit to MDDC their Declarations of Registerable Interests within 28 days.

2021/22/064

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 September 2021: unanimously approved by those present as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- Matters arising: Cllr Taylor asked the Clerk if he had written to enquire about the damaged post box in Boobery. Angus Mackenzie had been contacted shortly after the September meeting: there had thus been no need to write at the time.

- Declarations of Interests: none made.

2021/22/065

Planning matters: the Clerk had circulated a summary list of planning applications updated to 15 November 2021. Details noted. It was noted that 21/00952/FULL, 21/01547/FULL and 21/01548/LBC had been approved by MDDC since the list was circulated to Members on continued.....

2021/22/065 continued.....

16 November.

The Clerk was asked to advise MDDC that the Parish Council has no objections to the application 21/02248/CAT following a site visit by several Members.

- other planning matters:

development at Higher Town: it was noted that a number of parishioners have responded to Edenstone Homes following publication of the initial plans for the site. The Clerk drew Members' attention to a submission by Mr Ian Moore. In addition to pressing for a safe pedestrian access through the development (there being no footway along Turnpike west of the cemetery), Mr Moore pointed out the need for a gentle slope from the site to road level at the SW access point. He urges that care is taken not to damage the community flower planter at this point.

2021/22/066

Finance

(a) Payments made since last meeting (27.9.21):

- (i) 18.10.21: Npower: toilets electricity charges for August and
September 2021: £75.10
 - (ii) 25.10.21: Peter Bowers: refund re purchase of cherry trees: £207.40
 - (iii) 25.10.21: Pip & Stone: 20% deposit re fruit trees order: £92.82
 - (iv) 9.11.21: Npower: toilets electricity charges for October 2021: £37.41
 - (v) 9.11.21: The Royal British Legion: donation 2021: £75.00
 - (vi) 9.11.21: Bernard O'Connell: refund re purchase of fence stakes: £90.00
- six payments noted.

(b) Statement of Accounts: report date 17 November 2021: balances were as follows...

Business Reserve account: £3,967.64 (sheet 124)(unchanged)

Current account (at 1 November 2021): £31,445.30 (sheet 362): Members noted that this balance now includes £888.24 (unchanged) held in the name of the former Parish Plan Group and £83.00 held in the name of the Sampford Peverell Play Park Appeal.

Members voted unanimously to accept the statement given. The relevant bank statements (nos.124 and 362) were agreed by the Chairman to demonstrate reconciliation.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Canal bridge name plates have now been fitted.

(c) authority to pay accounts rendered:

- (i) M J Aspray: Clerk's salary 10 & 11/21: £650.00
- (ii) Bernard O'Connell: toilets locking [31 days @ £2.00 per day = £62.00 **] and
toilets cleaning [31 days @ £7.00 per day = £217.00 **] total £279.00
** for the period 1.10.21 to 31.10.21 (31 days)
[Note: a claim will be made later to cover time and expenses
incurred following criminal damage caused on 31.10.21]

(iii) M J Aspray: Clerk's expenses to 14.11.21: £54.54

(iv) (additional invoice) Source for Business: water bill 12 August to 16 November
(based on estimated reading): £130.77

Four cheques to be issued on the agreement of all present.

(d) finance correspondence:

- (i) acknowledgement of grant to SPPCC
- (ii) e-mail expressing thanks for grant to Methodist Church read to meeting.

(e) Christmas Tree for 2021: noting the budgetary provision of £50.00 and the remaining balance of the Parish Magazine 2021 donation, the meeting unanimously agreed to share costs on a 50/50 basis with the Village Hall Charity. Cllr O'Connell agreed to liaise with Peter Bowers.

continued.....

2021/22/066, continued.....

(f) Training for new Members: the Clerk advised the meeting that the DALC course, "Being a Good Councillor", on which Cllrs Williams and Castle had been booked, will cost £48.00 pp. This will take place in Exeter on 13 December.

Both Members have booked to take part in sessions of the DCC annual conference on 24 and 25 November, and Cllr Williams has booked to join three webinars in January 2022 on Neighbourhood Planning. No costs are involved.

2021/22/067

Working Groups: membership and roles. Individual roles:

Cllrs Williams and Castle, given their interest in road safety issues and other highways matters, were asked to work with Cllr Burt on environmental issues. Cllr Castle will act as liaison officer on the Twinning Association. She has also agreed to work with Cllr Culpin to maintain the Parish Council's presence on social media.

2021/22/068

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

a) Communications and Engagement (publicity): Social media WG: Cllrs Cutts, Culpin and Castle. Nothing to report.

b) Climate change and environmental issues WG: Cllr Burt reported that the fruit trees had now all been ordered. He will maintain a watch on outflow data from the SP wastewater treatment works.

c) Roads, Pavements and Paths (Environmental) WG: Cllrs Burt, Williams and Castle: vehicle speeds to be monitored: Cllr Castle to report back to the Parish Council.

d) Public Convenience Development Group: Cllrs Cutts, O'Connell and Taylor: a quotation received from local builder, Andy Brown, in the sum of £2,395, to be accepted. Cllr O'Connell reported that the disabled toilet will open again on 1 December. Utility accounts have been paid. Cllr O'Connell has been paid for daily locking and cleaning for the month of October. No accounts for repairs or materials yet presented.

e) Affordable Housing WG: Cllr Culpin had nothing to report.

f) Snow Warden: Cllr Taylor had nothing to report.

g) Tidiness: Cllr Burt confirmed that a village litter pick took place on 30 October using equipment from MDDC. Almost 30 volunteers turned out on the day. Recyclable materials were collected separately. Thanks recorded to all who helped on the day, also to the 'Globe' for tea and coffee afterwards.

h) Defibrillator maintenance: Cllr S Taylor reported that all three defibrillators in the village are OK.

2021/22/069

Other highways and village matters:

a) Tree works in The Brendons: the survey of local residents produced a general response that the trees are too large, with leaf fall and other plant debris being a real nuisance. Peter Bowers (Tree Warden leader) considers that nothing needs to be done to the trees, but examination by three Members concluded that one of the trees, a field maple, should be removed to reduce
continued.....

2021/22/069 a) continued.....

overcrowding, and there should be an approximately 50% reduction of the remaining trees. The Clerk reported that he had sought three quotations for the required works. One company declined to quote on the grounds that it could not undertake the work until February 2022. Another, having stated that 50% reductions would spoil the appearance of the trees, detailed its proposals including the removal of the field maple, quoting £980.00 + VAT. The third, stated that it would be unnecessary and too severe to reduce the crowns apart from reduction of lateral branches of the oak tree to reduce spread over adjacent gardens, also crown raising to facilitate mowing. Their quotation, which included removal of the field maple (together with stump grinding) in the sum of £676.00 + VAT was accepted by unanimous vote of Members.

b) additional litter/dog bin on Station Road (as originally recommended by Mrs L Taylor): it was noted that MDDC will charge £202.30 for the supply and installation of a bin, with weekly emptying at £306.80 per year and fortnightly emptying at £153.40 per year. A previous meeting voted unanimously to purchase and instal a bin with fortnightly emptying initially depending on use. Cllr Burt has indicated his willingness to meet an officer from MDDC to decide on the exact position for the bin.

c) vandalism/ASB/criminal damage in the village: it was noted that the Police have visited the village, in response initially to the 999-call from the shop. They have been shown the damage to the toilets by Cllr O'Connell and have agreed that criminal damage, rather than mere ASB, is involved. There is now some visible presence of Police in the village, which was welcomed by Members.

Members called for the reinstatement of parish group meetings at Cullompton Police Station. Cllr Castle spoke of the need to create something in the village to meet teenage interests, such as a BMX track. She spoke of the need for the Parish Council to engage with these young persons. It was agreed that Cllr O'Connell, assisted by Cllrs Castle, Perks and Taylor, should take this initiative forward.

d) speeding traffic concerns: following on from the total unwillingness of the Highways Authority, Devon County Council, to assist, speed monitoring in the village will take place (see 2021/22/068 c), above).

e) book swap: Cllr Culpin reported that painting of the exterior of the kiosk is still to be done, but must now await better weather.

f) damaged finger post at Battens Cross: the Clerk stated that the sign is technically in Halberton Parish. The Chairman undertook to establish likely costs that would be involved in replacing the existing modern-style sign with a traditional wooden post similar to those he has seen in Hartland.

g) other matters:

- the damaged Memorial seat on the Canal towpath behind the 'Globe Inn' is to be replaced by a bench by the family:
- Whitnage Road parking problems had again been referred to the football club:
- damaged letter box in Boobery: the Clerk to seek a response to the recent correspondence with Mr Mackenzie.

2021/22/070

Discussions with DCC and MDDC Members: none present. Cllr Radford's November report had been circulated before the meeting.

continued.....

2021/22/071

Reports by Parish Council representatives:

a) VH & RG Charity Committee: Cllr Cutts reported that the '200 Club' is to be reinstated for the purpose of raising funds for equipment for the Village Hall.

b) Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee: the monthly newsletters of the Friends of the Grand Western Canal continue to be circulated by the Clerk. Each includes a detailed report by Mark Baker outlining work done by the Ranger and volunteer teams. Bridge name plates and Memorial seat - reported above.

c) Sampford Peverell Society: Cllr Culpin has circulated her report on Society activities.

d) SP & District Twinning Association: nothing to report.

e) Tree Wardens: Peter Bowers' report has been circulated.

2021/22/072

All correspondence received has been circulated by e-mail: noted.

2021/22/073

Other matters by leave of the Chairman: none raised.

2021/22/074

Next meetings of SPPC: Finance Committee on 6 December 2021; next general business meeting will be on 24 January 2022.

There being no other business, and with Members extremely cold, the windows and doors being open, the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.