

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021 USING ZOOM

Attendance Register and Apologies

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chairman), Cllr D Bellini, Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey
In Attendance: Cllr E Heron (HCC and NFDC), Mrs C Thompson, Mr S Husher,
Mr C Cobb Smith, Mr R Gray, Mr E Hale (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr C Harper

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending using Zoom.

The Chairman reported that Mr N Locock had died recently. Mr Locock had been District Councillor for the Whitsbury area for many years and was very involved in village life. The Parish Council observed a period of silence in memory of Mr Locock.

Covid Response

The Chairman thanked the Whitsbury Helpers for their work again. Mr Husher had prepared a Newsletter and other information is available on the website and Facebook. Each member of Helpers looks after their own group but there are contact numbers if anyone else in the village needs help with shopping or prescriptions. More people are likely to stay at home this time as the virus is now in the local area.

Cllr Heron said the number of cases in NFDC area is rising. Fordingbridge Surgery is a vaccination centre and the slip road car park is available as a testing centre if required. The Pandemic has meant additional costs to HCC for social care and children's services. Cllr Sutton also thanked the Whitsbury Helpers.

Apologies

None received.

Declarations of Interest

None

Previous Minutes

The Chairman asked if the Minutes from 2nd November were approved. Cllr Dominey queried the amount available for broadband improvements. Otherwise these were accepted.

Report from Cllr E Heron

A review of the NFDC Councillor areas has been completed and the only local change will be for Sandleheath to join the Downlands area.

Planning Applications

No applications received from NFDC but Mr R Gray attended to explain his proposed application to extend Lower Farm. He is hoping to extend his kitchen and put in a first floor bathroom. David Cutler has designed a rear extension which cannot be seen from the road and this was submitted to NFDC as a pre-submission. The proposal keeps below the 30% limit

and keeps the current shape of building and thatched roof. Councillors did not have any concerns about this and thanked Mr Gray for attending.

Precept Return

The Chairman and Clerk had reviewed the likely costs for the next financial year as follows: Insurance = £250, HALC = £150, Church = £300, Citizens Advice = £50, Website = £150, Open space maintenance = £1,000, Clerk = £300. Total = £2,200.

The Chairman asked for Councillors views and they discussed raising the value in stages. Cllr Heron said Whitsbury has one of the lowest Precepts in NFDC. The increase would only be around £4 per property. It was agreed to increase the Precept from £1,800 to £2,200.

Whitsbury World Working Group

Broadband

Cllr Dominey had submitted residents' details to Openreach. Mr Husher had gathered details about residents with low broadband speeds at the southern end of the village and is trying to arrange for this area to be improved.

Hall Wi-Fi

Cllr Heron has approved a grant of £1,450 to provide wi-fi in the Village Hall and pay all costs for first four years. Costs include providing a phone line and all service charges.

Speeding

Cllr Sutton said some traffic is still travelling too fast through the village and it is not safe to walk along the road. There had nearly been an accident between two vehicles near Whitsbury Common as one vehicle was travelling too fast.

Cllr Heron said '20 is Plenty' is not legally enforceable and is mostly for areas around schools. However he will ask for speed monitoring through the village. Councillors thought it best to leave this until after lockdown. Cllr Heron will contact the Monitoring Officer to arrange this.

Cllr Sutton said previously the Parish Council had contacted residents known to speed and the Chairman agreed to do this again. They will discuss this separately.

Finance

The Clerk said current bank balances are £9,710.92 and £2,489.75. The total is £12,200.67. There were requests for payments of £400 to Simon Colborne for work at the Open Space since July 2020, and £220 to the Clerk for work on minutes and accounts since May 2020. These were approved by Councillors.

Any Other Business

There was discussion about applying for The Cartwheel to be made an Asset of Community Value. This would help to protect it if there was any attempt to turn it into houses in the future. Cllr Heron said it was a good time to apply as it was not at risk at present. The Chairman agreed to follow up on this.

Mr Husher said the Village Show is being planned for 7th August.

Mr Cobb-Smith said he is the only person in the village who has the code for the defibrillator so he will set up a protocol for others to access the equipment when there is no phone signal.

Meeting Dates

The next meetings will be at 7pm on 29th March, 24th May, 26th July, and 25th October. The meeting closed at 8pm.

Edward Hale. 14.01.21