

MINUTES OF THE BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY 2020

Clerk; Sue Jones Email ; Bitterleypc@gmail.com Tel ; 01584 890375

Website ; Bitterley.org.uk

PRESENT: Richard Osborne(Chairman), Mrs AM Holman, Mr P. Martin, Mr J. Gatehouse, Mr. C. Chillingworth, Mrs. K. Wheeler.

IN ATTENDANCE: Sue Jones (Clerk),

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>1. Apologies:</p> <p>Apologies – Mr HWJ Watkins, Mr. C. Mccamley, Mr T. Millard (Vice Chairman), Mr R. Watkins</p>	<p><u>Apologies agreed</u></p>
<p>2. Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>2.1. None</p>	
<p>3. Question from the public</p> <p>3.1 Mr. Wadhams asked for an update on the Flooding Grants. Unfortunately, the grants were for properties where water had entered so they wouldn't apply to this situation. The Clerk has reported the problem to highways due to the issue started in 2008 when kerbs hadn't been fitted when drainage work was done. Awaiting response Mr. Wadhams to tell Clerk if SC contact him.</p> <p>3.2 Mr. Wadhams also asked about progress on the Defibs. The phone boxes have now been adopted. The next stage is to ask for a quote to get the phone boxes refurbished to fit the Defibs and to find volunteers to care take them. There will be training arranged when it is safe to do so. When arranged it will be advertising on the Bitterley FB page.</p> <p>3.3 Mr. Cherry asked when did the Council last review the supplier of electricity? And did that review consider obtaining power from a provider who supplies energy from renewable sources? Has the Council considered reducing the cost of the electricity bill? For example, could the streetlights in Bitterley be turned off between midnight and dawn.</p> <p>3.4 The Clerk is in the process of getting a quote from another provider but is struggling to provide the technical information they need. It was agreed that the Clerk ask the company used to repair the streetlights for a quote to look at the streetlights to gain the information, Clerk to email quote around to get authorisation to instruct company to continue.</p>	<p><u>Mr Wadhams to keep the Clerk in touch with developments</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to arrange quotes for refurbishment works</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to get quote for getting required info</u></p>

3.5 Clerk to add an item to discuss the turning off of the lights between midnight and dawn to the next agenda.

3.6 Also, the Village Hall is heated by oil; could the village hall committee consider changing to a renewable form of heating and installing solar panels on the roof of the Hall for the provision of electricity?

3.7 Options for replacing for more up to date efficient boiler have been considered has it will need to be done that at some point but significant expense/ outlay will be required.

The difficulty with Solar Panels for the hall is that there have never been any grants for them on community buildings they could identify and there is now no additional incentive from government apart from the pay-out from then electric supply companies of perhaps 5p per KWhr, as there is no longer the feed-in tariff.

It would be interesting for the hall to appreciate how you get on with the heat pumps. These seem to be the alternative to an oil boiler going forward and sure the hall committee would wish to talk to you about these when they get to needing to replace the current heating system.

The hall is well insulated, and the new windows will hopefully have improved matters a modest amount as well. The chair of the village hall committee Dave Evans will be informed of your question.

3.8 Helen Phillip's moved into Henley 5 years ago and the Broadband is a major issue. Helens runs a global business from homes. Their broadband is so poor due to the house being on aluminium wiring. They have enquired with BT about getting fibre to Henley, given that it is in Ludlow and Clee Hill and it seems that the Bitterley area is at the end of 2 exchanges. BT have said that they should have Fibre sometime within the next 10 years, which is not acceptable. Must sign in using a duel method to be able to hold meetings. Helen is wondering what the Parish Council can do to help lobby BT. It is assumed that BT will provide fibre as far as the new Henley Grange development and so wouldn't think it would be too difficult to extend to the Bitterley. The alternative is if residents are interested in a community funding project where we pay part of the costs and BT pay the other part.

3.9 The Chairman thanked Helen for discussing an issue that has been recognised by several people in the parish. RO will get the results from the survey to see they are of any help but there is limited scope on what action can be taken as several the community have already benefited from contractors coming into the parish to help. Also struggling to find a mechanism due to the funding gap as individual properties must pay. It has been raised in our Place Plan with Shropshire Council. RO will find the contact details of the Companies that have come to the village but is unsure at the moment what help the Parish Council can give, but will be a voice if needed. RO asked if HP has contacted her neighbours to see if they have a problem too. SC has a contact, Clerk to contact for further information. AH has had to purchase their own solution to be able to run their business from home, but it is an expensive option. They may be able to act as a hub, to improve others broadband.

Clerk to include on next agenda

Village Hall Committee to address when required

RO to give HP the contact details for Companies that have provided alternatives.

Clerk to contact SC re: Broadband

<p>4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January and 11th March 2020</p> <p>4.1 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 8th January minutes were APPROVED, and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record. Proposed by Mrs AM Holman and seconded by Mr J. Gatehouse. Minutes to be signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>4.2 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 11th March minutes were APPROVED, and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record. Proposed by Mr. C. Chillingworth and seconded by Mrs. K. Wheeler. Minutes to be signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>5.1 Clerk to contact the Steering Group of the Parish Plan to establish the next steps. To confirm if the remainder of the funding should be used to have a get together of the Parish when able.</p> <p>5.2 Clerk to check with SC if they require a copy of the results.</p> <p>5.3 The Clerk contacted the Clerk to Stoke Prior Parish Council to see how the information email they send out to residents works. A database would need to be started using existing contacts as starting point. They have 20 emergency warden volunteers to facilitate. Each warden is within a 30 walk of their area as Face to Face contact is much better. The clerk would have to be given the information to share in a timely Manner, out of date information would be no good.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to contact Steering Group</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to contact SC</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to include on next agenda to discuss</u></p>
<p>6. Roads</p> <p>6.1 The Road to RoundThorn has still not be dealt with, Clerk to check Progress.</p> <p>6.2 The road has several potholes from the Farm up to Knowbury.</p> <p>6.3 The road outside John Gatehouses farm needs attention.</p> <p>6.4 The works that STWA did at the triangle at Snitton Lane, still has not been put right since the burst pipe.</p> <p>6.5 We have had confirmation from SC that they will investigate the issues we have raised about a no footpath with child sign or a narrowing sign on the Bedlam Road and they will see if any signage is considered appropriate, then this will be put forward for inclusion as part of their future Traffic Management Minor Works Programme, where it will be subject to available funding and prioritisation against other competing scheme requests.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to contact SC</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to contact STWA</u></p>
<p>7. Community Fibre Partnership</p> <p>7.1 Discussed in Public Participation.</p>	

<p>8. Bitterley Volunteers</p> <p>8.1 The Community came together in the current pandemic and 20 volunteers, with Lyn Osborne co-ordinating have been working together. There had been lots of friendship and support given. A grant of £500 was received for expenses etc for the group and gifts were given to the core members. RO proposed and KW 2nd that the Parish Council formally thank the group for all of their work.</p> <p>8.2 There was a fundraising event at the Village Hall that raised £400 to be distributed to local people in need.</p>																																									
<p>9. Lengthman's Scheme</p> <p>9.1 The Highways Maintenance Grant that was submitted has been awarded, £780 has been received. All Councillors to give thought to works that may need attention at this current time, and let the Clerk know. Mr Gatehouse will co-ordinate with Mr Clayton the contractor once a list has been produced.</p>	<p><u>Councillors to email Clerk with details of work</u></p>																																								
<p>10. Financial Items</p> <p>10.1 Payments Made since last meeting</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Chq 657 D. Forster</td><td>£200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 658 Cleeton St Mary PCC (Replacement)</td><td>£375.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 659 S Jones (Expenses)Office 365, Norton</td><td>£123.92</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 660 N Power</td><td>£340.51</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 661 S Jones (Jan – March Salary)</td><td>£409.48</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 662 S Jones (Jan – March HMRC)</td><td>£102.40</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 663 Highline Electrical (Street Light Repair)</td><td>£173.40</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 664 BT Payphones</td><td>£4.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 665 D. Forster</td><td>£120.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 666 N Power</td><td>£335.86</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 667 Bitterley Village Hall (Hire)</td><td>£120.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 668 SALC – Affiliation</td><td>£391.08</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 669 Zurich Insurance</td><td>£329.72</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 670 S Jones (April - June Salary)</td><td>£423.96</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 671 S Jones (April – June HMRC)</td><td>£105.80</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 672 C Chillingworth (Ink Cartridge)</td><td>£17.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 673 L. Osborne – Bitterley Volunteers</td><td>£300.00</td></tr> </table> <p>10.2 Accounts for Payment:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Chq 674 K. Adams – Internal Auditor</td><td>£95.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 675 S Jones – Zoom Subscription</td><td>£14.39</td></tr> <tr><td>Chq 676 Npower</td><td>£342.98</td></tr> </table> <p>10.3 Financial Summary: The balance of funds after the above payments are made is £29,738.07</p>	Chq 657 D. Forster	£200.00	Chq 658 Cleeton St Mary PCC (Replacement)	£375.00	Chq 659 S Jones (Expenses)Office 365, Norton	£123.92	Chq 660 N Power	£340.51	Chq 661 S Jones (Jan – March Salary)	£409.48	Chq 662 S Jones (Jan – March HMRC)	£102.40	Chq 663 Highline Electrical (Street Light Repair)	£173.40	Chq 664 BT Payphones	£4.00	Chq 665 D. Forster	£120.00	Chq 666 N Power	£335.86	Chq 667 Bitterley Village Hall (Hire)	£120.00	Chq 668 SALC – Affiliation	£391.08	Chq 669 Zurich Insurance	£329.72	Chq 670 S Jones (April - June Salary)	£423.96	Chq 671 S Jones (April – June HMRC)	£105.80	Chq 672 C Chillingworth (Ink Cartridge)	£17.50	Chq 673 L. Osborne – Bitterley Volunteers	£300.00	Chq 674 K. Adams – Internal Auditor	£95.00	Chq 675 S Jones – Zoom Subscription	£14.39	Chq 676 Npower	£342.98	<p><u>Cheques to be signed and distributed by the clerk</u></p>
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<p>11. 19/20 Audit</p> <p>11.1 Consider Internal Auditors Report</p>																																									

<p>11.2 Consider and approve AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20</p> <p>11.3 Consider and approve AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2019/20</p> <p>11.4 Consider and approve Certificate of Exemption AGAR Part 2</p>	<p><u>Item to be deferred until an Extraordinary Meeting for documents to be approved</u></p>
<p>12. Planning Items:</p> <p>12.1 There were no Planning Applications to consider.</p> <p>12.2 Planning Applications Granted: 19/04196/FUL – Middleton Court Conversion of barns to offices & workshop, formation of associated car park and installation of package (sewage) treatment plant</p>	
<p>13. Correspondence:</p> <p>13.1 The Village Hall Committee would welcome clarification on the relationship between the Hall Trustees, Charity and the Parish Council in regard of the Hall. The trustees have every intention of carrying on as current arrangements into the future and would like to make sure they bring the Hall Charity Constitution up to date incorporating appropriate acknowledgement of the arrangements, but give the historic documents around the South Shropshire Council funding of the hall build are somewhat obscure, stating that there is a Mortgage on the Hall for 28 years until 2028 (this needs confirmation) They would welcome confirmation of Parish Council intention to clarify and carry on current arrangements into the future.</p>	<p><u>Advise to be sought on the implications of the Mortgage</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to include on next agenda</u></p>
<p>14. Reports:</p> <p>14.1 KW would just like to let everyone know that Bitterley Court are having Open Garden in aid of the Church on Sunday 12th July.</p> <p>14.2 RO said that the Village Hall is hoping to open at the end of July.</p>	
<p>15. Close of Meeting: 9.30pm</p> <p>15.1 Next Meeting 9th September at 7.30pm</p>	