

STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Group Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **7 DECEMBER 2020** through Zoom.

Present – A Powles (Chair) , N Sellar (Vice Chair) , A Andrews , P Dyke , R Skyrme, J Nelson, S Williams, P Pantall, and E Pearson-Gregory. S Grist was also present as Clerk to the Group Parish Council.

County Councillor G Jones was present.

There were two members of the public in attendance.

A presentation was given by Mr Ben Stone from Gigaclear. This was followed by a number of questions. Mr Stone was thanked for his presentation. He has agreed to remain in contact with the Parish Council should any further questions arise in the future.

72. Apologies for absence – The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Brian Bevan had contacted him several days previously and had handed in his notice to stand down as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk had informed the Elections Office and procedures were being put in place for the election of a Councillor. The Clerk informed the meeting that public notices would be placed on the 4 January 2021. The Clerk has written a letter to Mr Bevan thanking him for his service.

73. Declarations of Interest – No declarations of interest were received.

74. Minutes of meeting held on the 7 September 2020 – The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of that meeting.

75. Matters Arising – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been contacted by a local resident who wished to pass on his thanks for actions undertaken by the Parish Council which had resulted in white lines being renewed in School Lane.

76. Planning Matters -

203694 – The applicant for this application and of the following application being Mr J Nelson he declared an interest and removed himself from the meeting during that discussion.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the application had been circulated amongst Parish Councillors and support had been agreed . The Clerk had completed a return to the Planning Department to that effect.

203734 – The meeting was reminded that this application detailed the proposed construction of two new houses. There had been a site meeting held within Zoom. The meeting had resulted in an objection being made to the application that aspects of the Plans did not adhere to the Neighbourhood Plan and that would be filed with the Planning Department by the Clerk.

- Neighbourhood Plan – The meeting was addressed regarding a meeting between Parish Councillors and Sam Banks regarding a review of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Sam Banks has offered to look through the Plan and to suggest amendments where necessary. It was recommended that we await decisions on the consideration and results of that review. The meeting was reminded that in its present guise the Plan “carries weight”. The Neighbourhood Plan will be placed on the Agenda for our meeting in March.

- Brobury, Old Court – The Clerk repeated concerns that had been brought to his attention from a local resident regarding work currently being undertaken on the farmhouse. There were concerns that this work had not been agreed. The Clerk agreed to continue contact with the appropriate Enforcement Officer and to copy Cllr Jones into that correspondence.

77. Playing Field – The Clerk informed the meeting that the fencing had been replaced as requested in the Playing Field and that the work had been carried out to a high standard. He further informed the meeting that the work had been undertaken within the Grant that had been granted by the National Lottery. The Clerk was reminded to that approach for National Lottery signs to be placed on the site of the Playground should be made.

78. Highway Matters – The Clerk read out to the meeting a response from Balfour Beatty received by himself relating to recent correspondence in respect of proposals relating to traffic calming measures on the A 438 and the imposition of a speed limit of 20mph in Staunton on Wye. There was lengthy debate regarding concerns about the time that it may take for both these issues to be resolved. Given that there have been concerns expressed regarding a number of “near misses” involving pedestrians within the village the Clerk was requested to organise such incidents to be reported to him in order that a clear picture of the situation might be detailed to Balfour Beatty and a speed limit be implemented more rapidly.

The Clerk was requested to liaise with Cllr Jones regarding all white lines that need replacing and all signage that needs replacing. Such liaison should lead to a meeting with Lara at Balfour Beatty.

79. Parish Council Website – The Clerk informed the meeting of the current situation regarding the Assets Register details of which should be placed on the Parish Council website.

The meeting was informed that the Clerk and the Administrator for the Website had been provided with an updated list of items that required attention to make the Website legally compliant.

80. Code of Conduct – There was lengthy debate regarding this issue and following the circulation of a proposed Code of Conduct to Parish Councillors. It was proposed that the Code of Conduct be adopted and that motion was seconded and agreed unanimously. The Code will be placed upon the Parish Council website.

81. Defibrillator – No matters to report in respect of the Defibrillator in Staunton on Wye.

The Clerk reported that there had been a proposal to place a defibrillator within the ‘phone box in Monnington on Wye. He had been in contact with an organisation who would undertake the placement of such equipment. The Clerk has also been in contact with a person who might make a grant/donation in respect of such a project. He agreed to return to the next meeting with costings.

82. Footpaths – The Clerk reported that he had not received any communication in response to the pieces placed in the Signal. He agreed to contact the Clerks of other Parish Councils in the area to ascertain if Footpath Officers in those areas may be shared.

83. General Correspondence – The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no items of correspondence other than those which had been shared in previous items.

84. Finance – The Clerk informed the meeting of the current financial situation and the need to set a Precept for the forthcoming financial year. He further informed the meeting that the Precept was currently set at £3,600. After debate it was proposed and seconded that the Precept be increased to £3,700 per annum. This motion was passed unanimously.

85. Any Other Business – The Clerk informed the meeting of his recent discussions with a Clerk from another Parish Council regarding the Letton Flood Group. Sheila Marsh also joined the meeting to update the meeting regarding a recent Staunton on Wye meeting about flooding in the village. Six households have been affected. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support future discussions and would co-ordinate a further public meeting, to be held in the summer, to be attended and addressed by representatives of the Environment Agency.

86. Date of next meeting – It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on the 15 February 2021. The meeting will be conducted through Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm