

STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Group Parish Council Meeting held on Monday **15 FEBRUARY 2021** through Zoom.

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

There were three members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed Ms N Kinsey to the meeting as the prospective Parish Councillor filling the vacancy in the Parish of Staunton on Wye.

87. Apologies for absence – There were no apologies for absence.

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

89. Minutes of meeting held on the 7 December 2020 – The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been a minor amendment to the Minutes in respect of the recording of the discussion regarding Brobury, Old Court. That amendment had already been agreed by Parish Councillors.

90. Matters Arising – Parish Council Vacancy – The Clerk informed the meeting that the Elections Office had given the Parish Council permission to co-opt a Parish Councillor to fill the current vacancy. It was proposed that Ms Kinsey be co-opted onto the Parish Council and that proposal was accepted unanimously.

- **Telephone Box – Monnington on Wye** – The Clerk informed the meeting that he was still investigating the possibilities of a grant to enable the installation of a defibrillator within the telephone box. He would keep the Parish Council informed.

- **Flood Group Meeting** – The Clerk informed the meeting of his attendance at a recent meeting of the Letton Flood Group. Concerns had been expressed at the meeting regarding the placement of barriers on the A438 to stop vehicles entering the flooded area and their unofficial removal by vehicle drivers. The placement of a locked barrier is to be investigated. Further consideration would have to be given to access for local residents to their properties beyond the barrier. It was further agreed that barriers should be removed immediately the flood had receded to enable the continued flow of traffic.

The meeting was also informed that a public meeting was to be co-ordinated by local Parish Councils with representatives of the Environment Agency to be in attendance. The major issue would clearly be the continued flooding of a number of properties in the Parish Council area. A situation which had increased markedly over the last few years.

91. Neighbourhood Development Plan - The meeting was informed that there had been a recent discussion between Parish Councillors and Samantha Banks. Given the details shared within that meeting it was recommended that the Parish Council should not currently review the plan but should wait for the county to place their plan. The meeting was further informed that this would require further consultation on a basis similar to that which had been carried out before. The meeting was informed that it was likely that money to carry out that consultation would be made available through grants.

92. Planning Matters -

193964 – The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds that it had contravened the Neighbourhood Development Plan with the number of proposed houses. The application has now been approved by the Planning Committee.

210003 – No objection in what the Parish Council had described as a “carefully constructed application”

210023 – Parish Councillor PP removed himself from the meeting for this item having expressed an interest. The application has been circulated and the Parish Council has no objection. The Clerk informed the meeting that he would forward that view to the appropriate Planning Officer.

- Brobury, Old Court – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been informed of a visit to the property by an Enforcement Officer and that the case had now been closed. It was clarified in the meeting that the issue was clearly with work being carried out in the house and not in the barns which had never been questioned. The Clerk was aware that the Enforcement Officer had not gained access to the house and therefore could not be in a position to ascertain just what work was being carried out. It was agreed that should there be further concerns that the Clerk should renew contact with the Enforcement Officer to inform him of those concerns.

93. Playing Field – The Clerk informed the meeting that the work on the fencing had been completed. The placement of the Lottery signage had yet to be completed.

A request was made that the latest ROSPA report be brought to the next meeting in order that the Parish Council could ensure that all those issues raised in the latest inspection had been dealt with. It was agreed that the current layer of bark will be replaced given that the current layer is showing clear signs of wear.

The Clerk confirmed to the meeting that he had checked with the County Council legal department that the Playground and Playing Field are both legally open within the Coronavirus Act 2020.

94. Highway Matters – The meeting was informed that there is continued discussion and progression between a Parish Councillor and Balfour Beatty regarding road signage in Staunton on Wye.

The Clerk was requested to continue discussion with Balfour Beatty regarding the progression of the imposition of a 20mph speed limit outside the school and surgery. It was agreed that this would be best achieved by all “near misses” and accidents being recorded and filed with the Clerk in order that they may then be passed onto the County Council and Balfour Beatty.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been asked by Lara Edwards (Balfour Beatty) to write to herself requesting a meeting on Zoom to tackle a number of outstanding issues. Those issues were discussed during the meeting and related to potholes , road surfaces which are clearly deteriorating, water on road surfaces which freeze overnight and road signage. Ms Edwards wished the meeting to be reduced to only the Clerk , Chairman and Cllr Jones.

A matter was raised regarding a property in the village where an overhanging hedgerow was causing difficulties both to traffic and pedestrians. The matter had become so dangerous to pedestrians in particular that the Clerk was requested to write to the owner of the property requesting that he cut the hedgerow back to a suitable position.

95. Parish Council Website – The Clerk informed Councillors that a meeting between himself and two Parish Councillors will be arranged later in the year shortly before the web hosting package becomes due for renewal. It had been agreed that a package will be available at a more acceptable price. The Clerk agreed to co-ordinate the meeting.

96. Code of Conduct – The Clerk informed the meeting that the Code of Conduct has now been filed upon the website.

97. Defibrillator – No further information

98. Footpaths – The Clerk reported that he had not received any expressions of interest relating to the post of Footpath’s Officer. He agreed to talk with the Chair of Kinnersley Parish Council to assess the possibilities of sharing those in post with the Parish Council in that area.

An issue has been raised regarding the Green Lane Footpath and its current condition following the usage of machinery on the footpath whilst it was accessing land from the footpath. There was discussion and debate. It was agreed that a member of the public, who was present at the time, would make good the condition of the footpath. It was agreed that with continued improvement in the weather conditions will also improve naturally.

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

100. Finance – The Clerk informed the meeting of the current financial situation and confirmed that the Precept had now been set for the forthcoming financial year as agreed at the last Parish Council meeting.

101. Any Other Business – A matter was raised regarding the provision of a Christmas tree and lighting in the area of land at the Doctor's Pool. Further a matter was raised regarding the provision of a bench seat. The matter has been taken away for costing and will be returned for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk reminded the meeting of an e-mail that he had circulated, from the County Council, relating to empty properties. During the discussion comment was made relating to work being carried out in the old school which is a Grade II listed building. The Clerk has agreed to write to English Heritage to ascertain their views on such work being undertaken.

An issue was raised and debated in relation to Parish Councillors advertising themselves and offering to assist in local work and tasks. It was agreed that in principle that was acceptable but that they should not be advertising themselves as a Parish Councillor.

102. Date of next meeting – It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on the 22nd March 2021. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm and will be conducted through Zoom. Consideration will be given at that meeting to a date for the Parish Council AGM.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm