



Minutes of the Sarratt Parish Council meeting held remotely on

Tuesday 8th September 2020

Present: Councillor Dobson (Chair)
Councillor Diggins
Councillor Bloom
Councillor Thorp
Councillor Gell
Councillor Soothill
Councillor Mortimer

In attendance: 3 members of the public

Start time 7.30pm

166/20 APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rees, Cllr Rugg and Mrs C Owen.

166. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

167. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Mortimer and seconded by Cllr Gell and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th August 2020 be signed as a true record.

168/20 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Soothill attended a Village Hall Committee meeting where a decision was made not to apply for a SPC grant this year due to in part to receipt of a Government grant. The decision to avoid asking for a grant this year was positively received and appreciated by the Council, thereby allowing it to potentially allocate the funds to other applicants.

168. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk's report was noted, there were no questions

169. ACTION PLANNER

The planner was noted, there were no questions

ENVIRONMENT

170. LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

No written report.

Cllr Mortimer reported a positive start for new Village Warden, Joe Brownsell, there has also been good feedback from other Councillors and parishioners.

Cllrs Mortimer and Rugg have been instrumental in repairing the KGV play area. It is much better now for youngsters. Thanks were given to Cllrs Mortimer and Rugg for a great effort.

Cllr Mortimer has found a grave at Commonwood. It has been confirmed by police as an animal grave. A photograph will be put in Spotlight. In response to residents' complaints about visiting cars parking on the common at Commonwood, logs have now been placed on the edge of the grass verges.

Gordon Harrold reported around one third of the bulrushes have now been removed from Morton's Pond and the rest could be cleared manually, negating the need for a digger, and taking away the immediate urgency to identify the position of the high-voltage electrical cable passing under the pond. It was recommended it might still be prudent for SPC to locate where the cable is for future reference. Gordon advised he will be arranging for a drone survey to be conducted on the common around Morton's Pond to assist with cataloguing the species of flora and fauna present in the area.

Cllr Bloom explained that Dave Morris has constructed a moth trap and identification at her house. She wondered if the Cubs and Scouts would be interested in visiting and perhaps the Youth Group when they are back. Cllr Dobson to pursue with the Scouts.

Cllr Bloom has taken on the role of Lead Councillor for Sustainability and will be representing SPC at the meeting on October 5th about pollution in the River Chess.

Cllr Mortimer advised Cllr Rugg would continue to progress development of the Woodland Management Plan when he returned from leave. Cllr Bloom commented that merging of the footpath and the adjacent bridleway at the bottom of Commonwood common as suggested in Cllr Rugg's report on the Woodland Management Plan might not be the best course of action.

POLICY & RESOURCES

176/20 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

No written report.

177/20 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Banking transactions of £2570.31 were approved by Cllr Bloom and seconded by Cllr Mortimer.

178/20 BUDGET/FINANCE REPORT UPDATE

Cllr Thorp reported a new monthly budget tracker had been designed. This will be distributed before the next meeting with 'live' figures and Council will run with it until the end of the financial year when it will be reviewed. The Clerk will speak to Cllr Mortimer about the phasing of the Environment budget so we can give the most accurate real time status.

HIGHWAYS

179/20 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

Report attached.

180/20 WHEATSHEAF ACCESS ROAD

Reports/docs attached.

Cllr Diggins explained the situation and proposal to deal with the disintegrating road. Cllr Thorp expressed concern regarding SPC's liability. Cllr Soothill asked for more clarification around the designation of the 'Parish Road' and any associated Council responsibilities. Cllr Dobson asked Cllr Diggins to obtain legal clarification on SPC's responsibilities before we went to the quotation stage.

Cllr Diggins suggested he obtained the relevant legal advice to bring back to the next meeting. Cllr Thorp to clarify what is in the budget that could be used to pay for such advice.

181/20 PARKING

Council have received a letter from a visiting member of the public objecting to someone in Dawes Lane using a traffic cone to reserve 'their' parking space.

Cllr Soothill stated parking on a public highway is a police matter. Cllr Diggins to contact the police for a view and then submit an article to Spotlight highlighting the need for courtesy relating to parking.

The Clerk to respond to the letter stating it is not within our remit to act and we have reported the matter to the police.

182/20 QUIET LANES

Cllr Diggins has made a formal request to Herts CC for information relating to quiet lanes. This relates to Dawes Lane, Moor Lane and Sarratt Bottom. Further discussion will take place once the information is received.

183/20 BUCKS HILL DRAINAGE

Three Rivers are committed to remedial action to resolve the issue. Cllr Dobson asked Cllr Diggins to keep on top of the issue as this has been ongoing for a long time and is causing huge frustration to the affected resident.

PLANNING

185/20 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Soothill reported the first public consultation is arranged for 16 & 17 of September in the Village Hall.

TRDC's "preferred options consultation" on the new draft Local Plan is now expected to be published in Nov/Dec 2020 and will include the proposed new housing allocation targets for Sarratt. It is also anticipated it will include where any new settlement(s) will be located in the district.

Cllr Soothill also brought Council's attention to the Government white paper which proposes dividing housing development areas into three categories, namely Growth, Renewal and Protected, which would include Green Belt and AONB.

184/20 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Soothill discussed a letter from Chorleywood PC asking other parishes to support them in challenging TRDC over their lack of communication about the recent central government 'presumption of development' designation on Three Rivers and their failure to publish a new Local Plan.

It was felt an initial conversation with Chorleywood was appropriate and the Chair asked Cllr Soothill to draft a suitable communication with the Clerk.

186/20 TO COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications were discussed and agreed

187/20 TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning decisions were noted

188/20 ENFORCEMENTS

Enforcements were noted. Particular reference was made to Fir Trees in Dawes Lane where the new entrance is deemed to need planning permission and the soil embankment and hedgerow is to be reinstated

189/20 UPDATE ON THE DONATION BY A LOCAL RESIDENT TO SPC

Following discussions with Cllr Dobson, the family making the donation have confirmed they are happy with the suggestion of a multi play area at KGV. Following a site visit to KGV with Cllr Rugg by the manufacturer of the equipment they have confirmed this can be achieved within the 10k budget. Now awaiting final approval from the KGV Trustees at their Committee Meeting on September 14th.

190/20 COVID – 19 UPDATE

Cllr Dobson confirmed the village is virtually back to normal and unless there is a second spike and circumstances change this item will be removed from future agendas. It was agreed for the time being SPC would continue to hold its monthly Council meetings via zoom.

191/20 CORRESPONDENCE

Council has received a letter from BT wanting to remove the public phone box from Belsize. Although it is used infrequently, around five time in the past year, it still provides an essential communication facility in an area where mobile signal is poor to non-existent.

Action for the Clerk to respond to BT objecting to their plan for removal of the box.

192/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Gordon Harrold asked why the SPC website was so poor. Cllr Thorp responded by agreeing with Gordon and apologising. The current site is not fit for purpose and a new website will replace it within a few weeks. The Clerk will provide an update on where we are with the new site and speed up the delivery of the new site as much as possible.

193/20 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

No Councillor questions

194/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS REQUESTED TO BE PUT ON NEXT AGENDA

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 13th October 2020, to be held remotely.

The meeting ended at 22.13

To pass resolution that the Press and Public may be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business under Section 1 Sub Section (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 from any items on the Agenda which are deemed to relate to exempt information

Proposed by Cllr Mortimer, seconded by Cllr Soothill

195/20 TO DISCUSS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE MULBERRY BUSH ACCESS ON DAWES LANE

It was resolved that due to the pending application to HCC for Quiet Lane status for Moor Lane, Dawes Lane and Sarratt Bottom, it would be inappropriate at this stage to offer

an easement to Mulberry Bush Farm for access over Dawes Common until the implications on traffic flow relating to the said application are fully understood. Clerk to write to Mr Norris to advise him of Council's decision.