

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL
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Hertfordshire. WD3 6AS



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Minutes of the Sarratt Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8 February

Councillors in attendance: Sarah Dobson
John Rugg
John Gell
Simon Diggins
Lee Farman
Flo Garvey (from 8pm)
Michael Lowry
Angela Coakley

Also in Attendance: District Councillor Reed
Lena Mortimer, Acting Clerk to the Council
26 members of the public

335/22 APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies from Cllr Garvey who would not be able to arrive until 8pm.
Apologies from the Clerk, Caroline Owen who is still on sick leave.

336/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest

337/22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions from the Public in attendance at the meeting. The following were raised:

- Jan Mitchell - Fireworks linked to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and concerns over the impact on horses
- Stephen Morrill/Victoria Jackson – phone box at Buck's Hill
- Anne Dudley – Trees
- Phil Wade and Ian McClelland – Burlington Property Development
- Victoria Jackson - Traveller Site at Buck's Hill

The Chair advised questions/comments relating to items already on the Agenda would be covered at the appropriate time. Those items that were not on the Agenda would be addressed now. These included:

- Jan Mitchell asked whether the Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations in the Village would involve a fireworks display, following the death of her horse as a result of fireworks set off by a neighbour the previous year. Cllr Angela Coakley responded on behalf of the Council advising initial conversations had started regarding an event in the Parish to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. The concept was to have a ‘street party on the green’ on the afternoon of Sunday 5 June (the Jubilee weekend). Ideas include a family picnic, possibly a bar and music and ‘simple’ entertainment such as a fancy dress competition, dog show, horse parade, and a tug-o-war competition. There were no plans to include fireworks, and as far as SPC is aware, Chipperfield have no plans to do so either. It was recommended Jan checks with the local pubs to find out if they are planning to. Cllr Reed offered to check the legislation around private/public displays with regard to animals.
- Anne Dudley advised Council that there had originally been a chestnut tree on the highway verge by the ‘welcome to Sarratt’ sign on Sarratt Road when entering the village from Croxley. Could this be replaced. The Chair advised as this was a highway verge permission to plant a tree on the land would be needed from Herts County Council (HCC) Highways department, but it was hoped permission would not be refused, and the tree could be funded from the Queen’s Green Canopy budget. A request was made by Cllr Rugg suggested that the replacement tree should not be a Horse Chestnut due to trees in Hertfordshire dying because of the widespread infestation of leaf minor moths associated with that species.
- Traveller Site at Chandlers Cross – removal of the enlarged access point and reinstatement of the hedgerow. Cllr Farman advised SPC had received an update on the site as part of this month’s Planning Enforcements Report from Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) which stated *“Following the end of the temporary event an enforcement notice was served in respect of the works to the access. This notice took effect on 6 October; however, an appeal was lodged and is now valid. Council’s Statement of Case sent, now just waiting decision from PINS”*. PINS is the National Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Farman will be following this up with the TRDC Enforcement Team to understand the deadline for compliance under the Enforcement Order that has been issued.

338/22 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Two matters of accuracy were raised:

- 319/22 – should read Mr Queenan, not Mr Green
- Clerk’s Action Log item 290/21A – should read the Bucks Hill BT Box, not the Chandlers Cross BT box.

Subject to these amendments the Minutes of the SPC Meeting held on Tuesday 11 January were approved.

Proposed: Cllr John Gell; Seconded: Cllr John Rugg

Matters Arising from the previous Minutes not on the February Meeting Agenda

- All four of the new black & white ‘finger post’ road signs have now been erected. The quality of the posts appears good. As such SPC will place an order for replacements for the three other fingerposts. Cllr Lowry confirmed funding for these had been included in the current year’s budget. Cllr Gell will liaise with the Clerk over the specifications for the final three fingerposts. Thanks were given to Andrew Whitewood and former Cllr Nick Mortimer for the installation of the first four fingerposts.

- Fixed Penalty Notices for parking on The Green are being progressed. The Clerk has made contact with the local police representative over the matter.
- Poachers Barn, Penman's Green – A reply has been received by SPC and correspondence is underway and the matter is being progressed.
- There are now an additional two vacant allotment plots - #20 and #40.

339/22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.

- Cllr Farman and Garvey attended the recent Neighbourhood Plan meeting.
- Cllr Farman had held a telephone meeting with Stephen Giles on EV charging points in Abbots Langley – sharing knowledge and actions to make it easier for SPC when adopting this. Cllr Garvey will attend the next KGV and the Village Hall Committee meetings to discuss EV charging points, as well as speaking with the village pubs and Biggerstaff's garage.

340/22 CLERK/RFO REPORT

In addition to the updates provided in the Action Log, the Acting Clerk reported on the following:

- Letter written to Robert Webb at the CAA regarding the helicopter flights at Model Farm
- Contact made with the Tree Officer at TRDC for an inspection of Ash Trees at the bottom of Red Lion Lane,
- Email with details of costs and designs sent to Mr Wiggs about a memorial bench for the Village Green.

341/22 ACTION LOG

There were no matters arising from the updated Action Log circulated by the Acting Clerk with the papers for the meeting. Items as reported as 'completed', will now be removed from the next iteration of the Action Log.

PLANNING

342/22 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Farman advised the TRDC Planning and Enforcement Officers had visited The Mulberry Bush last week and have highlighted a number of developments / activities taking place on the site that they wish to investigate further with their legal team. SPC will await a more detailed report and any actions TRDC plan to take in due course.

343/22 SPC FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING DECISIONS

Cllr Farman delivered a presentation on a framework to guide SPC responses to planning applications going forwards to ensure consistency of approach to the economic, social and environmental protection of the Parish. Cllr Farman's proposal included what SPC was permitted to comment on as a statutory consultee to the local planning authority (TRDC). It was also aligned to the current thinking for the Neighbourhood Plan. Council supported the framework proposed by Cllr Farman and agreed to use it to inform their comments on planning applications going forwards.

Proposed: Cllr Garvey; Seconded Cllr Gell

344/22 BURLINGTON PROPERTY GROUP DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The Chair opened this agenda item stating SPC were not made aware of the proposed development for 85 houses across 2 parcels of land in Sarratt before the announcement by the Burlington Property Group on Wednesday 26 January was made public. SPC has also had no contact with the developers at any time, before or since the announcement, other than an email inviting them to join the online Consultations sessions held on 3 & 4 February. SPC were shocked to see the details of the development planned on what is Green Belt land and are also very uncomfortable about the use of the phrase 'Sarratt Community' associated with this proposal.

Cllr Farman stated SPC first became aware of the information presented by Burlington Property Group regarding a large development across two Green Belt sites in Sarratt at the same time as the general public. In terms of the planning process this is at an early stage as there have been no submitted planning applications, so as a statutory consultee to the District planning authority there is nothing for SPC to formally respond to at this stage. SPC will of course continue to collect information and monitor this situation carefully, so it is ready to respond strongly as soon as anything formal is submitted.

Two comments were then heard from members of the public.

Another member of the public responded to the point made about the use of the phrase "Sarratt Community" in association with this proposed development. The member of the public advised he is a solicitor and domain "passing off" such as this can be reported to Nominet for action – and potentially result in the removal of the domain. It was agreed the Acting Clerk would follow up with the member of the public that raised this post the meeting.

District Cllr Ciaran Reed concurred with Cllr Farman that no formal response from SPC is appropriate until the proposed development enters the formal planning process with TRDC and SPC is asked to comment as a statutory consultee. Cllr Reed went on to advise the meeting that Chorleywood Parish Council found themselves in a similar position when the development of 800 houses on Green Street, Chorleywood was put forward by a developer, but now that this has moved to a formal planning application they are permitted to comment and have produced a 68 page document covering their objections. Cllr Reed also advised that Burlington were not in contact with Three Rivers (as far as he was aware), but that a pre-planning application to HCC Highways may have been made.

It was therefore recommended now is not the time to submit detailed objections, rather using the experience of Chorleywood, SPC should gather its objections and those of its parishioners, in order to be ready to act when the formal planning application process arrives.

Comments were made about the proposed Scout hut and Doctor's surgery being used by the developers to justify 'very special circumstance' for a development on Green Belt land. Comments were also made about the proposed development of 85 houses only generating 40 additional traffic movements at peak hours and not creating more demand for places at Sarratt School over and above the 5-8 place availability per year quoted by the developers.

In conclusion SPC agreed it would refrain from formally commenting on the proposed development until invited to do so by TRDC as part of a formal application. But, in the meantime SPC would write to the NHS Surgery at New Road, Croxley, and the District and County Scout Associations advising it had not been informed of these proposals prior to them being made public by the developers and that SPC was strongly opposed to unnecessary facilities for the Parish being proposed by the developers in order to secure planning permission for 85 new houses from TRDC.

This action by SPC was agreed by all Councillors. The Chair abstained from the vote.

It was also agreed Cllr Farman would compose a statement from SPC on its position regarding the proposed development to be posted on the SPC website.

A member of the public, Phil Wade also made a request that the 30-mile speed limit should be extended going towards and away from Sarratt. The Acting Clerk will follow up with him on this matter.

345/22 TO COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **22/0068/CLPD: Little Paddock Little Windmill Hill Chipperfield WD4 9DG:**
Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Construction of detached garage
Noted
- **22/0067/CLPD: Little Paddock Little Windmill Hill Chipperfield WD4 9DG:**
Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Development: Erection of outbuilding to rear.
Noted
- **21/2910/FUL: Quickmoor Cottage Commonwood Sarratt WD4 9BB:** Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single-storey extension
No objection
- **21/2885/FUL: The Old Rectory Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HJ:**
Single storey extension to existing garden room, installation of roof terrace and alterations to fenestration
No objection to the minor extension. SPC will however, raise a concern that the external design and especially the windows may not be in keeping with the rest of the building.
- **21/2896/OUT Outline Application: Land to the Rear of 76 & 78 Church Lane Sarratt WD3 6HL:**
Construction of up to 20 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) with new access to Church Lane (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved).
SPC very strongly objects to this application on the basis of overdevelopment in the Green Belt (this plot has been previously formally assessed stating if this land is released at least high harm to Green Belt would result), substantial loss of biodiversity and significant negative impact on sustainable traffic as highlighted by HCC Highways. If officers are minded to approve we request this application is brought to the Planning Committee.

346/22 TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

- **21/2916/PDE Prior Approval: 27 Church Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6HN:**
Single storey rear extension (depth 6 metres, maximum height 3.6 metres, maximum eaves height 2.4 metres)
SPC: Noted. We hope that the opportunity to proportionally extend the house that this permitted development application provides will allow this property to receive some needed renovation
TRDC: Approved
- **21/2880/PDE Prior Approval: Heather Cottage Penman's Hill Chipperfield Kings Langley Hertfordshire WD4 9DJ**
Single storey rear extension (depth 8 metres, maximum height 3.7 metres, maximum eaves height 3 metres)

SPC: Noted

TRDC: No Objection

- **21/2722/FUL: Homeland The Green Sarratt WD3 6BH**

Erection of a detached garden room

SPC: No objection ' If officers are minded to approve we ask that by permitting an extra development on this site that all remaining permitted development rights for this site are removed

TRDC: Approved [permitted development rights were not removed in the decision notice]

- **21/2705/FUL: Great Wheelers The Green Sarratt WD3 6BJ**

Replacement outbuilding

SPC: No Objection

TRDC: Approved

- **21/2635/PDNT: Bucks Hill Farm Bucks Hill Sarratt WD4 9AP**

Permitted Development Notice Telecommunications: Installation of a 18 metre high monopole, 4 no. equipment cabinets and development works ancillary thereto

SPC: No objection

TRDC: Refused [By virtue of its scale, height and siting the proposed development would result in an incongruous and unduly prominent feature within the landscape contrary to Policy CP1...]

Concern was expressed by councillors and members of the public about difficulties regularly experienced by the Emergency Services in locating premises and responding to urgent accident incidents in remote rural locations in and around Sarratt. Due to the lack of an adequate communications signal network for them to utilise/operate with in this area. As this is reported to be due to the lack of a suitable mast It was suggested that TRDC Planning Dept could be approached to be more proactive in assisting applicants to resolve this issue rather than just refusing yet another application (see **21/2635/PDNT** above).

- **21/2600/FUL: Penacre's Stables adjacent to Callipers Cottage Callipers Cottage Penman's Green Sarratt Hertfordshire WD4 9AY**

Construction of 25m x 45m manege and fencing

SPC: We object to this application in its current form on the basis that the new development is very close to a neighbouring property and the impact that may cause.

We encourage all parties to find an alternative compromise solution.

TRDC: Approved [restrictions added, no external lighting, non-commercial use only]

- **21/2580/FUL: The Barn Goldingtons Church Lane Sarratt Hertfordshire WD3 6HE**

Erection of detached outbuilding/garden room

SPC: We strongly object to this application on the grounds of over development in Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is worth noting that the land in this application is a possible site of interest as it adjoins a plot currently under archaeological investigation.

TRDC: Approved [an archaeological inspection has been added as a condition]

- **21/2234/FUL: Corner House Redhall Lane Chandlers Cross Hertfordshire WD3 4LX**

Demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of a replacement four-bedroom dwelling with car parking, landscaping and associated works

SPC: No objection but note the scale of the incremental development exceeds TRDC policy

TRDC: Approved

347/22 PLANNING ENFORCEMENTS

- **16/0178/COMP: The Old Boot Public House** - Unauthorised Works: Extension of car park into adjacent field (David Heighton)
Planning permission granted, works currently underway and substantially completed. Site visit required before closing case.
- **18/0097/COMP: Three Ways, Poles Hill** – Material change of use from single dwellinghouse to two dwellings (converted garage) (Scott Volker)
Planning Contravention Notice issued. 19/2294/CLED then refused. Further PCN to be issued to clarify use as it's not clear if used as two separate dwellings.
- **18/0178/COMP: Coltspring Riding Stables, Sarratt Road** - Material Change of Use: Conversion of stable block into residential dwelling (David Heighton)
Monitoring, previous 18/2531/CLED considered that dwelling was ancillary to the wider use of the site and therefore was not a material change of use.
- **19/0118/COMP: Blacketts Nursery, Rousebarn Lane** - Unauthorised Material Change Of Use - business in operation (David Heighton)
Further site visit required.
- **19/0177/COMP: Silverfields, Bucks Hill** - Replacement outbuilding (not for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling) and alterations to garage (Aaron Roberts)
Works to the garage are immune from enforcement action as they took place 4 years prior to original complaint (evidence has been provided). The outbuilding is used for general household storage so case will be closed.
- **19/0208/COMP: Newton Cottage, Poles Hill** - Construction of front boundary walls and alterations to ground levels to frontage including the extension of the driveway (Aaron Roberts)
Appeal dismissed relating to extension of driveway including retaining walls. There is a dispute relating to the retaining walls which exist as to whether they are permitted development. LPA of the view is that they are not acting as a means of enclosure and were originally built as an engineering operation to serve an extended driveway which has not yet occurred. A notice may therefore be served if the owner fails to remove.
- **20/0171/COMP: Fir Trees, Dawes Lane, Sarratt** - New access and erection of gates (David Heighton)
Enforcement notice served and came into effect yesterday. Not aware that an appeal has been made so notice is required to be complied with.
- **20/0005/COMP: Ainsworth Cattery, Bucks Hill** - Installation of gates, fencing and hardstanding (David Heighton)
Assessment on-going.
- **20/0077/COMP: Grove Lodge, Fir Tree Hill** - Unauthorised works in the Green Belt (David Heighton)
Fencing requires planning permission as over 1m in height adjacent to road. Owner to be made aware.
- **20/0219/COMP: Poachers Retreat, Penmans Green, Sarratt** - Works not in accordance with 18/1408/PDA - Alleged demolition of building (David Heighton)
Works considered in accordance with PDA. Case to be closed.
- **20/0224/COMP: Moonpenny Farm, Bucks Hill, Kings Langley** - Change of use from agriculture to equestrian and associated works (Matthew Roberts)
Site visit undertaken, a few field shelters have been erected which are movable and not significant enough to constitute development and thus do not require planning permission. As it stands, the use still appears to be agricultural as animals grazing on the land however further visits to take place. Site visits have taken place following complaints regarding access

road; however, the deviated works were simply backfilling a service trench. Use of land still as agriculture. Monitoring when in the area.

- **21/0002/COMP: Barn at Dellfield Farm** - Unauthorised works to converted barn including extension of residential curtilage (Aaron Roberts)
Attempted a site visit earlier in the year but a new visit to be arranged shortly.
- **21/0015/COMP: Dellfield Farm, Plough Lane** - Creation of new access (Aaron Roberts)
Site visit required (access issues).
- **21/0003/COMP: Cart and Horses Public House, Commonwood, Sarratt** - Material change of use: Public house to a mixed use: public house and shop (Matthew Roberts)
Letter sent, planning application currently being prepared.
- **21/0021/COMP: Hill Top, Penmans Hill, Chipperfield** - Unauthorised windows and doors in existing openings (David Heighton)
Site visit required.
- **21/0025/COMP: 38 Dawes Lane, Sarratt** - Works not in accordance with 20/2628/PDE or 20/1387/CLPD and alterations to porch (David Heighton)
Planning application submitted and granted under 21/0973/FUL. Raised terrace to be removed.
- **21/0047/COMP: New Model Farm, Sarratt Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth** - Barn conversion to offices (David Heighton)
Owner advised that works relate to a historic permission which had lawfully commenced (8/423/91) which was allowed at appeal. The owner also confirmed that the use of land for aviation is carried out in accordance with the Air Navigation Order and for no more than 28 days a year (permitted development). A site visit was arranged but got delayed due to the owner self-isolating, a new visit is likely to take place soon.
- **21/0102/COMP – Callipers Cottage, Penmans Green, Sarratt** - Works not in accordance with 18/2116/FUL - Roof Height (Scott Volker)
Planning permission required for works as they have gone beyond the scope of the planning permission. Owner informed and given a deadline.
- **21/0143/COMP – Winchwood, Windmill Hill, Chipperfield** - Material change of use: Extension of residential curtilage (David Heighton)
Site visit required.
- **21/0144/COMP – Woodlea House, Windmill Hill, Chipperfield** - Material change of use: Extension of residential curtilage (David Heighton)
Site visit required.
- **21/0145/COMP – Land adjoining Blenheim Cottage, Bucks Hill, Sarratt** - Unauthorised works: Removal of hedgerow / widening of access and unauthorised use of land for event/ caravan site (Matthew Roberts)
Following the end of the temporary event an enforcement notice was served in respect of the works to the access. This notice took effect on 6 October; however, an appeal was lodged and is now valid. Council's Statement of Case sent, now just waiting decision from PINS.
- **21/0180/COMP – Potten Farm, Chandlers Lane** - Breach of Planning Conditions 5, 6, 7 & 8 of 18/0454/FUL (Matthew Roberts)
Letter sent, Approval of Details application submitted under 21/2611/DIS & new application under 21/2612/FUL.
- **21/0193/COMP – Vine Cottage, The Green** –unauthorised fencing (Scott Volker)
As per recent update, just require one panel to be removed but circumstances are sensitive.
- **22/0014/COMP – Morar, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt** - Installation of non obscured first floor windows and works not in accordance with 21/1090/FUL (David Heighton)
Site visit required.

- **22/0019/COMP – Land at Long Spring, Sarratt Lane** - Felling of protected trees and creation of access (Matt Roberts)
Land owner advised that access/opening require planning permission / application due. Removal of trees subject to investigations with Landscape department/Forestry Commission.
- **The Mulberry Bush** – as per recent correspondence it is our view that planning permission is required for various elements on site; however, TRDC planning officers have a meeting arranged with the Planning Solicitor to run through our concerns on Thursday.

Other Planning Matters:

District Cllr Reed advised TRDC now appear to be pushing back publication of their new Local Plan to 2025. The TRDC Planning Committee has also recently voted to re-visit Reg 18 of the new draft Local Plan. This could see sites for development in Sarratt re-appearing in the next iteration of TRDC Reg 18 new draft TRDC Local Plan.

ENVIRONMENT

348/22 COUNCILLORS REPORT

A meeting with Julian Thornton, HCC Right of Way Team, is scheduled in Sarratt on 22 February with interested Councillors. Former Cllr Nick Mortimer and Andrew Whitewood are invited.

The Councillors continue to investigate funding around proposed footpaths/cycleways.

Julie Rees – Tree Officer for TRDC is coming out to investigate the Ash Trees at the bottom of Red Lion Lane. An external, independent Tree Surgeon will also come to describe their condition. It was suggested the Parish Council may need to repeat an earlier request and make a formal application to TRDC for them to investigate a need for a blanket TPO to prevent the ongoing illegal felling of Commonwood trees.

There have been 6 fly tippings, one including the corpses of a number of foxes and rabbits, which have now been removed.

Former Cllr Nick Mortimer led a Litter Picking group with Y3 from Sarratt School which was a popular event and will be repeated.

Parish Warden's report will be circulated.

349/22 WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nothing further to report this month as we continue to await the response from the Forestry Commission to the 10 Year Plan produced by Herts CC on behalf of the Parish.

350/22 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Queen's Green Canopy – Alex Laurie was rather disapproving of Cllr Garvey's planting of the land at Downer Drive/Dawes Lane. Cllr Garvey is not entirely sure why, but this will be clarified when they meet on Thursday, on site. SPC have offered to take on the grass cutting at this site, if that would help the process of planting and greening.

Abbotts Langley are investigating the BP Pulse scheme for EV charging, which is paid 75% by the government and 25% by BP. This provides a little income for the landowner of the site for the EV charging points. TRDC will engage with all the rural parishes about electric car charging – information provided to Cllr Garvey by Stephen Giles.

Polyethene type Soft Plastic (i.e carrier bags etc) is not currently included in the TRDC curb side bin collection. Tesco and the Co-op are taking all such plastic. A collection point in the village for such soft plastics would be excellent. It was recommended Cllr

Garvey peak to the Sustainable Sarratt group about whether this is something they could progress with TRDC.

Solar powered crushing bins – Cllr Diggins is to investigate.

351/22 UPDATE ON PHONE BOXES

Stephen Morrill and Victoria Jackson representing the Commonwood and Chandler's Cross Residents Association (CCRA) confirmed the Resident's Association will take on the maintenance of the phone box in Buck's Hill so it can remain in situ as a reference point for the emergency services and deliveries. SPC will remain owners of the box and will buy the replacement glass currently required for it but going forwards CCRA will undertake ongoing repairs and maintenance paid for by the CCRA.

SPC will seek assistance on moving the other phone box in Chandler's Cross to Sarratt School to be used as a book swap station.

POLICY AND RESOURCES

352/22 LEAD COUNCILS REPORT

The recent internal audit interim assessment went well, and Cllr Lowry felt it was a good outcome, with a limited number of recommendations to take on board.

However, these included the Council:

- a) Retrospectively approving the value of the 21/22 Precept of £96,557. In the minutes of the December 2020 SPC meeting the specific amount was not stated even though it had been included in the papers for the meeting.
- b) Formally approving the 22/23 Precept request of £96,557 and linking it to the Band D impact of £87.24, which in fact is a reduction of 68p on the Band D contribution for 21/22 which was £87.91. In the minutes of the December 2021 meeting the link to Band D had not been included.

Both these retrospective approvals were agreed by Council.

Proposer: Cllr Rugg; Seconder: Cllr Diggins

Cllr Lowry also advised:

- SPC needs another person to oversee and approve accounts work. As Cllr Lowry is overseeing and doing the posting and coding himself another person should validate this process.
- We have a software application on the SPC desktop for the LCRS Risk Management software. SPC to investigate the expense involved and whether it will bring any benefits to SPC as typically it is designed for use in larger Councils.
- Cllr Lowry will be monitoring the budget and will be issuing a quarterly report in future.

353/22 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Cllr Lowry circulated the bank account and statements,

To approve the internet banking transactions to the sum of £9,400.92

Proposed: Cllr Rugg; Seconded Cllr Diggins.

354/22 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

SPC would like to extend its thanks to Cllr Lowry for his hard work and professionalism during this process.

HIGHWAYS

355/22 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Diggins bemoaned the lack of information and knowledge exhibited by TRDC about flooding and ditches. York House School continues to be badly affected. The Woodland Trust appears to be completely uninterested in this matter as it 'does not correspond with their charitable aims'. SPC will respond with photographic evidence.
- Working with the York House School's groundsman, there may be some scope for providing a small sump which may remove some of the surface water off the road. Cllr Rugg noted in Flaunden, boreholes were created and whilst initially effective they had over time become blocked along with gulleys that are no longer regularly cleared.
- Cycleways proceed apace. These will be discussed during with meeting with Julian Thornton. Cllr Diggins has received good information from Bishops Stortford Council about their cycleways program – this adds good detail to the SPC plans.

356/22 CORRESPONDENCE

None

357/22 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None

358/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS REQUESTED TO BE PUT ON NEXT AGENDA

The date of the next meeting will be TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2022

359/22 PART II

To pass a 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.

360/22 STAFFING MATTERS

The Chair advised Council that the Parish Clerk has been issued with another FIT Note signing her off on sick leave till the end of February. In the light of this the Chair has requested, and received a Medial Report form the Clerk's GP, and is now awaiting an Occupational Health Assessment Report which the Clerk has consented to.