BOLD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Bold Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th June 2020**

**(Due to the pandemic lockdown the meeting was held virtually)**

**Present:** Councillors A. Makin, D. Hawley, C. Smith, P. Gerrard, C. Gerrard, C. Hughes, C. Foy, A. West, S. Hull, D. O’Keefe (joined by audio link at item 8)

**20/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D.J. Jackson, and P. Fishwick. Councillor O’Keefe had indicated that he would join the meeting after the start.

**Resolved** that the apologies be accepted and approved, and that Councillor P. Gerrard liaise with Councillor Fishwick with a view to providing one of the Parish Council community laptops to enable him to join future virtual meetings.

**20/28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Due to his membership of the North West Miners’ Association, Councillor P. Gerrard expressed an interest in item 14 (see minute 20/40)

**Resolved** that the declaration be noted

**20/29 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th May 2020**

An issue of accuracy was raised regarding minute no. 20/01, in respect of the starting point for discounting Councillor absences attributable to the pandemic.

**Resolved** that the above minute should indicate the above starting point as the day of the 18th April 2020 meeting which had to be cancelled. Subject to this amendment it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

**20/30 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th May 2020**

There were no matters of accuracy raised.

There were no matters arising which were not already on the agenda:

**Resolved** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

**20/31 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Due to the meeting being held virtually there were no members of the public present.

**Resolved** to note the situation.

**20/32** **CLERK’S REPORT**

The clerk reported on the following items:

1. Internal Audit Reciprocal Arrangement

The Clerk informed members that the reciprocal arrangements for internal audit relating to the financial year 2019/20 had been duly completed.

1. Transparency Code – Publication Requirements

The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council’s legal obligations under the Transparency Code, to publish various documents and information on its website, particularly relating to its accounts and governance for 2019/20, had been met. The documents have been duly uploaded to the website well in advance of the deadline, making the Parish Council compliant.

**Resolved**

To note the Clerk’s report.

**20/33 POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Due to the virtual nature of parish council meeting, there was no police representation. Several issues of concern were raised. These included the problems of congregating youths and anti-social behaviour on Colliers Moss, to which it was agreed that a co-ordinated solution was needed involving various interested groups.

**Resolved** that the Clerk contact Sergeant Rackham and raise the following issues:

1. Problem of young people congregating on Colliers Moss and related anti-social behaviour.
2. Ongoing issues previously raised regarding drug dealing and sexual activity at Clock Face Country Park car park. Emphasis to be given that these issues continue to be reported and yet no police action is evident.
3. Invite officers to participate in the next virtual meeting

In addition, Councillors Hull, Hawley, West, and Hughes to meet at Colliers Moss to assess needs such as litter bins, paths etc. and subsequently to meet with the existing action group from New Bold, together with representatives to be invited from St Helens Council. Councillor O’Keefe committed to pursuing Section 106 funding via St Helens Council (Reginald Rd. development).

**20/34 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Consultations*

There were no new applications for consideration. However, the Clerk informed members that there had been amendments and new documentation relating to planning application no. P/2020/0061 – Land to West of Omega. These refer to environmental issues in particular. As a result, a new consultation deadline had been set of 24th July 2020.

**Resolved** to note the above and post a public notice displaying the above information.

***Committee’s Actions***

*No comments in relation to the following:*

**P/2020/0328 – Plot 3 Bargyloo Barn, Warrington Road**

Extension of detached dwelling and garage with access landscaping.

**P/2020/0337 – Wheatacre House, Gorsey Lane**

Single storey side extension and demolition of delapidated garage to build new triple car garage.

**P/2020/0346 – Plot 1 & 2 Bargyloo Farm, Warrington Road**

Erection of 2no detached dwellings

**P/2020/0351– 6 Columbine Way, Bold**

Removal of existing conservatory and replacement single storey rear extension, along with part conversion of integral garage

R**esolved** to note and endorse committee actions

Decisions

*Approvals*

P/2020/0243 – 75 Gorsey Lane, Clock Face

Single storey rear extension

P/2020/0253 – 2 Bridge Court, Bridge Road, Clock Face

Two storey side extension

P/2020/0283 – 5 Union Bank Lane

Two storey side extension

**Resolved** to note and endorse the above decision

**20/35 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Following the payment of accounts submitted for the last scheduled meeting the bank balance currently stands at £30,162.13 (this does not include the second annual precept instalment of £6,711). Details of payments and the total spend per budget item were shown on the statements signed by the Chairman.

**Resolved** to note the report.

(b) Accounts for Payment

**Resolved** that the following be approved for payment:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Amount  £ | Cheque Number |
| Parish Clerk:  Salary and establishment costs 1st Quarter 2020/21 (includes PAYE £289.80 paid directly by Clerk)  Reimburse website hosting fee  Reimburse printing contract costs April/May  Total | 1,599.49  86.26  3.49  1,689.24 | 000713 |
| Zurich Municipal (Insurance 2020/21) | 403.66 | 000714 |

(c) Receipts

The following amounts have been received and credited to the bank account:

* First instalment of annual precept £6,711
* VAT reimbursement re 2019/20 £699.54

**Resolved** that the above receipts are noted

**20/36 MANAGEMENT OF FISHING LAKE – BOLD COUNTRY PARK**

An extensive discussion took place regarding the management of the lake, particularly given the problems associated with the congregation of youths and anti-social behaviour. The issues of litter, drug taking and alcohol abuse were identified as significant concerns. Councillor O’Keefe informed the meeting that he had organised, via St Helens Council, a litter picking team and two lorries, which had removed large quantities of rubbish. Members noted the extreme difficulties in policing the lake, and the need for improvements to the entrance (made difficult by the fact that this is located within the Warrington boundary).

**Resolved** to note the above, continue to monitor the situation and explore possible solutions. The Clerk to contact the Secretary of Clock Face Recreation Club fishing group to explore the possibility of locking the gate and restricting its use to bona fide anglers.

**20/37 FLOUTING OF LOCKDOWN RULES IN CLOCK FACE COUNTRY PARK**

This item was raised as a concern at the parish council meeting on 24th June 2020. Since lockdown rules were on the verge of being relaxed the problem had been very much overtaken by events.

**Resolved** to note the above.

**20/38 CLOCK FACE RECREATION CLUB – COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORK**

Members were keen to acknowledge the work of Clock Face Recreation Club in supporting vulnerable people in the community during the pandemic lockdown. A number of possible options were suggested.

**Resolved** that Councillor Hughes organise a meeting of councillors to discuss possible options, and to make recommendations.

**20/39 MARIE CURIE EMERGENCY APPEAL (Sect. 137 grant appeal)**

The Clerk informed members of an application for funding which had been received from the above organisation. The need for funding had been heightened by the effects of the pandemic lockdown. Members discussed the situation, and recognised the good work and needs particularly in the current situation.

**Resolved** whilst members were sympathetic to the needs of the organisation, given the limited parish council resources, it was felt important, and indeed a requirement, to reserve those funds for more local needs.

**20/40 NORTH WEST MINERS ASSOCIATION (Sect. 137 grant appeal)**

The Clerk had been contacted by the above Association which operates from Clock Face Miners’ Recreation Club. The Clerk outlined the aims, work and plans of the association. He also referred to the latest accounts and bank balance. Councillor Paul Gerrard outlined the more immediate plans for a march on the Dream Site, and also raised the issue of potentially utilising the “Smithy” site for car parking (concern was expressed that this long running problem had not been resolved between St Helens Council and the owner). The Association was seeking financial support from the Parish Council.

Members were reminded that the Parish Council made a donation of £250 in August 2019.

**Resolved** to defer the application until the 5th August Parish Council meeting.

**20/41 DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillor Hawley informed members that the New Bold defibrillator had been installed / attached to the existing community noticeboard. It had also been registered with the ambulance service. A local doctor has offered to carry out the annual service and has offered local training. In addition arrangements were under way for the installation of a second defibrillator at Bold Tyres (donated by the local doctor). A local electrician will carry out the work once a defibrillator cabinet has been procured. Funding has already been approved for this.

Members thanked Councillor Hawley for his good work in completing the first installation and progressing the second.

**Resolved** that the second cabinet be procured and work proceed to install the second defibrillator.

**20/42 BOLD WAR MEMORIAL AND WORKERS’ MEMORIAL**

Councillor O’Keefe informed members of the current position and committed to contacting the Archdiocese regarding the proposed site, with a view to progressing to the planning permission stage. Councillor Smith reminded members that there was an immediate need to agree a design in order to conduct an informed discussion with the Archdiocese and make a planning application.

**Resolved** to note the position and Councillor O’Keefe to call a meeting of the Sub Group before the next Parish Council meeting.

**20/43 REPORTS**

1. Members discussed the current movement “Black Lives Matter” and issues of racial equality.
2. Councillor Foy raised the issue of the maintenance of the footpath between Crawford Street and Travers Entry. Despite the local authority making a site visits it had not undertaken any work. Two local residents have in fact undertaken repair work at their own cost. He also reported that the bins on Clock Face Country Park were overflowing and that the frequency for emptying them was inadequate. Local residents are voluntarily litter picking to help ease the situation. Members expressed concern that residents were getting involved in undertaking work which is the responsibility of the local authority, and that Bold does not seem to be getting a fair deal.
3. Concern was expressed at the large amount of litter on the Dream site, especially considering that the Forestry Commission has recently engaged the services of two operatives to deal with the problem. The question was raised as to whether the contract is supervised. The Clerk committed to contact the Forestry Commission to relay concerns.
4. Councillor Foy informed members that he had contacted the local authority regarding overgrown vegetation on Gorsey Lane. Landowners have consequently been issued instructions to cut back vegetations, subject to nest surveys
5. Concern was expressed at the continued speeding on Gorsey Lane. It was felt that the recent resurfacing of the road presented an ideal opportunity for re-painting and the installation of rumble strips. The Clerk committed to contacting the Highways Officer. All residents who have been consulted are in favour of the installation of a speed camera. Councillor Smith reminded members of the pending Community Speed Watch scheme, which unfortunately had been delayed due to the pandemic. She committed to progressing this as soon as practical.
6. Councillor Paul Gerrard reported that vegetation was overgrowing by the footpath on Field Road, opposite the former Helena Community Centre. The Clerk committed to contacting the Council
7. Councillor Foy questioned the ownership / responsibility of the Community Notice Board at Clock Face Country Park. The Clerk committed to contacting the local authority.

**Resolved** that the above be noted and monitored, and the Parish Council formally record that it strongly believes in equality and supports the “Black Lives Matter” movement.

**20/44 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was resolved** that the next meeting take place at 7:15 pm on Wednesday 5th August 2020. In the event that pandemic conditions prevail, this will be a virtual meeting. Otherwise the meeting will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Gartons Lane

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Chairman Date