BOLD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Bold Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th August 2020**

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

**Present:** Councillors A. Makin, D. Hawley, P. Gerrard, C. Gerrard, C. Smith, C. Foy, A. West, P. Fishwick, S. Hull, C. Hughes

**20/45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An Apology for absence had been received from Councillor D.J. Jackson.

**Resolved** that the apology be accepted and approved and that Councillor D. O’Keefe be recorded as absent.

**20/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Paul Gerrard declared an interest in item 10 (North West Miners’ Heritage Association), and informed members of his membership of the organisation.

**20/47 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th June 2020**

There were no matters of accuracy raised.

In respect of minute no. 20/43 the Clerk reported on a response to an email which he had sent to the Forestry Commission regarding litter on the Dream Site. The response confirmed that the contract for collecting litter was in full operation and was being supervised regularly. An explanation was also provided for why litter levels were currently in excess of those usually experienced.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

**20/48 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**Resolved** to note the situation, and the Clerk to include an invitation to members of the public on the next published agenda, to communicate to him any issues which they wish to be raised at the next virtual meeting.

**20/49** **CLERK’S REPORT**

The clerk reported on the following items:

1. Field Road Overgrown Hedges

At the Parish Council meeting on 24th June 2020, concern was expressed about the above. The Clerk had referred the matter to the local authority and has been informed that the hedge has now been cut back from the footpath and reduced in height by 6ft.

1. Parish Council Noticeboard

The Clerk reported on information which he had gleaned from the local authority regarding problems which had been encountered with locks on the parish council noticeboard, which had rendered it inaccessible. As a result the Clerk had changed the locks. The Clerk had ascertained that the reason he was unable to gain access was that the local authority actually changed the locks during January at the instigation of Councillor Preston. This was funded through CiF. At the same time locks were changed on the Community noticeboards. Councillor Preston’s reason for this was to enable her to have a set of keys for access to all noticeboards. The local authority / Councillor Preston has been told by the Clerk that the Parish Council noticeboard is the property of Bold Parish Council and that it should determine rights of access and use. The Chairman has requested an apology.

1. NALC and SLCC meetings recommendations

Following the government announcement of further easing of lockdown restrictions from 4th July both the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) strongly advise local councils (parish and town) to continue to meet remotely. If the parish council wishes to consider meeting face-to-face there is a range of safeguards which need to be addressed before this shouldn take place. NALC and SLCC have published a checklist for holding in-person council meetings (circulated prior to meeting)

1. NALC Annual Spring Conference

Following the postponement of the above the Clerk had requested a refund of the fee paid to NALC of £268.97

1. Clock Face Country Park – Fishing Lake

Following the Parish Council meeting on 24th June 2020, the Clerk had contacted the secretary of Clock Face Recreation Club Anglers with the suggestion that barriers be locked out of hours and keys / combinations be held by the anglers. The secretary acknowledged the problem of anti-social behaviour and indicated that he has designated “bailiffs” to visit the area on a daily basis in an attempt to regulate such behaviour. He does not believe however that the anglers have authority to lock the barriers.

**Resolved**

To note the Clerk’s report and to continue with remotely held meetings.

**20/50 POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

The police were unable to participate in the remote Zoom meeting and had informed the Clerk that, for security reasons, they would be unable to do so for the foreseeable future. Various information had been provided to the Clerk for distribution to parish councillors:

1. Crime statistics for the period July 2020 compared with the previous year.
2. Information relating to police action which had been undertaken in the area, in particular relating to Colliers’ Moss, where a dispersal order had been put in place.

A discussion took place relating to the above along with a range of other matters which had previously been raised with the police, which continued to cause concern.

**Resolved to** note the police report and the Clerk to email Sergeant Rackham with the following:

1. Thank the police for actions which are being taken
2. Request that a dispersal order for Colliers’ Moss be put in place for the whole of August
3. Request that further patrols be undertaken at Clock Face Country Park where drug dealing and anti-social behaviour continue to be a problem

**20/51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Consultations*

The following application, which was received just before the meeting had been circulated by email:

**P/2020/0522 – Mersey Valley Golf Course, Bold Heath**

Construction of green keeper’s store to replace existing shed, plus access and parking

**Resolved** no comments

***Committee’s Actions***

*No comments in relation to the following:*

**P/2020/0414 – 18 Abbots Hall Avenue, Clock Face**

Single storey side and dormer extension

**P/2020/0449 – Barn, Sandy Lane Farm, Bold Heath**

External alterations and change of use of barn to a wedding and ceremony venue

**Resolved** to note and endorse committee actions

Decisions

*Approvals*

P/2020/0315 – 49 Daffodil Gardens, New Bold

Conversion of existing garage and widening of driveway

**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 the above decisions

**20/52 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Following the payment of accounts submitted for the last scheduled meeting the bank balance currently stands at £34,780.23 (includes 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 |
| Clerk reimbursement:  Printing costs for May/June & June/July  Defibrillator Cabinets x 2 (£472 ea. + VAT)  Website domain renewal  Total | 6.98  1,132.80  19.19  1,158.97 | 000715 |
| A & C Electrical – installation of defib. cabinet at Bold Tyres | 384.00 | 000716 |
| North West Miners Heritage Assoc. – Sect 137 grant (minute no.20/54) | 500.00 | 000717 |

(c) Receipts

The second instalment of the annual precept of £6,522.50 had been received and credited to the parish council bank account:

**Resolved** that the above receipt is noted

**20/53 CLOCK FACE RECREATION CLUB – COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORK**

Councillor Hughes informed members that he had been unable to make progress on this item.

**Resolved** to note the above and defer until 16th September meeting.

**20/54 NORTH WEST MINERS’ HERITAGE ASSOC. (Sect. 137 funding request)**

This item had been deferred from the 24th June 2020 parish council meeting. The substance of the request was reiterated and discussed.

**Resolved** to approve a grant under Section 137 powers of £500.

**20/55 DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillor Hawley informed members that the recently installed defibrillators at The Pastures and Bold Tyres were both fully functioning. In addition, a cabinet had been purchased for a defibrillator to be located at the Maplewood Restaurant, for which he was seeking alternative prices for installation. The doctor on the New Bold Estate had agreed to supply the defibrillator.

The possibility of installing a defibrillator at Clock Face Recreation Club was also discussed, given that the club already owned a unit. It was agreed that the doctor would be contacted to inspect the unit for suitability and to replace any consumables e.g. pads, as necessary.

Other possible locations were also considered, such as St. Michael’s Church and the petrol station on Jubits Lane. There was a commitment to approach local authority ward councillors to request CiF funding for the acquisition of a unit for one of these locations.

Councillor Makin gave an update on the telephone kiosk on Union Bank Lane -also a potential site for a defibrillator, and committed to pursuing its adoption by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reminded members that the original sum allocated for defibrillators was £4,000, and that the level of spend to-date and potential defibrillator installations would be likely to exceed this sum.

**Resolved** that:

1. Councillor Hawley continue to pursue plans for new defibrillator locations, and seek prices for the installation of a defibrillator cabinet at the Maplewood Restaurant. In addition he agreed to seek the New Bold Estate doctor’s assistance in reviewing the suitability of the defibrillator at Clock Face Recreation Club.
2. Councillor Makin to pursue the adoption of the telephone kiosk at Union Bank Lane, and the Clerk to contact St Helens Council Planning Dept. to seek clarity on the current status of the kiosk.
3. Councillor Makin to contact ward councillors regarding possible funding of a defibrillator.
4. The funding allocation for the defibrillator programme be increased from £4,000 to £5,000

**20/56 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

There were a number highways related issues discussed:

1. Bushes on Gorsey Lane Encroaching onto Roadway

Despite numerous contacts by councillors with the relevant local authority officer no action had been taken. There have been a number of vehicle near misses as a result of the problem

1. Access Road Opposite Margret Street (off Gorsey Lane)

There have been reports of drug use and alcohol abuse in the area

1. Cycle Use on Public Footpath by Old Hall Farm

There have been complaints relating to the above. There is concern for the safety of pedestrians and several near misses reported

1. Speeding on Gorsey Lane

Following the Parish Council meeting on 24th June 2020, the Clerk had contacted the Highways Officer with the Parish Council request for a speed camera or, at least, the installation of rumble strips. The Highways Officer’s response was reported as follows:

* In respect of the junction at Neills Road the Highways Inspector has written to the owner of the stables instructing that the hedges are cut back. Consideration is being given to installing a smart warning sign which is activated when a vehicle is waiting to leave Neills Road. This would activate a warning sign to drivers on Gorsey Lane.
* The officer has referred the issue to Merseyside Police who have purchased a small activated sign that shows and records speeds. However, this is the only device which is deployed across all of Merseyside and its availability is therefore limited. He informed the Clerk that rumble strips cannot be installed in residential areas because of the noise. Speed cameras are a Police matter and cost approx. £40k. Moreover, the Clerk was informed, there is a shortfall of back office capacity to process fines etc.

**Resolved** to note the above, continue to monitor the situation, and:

1. The Clerk to contact the local authority in order to progress resolving the problem of overgrown vegetation on Gorsey Lane.
2. The Clerk invite the Highways Officer to meet with Councillor Foy for a site walk along Gorsey Lane in order that issues can be pointed out relating to Gorsey Lane and Old Hall Lane.
3. The police be informed of the issue at item 2. above

**20/57 BOLD WAR MEMORIAL AND WORKERS’ MEMORIAL**

There had been no progress on this issue. Concern was expressed that Councillors O’Keefe’s workload as a local authority councillor may be preventing him from devoting the necessary time to progress the project.

**Resolved** that the Chairman liaise with Councillor O’Keefe to discuss options for making progress.

**20/58 REPORTS**

1. Councillor Foy informed the meeting that rubbish from fly tipping at Twyfords Lane and Tibbs Cross Lane had all been removed.
2. Councillor Fishwick raised a concern relating to Joy Walk / Miners’ Way (section between pelican crossing and tarmac area), that the footpath was in poor condition and was in need of development.
3. Councillor Smith raised a concern that the access gates by Bold Industrial Estate are often blocked by parked cars, thereby impeding potential access by emergency vehicles. It was suggested that “keep clear” signage would be appropriate.
4. Warrington Athletics Club utilise Colliers Moss for events, though, in order to gain proper access, need to move large bolders which are placed to prevent inappropriate vehicular access. The club have offered to the local authority to install lockable gates, but have so far not had a response.
5. Concern was expressed that the deep-water area known locally as the “Blue Lagoon” had no signage indicating that the water is deep and dangerous.
6. The Chairman informed members that there were plans by CPRE to develop a long walk across the Liverpool City Region and that he had provided details of Bold footpaths for possible inclusion
7. Councillor Hughes informed members that the introduction of the new Neighbourhood Plan could be beneficial to the Bold area. He committed to reviewing the implications and reporting back to the meeting on 16th September.

**Resolved** that the above be noted, monitored, and, where appropriate, enquiries be made with the local authority

**20/59 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was resolved** that the next meeting take place at 7:15 pm on Wednesday 16th Sept 2020, and that this be a virtual meeting.

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Chairman Date