BOLD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Bold Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2021**

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

**Present:** Councillors A. Makin, D. Hawley, P. Gerrard, C. Gerrard, C. Hughes,

C. Foy, P. Fishwick, C. Smith, S. Hull, A. West and D. O’Keefe.

**20/123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All council members were present.

**20/124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**20/125 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th Dec 2020**

There were no matters of accuracy raised.

There were no issues raised which had not been included on the agenda.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th Dec 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

**20/126 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were three members of the public in attendance who did not raise any issues directly, but did comment on minute 20/137. All standing orders were stopped for these comments and then resumed.

**20/127** **CLERK’S REPORT**

The clerk reported on the following:

1. Benches

I have had an email from the supplier saying they has been a small delay and the benches should be ready by the 18th January not the week previous as first stated.

1. Mill Lane/ Bold Heath Road Issues

I have had an email from Mr Fitzpatrick regarding this but Mr Fitzpatrick has asked to join the meeting so this will be discussed later in the meeting.

1. Letter from Kath O Dwyer

I have received an apology from Kath:

Dear Mr Gaskell

Re: Communication and Joint Working

Thank you for your letter dated 21st December 2020, regarding the above. I am sorry to hear that you have experienced poor customer service from some of our Officers and can only apologise for any inconvenience caused. As you will be aware, since the onset of the Covid crisis all of our office-based staff were immediately sent home and have had to adapt to a home working environment very quickly. Whilst, on the whole, this has gone very well there have been some teething issues around mail delivery, phone lines and timely responses which we are continuing to address as we develop our new Ways of Working practices. However, I will share your comments with my Executive Management Team for them to cascade. Could I please ask if there is a particular section/team or individual that you are having issues with that you let me know so that this can be investigated more thoroughly. I note your comment that there is currently no known mechanism for escalating matters. Please be assured that, whist we would hope this is not necessary, you are able to escalate any matter to a Senior Officer within the Council and I have attached the Council’s complaint policy for you, which can also be accessed via the web site. I am unable to comment on the issues relating to Ward Councillors, however, I have asked Jan Bakewell, the Council's Monitoring Officer to consider the points you have raised. Yours sincerely

Kath O’Dwyer

Chief Executive

1. Cllr Smith noted that as per last the meetings concern (8th December 2020), still no clarification on set process of communication and protocol. It was suggested that it could be due to the pandemic, however, councillors felt that this issue was happening before the pandemic.

R**esolved** to note the Clerk’s report.

**20/128 POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

There was no police attendance at the meeting, and no statistics had been provided for discussion.

Cllr C. Foy noted that Sgt Rackham retired on the 28th January 2021 and felt that the Parish Council should acknowledge this due to the support se had provided to the committee.

**Resolved** to note the above and the Clerk to write to Sgt Rackham thanking her for all she has done for Bold Parish Council. Cllr C. Foy will also post something on twitter.

**20/129 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

*Consultations*

There were no new applications for consideration.

**Resolved** to note the above.

***Committee’s Actions***

*No comments in relation to the following:*

**P/2021/0008/HHFP - Bold Ward 9 Samphire Gardens Bold**

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

Decisions

*Approvals:*

**P/2020/0631 – 1 Marigold Way, New Bold**

Certificate of Lawfulness for single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.

**P/2020/0618 – 30 Mill Lane, Bold Heath**

Part two and part single store extension

**P2020/0691 – 24 Union Bank Lane, Bold Heath**

Part two and part single storey extension, along with extended dropped kerb

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

**20/130 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) All Financial matters shall be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Resolved** to note the report.

(b) Accounts for Payment

**Resolved:** nothing for payment

(c) Interim Internal Audit

At the Parish Council meeting held on 13h May 2020 it was agreed that the current year’s internal audit arrangement be the same as for last year i.e., a reciprocal arrangement with neighbouring parish councils. For the current year there is a requirement to formally appoint an internal audit via a letter of engagement. The letter has been presented and signed in accordance with the draft approved on 25th Jan 2017. In addition, it is good practice for members to approve the internal audit work plan in order to safeguard members’ interests regarding the breadth and detail of the audit.

The draft work plan has been circulated for approval, and a hard copy is available at the meeting. The interim audit meeting for 2020/21 took place on 30th November 2020.

**Resolved:** members noted the position and approved the internal audit work plan.

(d) Payment of Precept 2021/22

The letter confirming the precept for 2021/22 stated that the precept rate would remain unchanged from 2020/21 at £12.07. Given a notified tax base of £1,094 for Band D equivalent properties, this would generate precept income of £13,205.

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

(e) Bank Account

The Clerk reported that an application to the NATWEST bank had been started, however, it stated on the application it could take up to 4 weeks to be approved. The clerk asked the councillors who were signatories to provide name, address and Date of Birth for this new application.

**Resolved** that Councillors agreed to provide the information so the clerk could continue with the application.

**20/131 ANNUAL REPORT**

It was suggested that the Annual Report be put on hold until the next meeting and we see what we are able to do regards delivering the leaflets in the current pandemic.

**Resolved** to note and add to next agenda

**20/132 CLOCK FACE RECREATION CLUB – COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORK**

This was included as a standard item. Due to the pandemic, progress in acknowledging the above work remains extremely difficult and hampered.

**Resolved** to continue to include this as a standard agenda item until such time as the Parish Council can formally and properly acknowledge the community support work undertaken.

**20/133 DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillor Hughes confirmed that the defibrillator at the Maplewood was to be installed 22nd January by his father. The Chair thanked Cllr Hughes and his father for organising this.

Councillor Hawley asked if he could go ahead and order the next defibrillator box for Clock Face Recreational club and all agreed.

**Resolved** the clerk will add the Maplewood defibrillator to the asset register and Councillor Hawley will order the Defibrillator box for Clock Face Recreational Club.

**20/134 CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Clerk shared the Code of Conduct 2021/22 version from the LGA. It was agreed that this policy should be adopted.

**Resolved** this policy was adopted.

**20/135 OMEGA PLANNING APPLICTAION**

In response to issues raised with the local authority by the Chairman, it was agreed that no more could be done on this issue until the Planning Enquiry has looked in to the situation.

The councillors discussed this and noted that the public are still able to speak up about the situation as the date was open ended for responses.

The Local Plan was also discussed as part of this and it confirmed that the parish would like to speak up about this as well. The Chair informed everyone that it was early days on this matter and no dates had been set as yet.

**Resolved** to note the above and continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Hughes agreed to tie up any loose ends on this subject.

**20/136 RATS ON NEW BOLD ESTATE**

The Parish Council have had several complaints about rats on the New Bold Estate.

This happened previously in the summer months and several residents have reported sightings again. Cllr Smith reported that the Clerk had contacted the LA Pest control section and someone had attended the site in the summer.

**Resolved** it was agreed that the clerk would contact Pest Control.

**20/137 MILL LANE/BOLD HEATH ROAD ISSUES**

The Clerk had received an email from Mr Fitzpatrick outlining various issues regarding this area.

a)  Not built for current capacity

The road is regularly used by Royal Mail post office vans 7.5, 10 and 20 tonnes.  In one hour 15 \* 7.5 tone vans will travel the road.

The road is used by commuters is increasing every year due to the developments at the industrial parks near Burtonwood Warrington.

b) Condition of Road.

The surface in mill lane is in poor condition with pot holes, poor markings, no bend signs, over grown gutters.

c)   Confusing Speed limits

The speed limit goes from 30 to 50 back to 30 in less than ten yards. On a lamp post on a dangerous bend is a 50 sign.  This causes acceleration, speeding in the 30 zone, poor deacceleration and then encourages drivers  to a approach a severe bend too fast.

d)  Danger for Cyclist and Pedestrians

 The road is popular more than ever with cyclist and walkers but due to all the above there is a near miss every day with drivers trying to overtake or waiting behind a rider to complete the bend.  The paths on the road are over grown, outside the residential areas and therefore very narrow. The distance between a royal mail van and wing mirror is less than a 1ft. The paths end on a bend meaning pedestrians have to cross on a bend with unsighted approaching traffic. Poor signage again.

e)  The road is fragile to flooding from fields drainage systems

During this discussion another resident commented that the flooding is actually sludge from the farmers fields spilling into the road.

Cllr Hughes noted that litter was also a problem and had been giving conflicting information when asking about a local litter pick.

Cllr Foy informed members that this area was to be monitored by the council who would be using special traffic monitoring equipment to gauge the number of vehicles, speed and times.

**Resolved** this is to be noted and the situation to be monitored. The Clerk should write to the Local Authority, raising the concerns and requesting a meeting to discuss a way forward. Also, Parish Councillors to speak to local authority Bold ward councillors

**20/138 COUNILLOR VACANCY**

After seeking advise from the LA the clerk informed the Parish that as no one had come forward after the notice advertised in December, they were able to advertise a CO-OPT.

Three residents have emailed in to express their interest and the Chair has responded to them with more information about the role.

**Resolved** this was agreed and a CO-OPT notice is to be published.

**20/139 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

As the current website doesn’t meet the needs of the Parish, it was agreed that a new one be sourced. The clerk informed the Councillors that a new website could be sourced by the company who currently update the current website or she was happy to contact other councils for recommendations.

It was also raised by Cllr Foy that the current Social Media needs updating and refreshing.

**Resolved** for the Clerk to contact other Parish Councils for recommendations and report back.

**20/140 BOLD WAR MEMORIAL**

Councillor O’Keefe gave an update. He was still awaiting a response so would email Sam Rigby to see how we could move this forward.

It was noted that we may have to find alternative site if no movement with this.

**Resolved** to note the above and continue to attempt to progress the project.

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**20/141 REPORTS**

1. Councillors O’Keefe and Councillor Paul Gerrard raised concerns about the activities of contractors working in Sorrell Way. Construction vehicles are accessing the site via Farm Close and Farm Road, by utilising an access intended for emergency vehicles only. This is in contravention to the conditions of the planning approval. In addition, dirty water is draining from the site into Farm Close. Councillor O’Keefe has raised the matter with the Planning Dept. and requested that the conditions of the planning approval be enforced. The Planning Department will be sending an Officer round to the site.

Councillor Gerrard has also committed to raising the matter with ward councillors.

1. Councillor Foy noted that no improvement on the Dream site and was disappointed that despite pushing the Local Authority on this the situation was still the same.
2. Councillor O’Keefe aired concerns over an abandoned vehicle that was causing disruption on the New Bold estate. It was causing an issue for anyone wanting to access Jasmine Drive. It was agreed that this was a Police matter, but could be raised with Kelly Dunn.
3. Councillor Gerrard would like to note that the extension on Clock Face Road was becoming a problem, with building materials spilling out on the road.

**Resolved** to note and continue to monitor the above

**20/142 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was resolved** that the next meeting take place at 7:15 pm on Tuesday 9th March 2021 - to be held virtually via Zoom platform.

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Chairman Date