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08.09.2020
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual¹ Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr Fell - Chairman
Cllr Cakebread
Cllr O'Brien
Cllr Pomphrey
Cllr Williams
Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish - Clerk
No members of the public

County Councillor Edward Heron: Cllr Edward Heron expressed his apologies for not attending a meeting for some time but the County Council's email system had rejected the Clerk's email address for some unknown reason and this had now been rectified.

He went on to make the following detailed statement:

- He wanted to pay a massive tribute to the volunteers in the community who had supported the vulnerable during the lockdown and thereafter which had enabled the County Council to support those in greatest need which were beyond the support of volunteers.
- The good financial management of the County Council will only delay the inevitable which is for the county to become a unitary authority. He said whilst the Council's reserves could manage the immediate costs, it was important to look ahead 2 years to 2022/23 when the Council's deficit in the budget was likely to be in the region of £210 million.
- The Council had modelled 4 scenarios taking account of support from HM Government. In 3 out of 4 of the scenarios, the County Council was not viable. It was only in the 'best case' scenario that the Council was sustainable.
- It remained to be seen what HM Government would do and whilst other two-tier authorities were queuing up to head to the edge of the cliff, Hampshire was one or two from the back.
- HM Government will shortly publish a White Paper on the financial support to be provided to local government and what local government will look like. The key message through the Minister for the Ministry of Communities and Local Government was that he sees no future for District Councils.
- He asked councillors to note that in view of what he had said, the boundary report which the Parish Council will be discussion later in the meeting may be a discussion of rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

In response to a question from the Chairman about the progress on the Average Speed Cameras project, Cllr Heron said that the project was progressing but at glacial pace due to the impact of the pandemic. He said he had been happy with how it was progressing and he had seen nothing to demonstrate that the plan had changed in any way.

The Chairman also raised the issue of illegal encampments on Forestry England which was becoming increasingly frequent each year. Cllr Heron said that he would speak to Bruce Rothnie about improving their means of protection around their land.

¹ In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

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Cllr Williams asked about the impact of the 240 houses to be built in Station Road, Fordingbridge. Cllr Heron said that the site was an allocated site approved in the Local Plan. However, he said in order to benefit the area in terms of regeneration and employment, the development needed to be done well and in his view, the design of the site as proposed could not be regarded as even vaguely adequate.

In response to Cllr Cakebread's question about the 2,000 houses at Alderholt, Cllr Heron said that Dorset Council had paused the work on its plan and the likelihood was that Dorset Council would not be keen to provide Hampshire with the monies to provide the level of infrastructure required for a development of that size in that location.

Litter Warden: Mrs Sara Boyd said that because of the safety and disinfecting required after each collection, she was going out to collect litter every two weeks. She said there was still an awful lot of litter across the village and hopefully the ending of the temporary summer campsites would improve things.

The Chairman said that the pinch points were looking good and thanked her for her work on them.

Public Session:

Cllr Cakebread advised that she had received concerns from residents about a new planning application for Sandy Balls, the deadline for which was Thursday 8th October. The Clerk advised that she would seek permission from the planning officer for an extension to submit the Council's response after the next meeting being held on 13th October.

Cllr Pomphrey advised that Sandy Balls had not been contact in with him and he said he would endeavour to discuss it with them before the next meeting.

In response to a question from Cllr Woodward about the state and noise from Sandy Balls's yard next to Street Cottage, Cllr Pomphrey said that part of it had been completely cleared and grassed. He said he would speak to the Martin Long about the work being carried out there and the concerns from the Council that noisy work was being done on weekends which wasn't acceptable.

Cllr O'Brien raised the issue of numerous CO2 cartridges used by cyclists which were littered along the road from Godshill to the Nomansland crossroads. She was concerned that they could be eaten by animals. She also expressed concern about the impact of the number of bonfires being held across the parish and she asked that information on the holding of bonfires be included in the Council's next newsletter.

The Chairman advised that there was a broken post to the gate on the footpath in Woodgreen Road and that this was a job for the Lengthsman.

Part 1

75.20 To receive apologies for absence: The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Phillips due to a holiday commitment. Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apology and the reason for it be noted.

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- 76.20 Declarations of Interest:**
a. **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:**

Cllr Woodward declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Tree Works Application No. CONS/20/0452.

All other councillors declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Tree Works Application No. CONS/20/0452.

- b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received no dispensation requests.

77.20 To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th August 2020: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

78.20 To resolve to refer any business raised by the public in public discussion, and any other matters or items of information from councillors, to a future meeting or to resolve to agree on any other action: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that all the matter raised in public discussion be noted.

79.20 To resolve to note Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk's report be noted as follows:

157.19 Village Hall Sign: Planning application has been submitted manually.

81.19 Defibrillator Training: Delayed until HM Government's instructions on gatherings is known.

Litter Warden: Feb 20 Mtg: Cricket Pitch Bin: No further progress on this and the Clerk agreed to contact Forestry England again.

25.20: Parking at Entrance to Newgrounds: A Forestry England sign has been installed on the track at the entrance to Newgrounds. The Clerk was asked to request a further sign on the other track but the new sign has made a significant difference in deterring parking by visitor vehicles which blocked access to the property.

36.20: Footpath 772: This has been reported to the Countryside Access Team with photos and a request for a meeting.

53.20 Boundary Commission Consultation: A further joint response has been sent with Hyde and Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley

80.20 Planning and Tree Work Applications:

Application No. 20/00520/FULL

Godshill Wood Farm, Woodgreen Road, Godshill - Stable building; access; associated planting; demolition 2No. Stable buildings: Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers on the grounds that the height of the stable building had been omitted from the plans. It requested that the proposed height be checked and that permission be given only if the

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confirmed height falls within the maximum height necessary for the purpose of the stable building.

Application No. CONS/20/0452

Sims Farm, Southampton Road, Godshill – Fell 4 x Chestnut trees: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that because the application was submitted by a member of the Council that the decision on it be left to the Tree Officer.

Application No. CONS/20/0461

Silvercroft, Godshill Wood, Godshill – Prune 1 x group of 4 Birch trees, Prune 1 x Birch tree: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Pomphrey seconded and it was RESOLVED that that the decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

81.20 Finance and Policy:

- a. **To resolve to approve the sum of £384.91 as the Accounts for payment for September:**

	£	Cheque No.
B Cornish – September salary	384.91	100675

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Williams seconded and it was RESOLVED that the accounts for payment be approved.

- b. **To resolve to approve the Bank balances - Cheque and Reserve Accounts:**

Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 08.09.20

Current Account: £7,376.78 Deposit Account: £581.12

Cllr Pomphrey proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the balances be approved and noted.

- c. **To resolve to approve the Budget to Actual report up to 30th September 2020:**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Pomphrey seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Budget to Actual figures to 30th September 2020 be approved and noted.

82.20 Outside Bodies and Representation:

Godshill Village Hall: Cllr Williams gave a brief report on the Committee's decision to delay further the opening of the Hall. She said that the size of the Hall and the requirements on social distancing to ensure the safety of users were not achievable and so the Committee were going to revisit the issue later in the year by which time the regulations may have changed.

83.20 Correspondence: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted:

1. Hampshire Association of Local Councils – An email enclosing summaries in relation to the consultations on reform of the planning system.
2. Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society – September edition of Waymark.

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Any Other Business:

Verges: Cllr Fell asked that an item on verges and verge parking be added to the next agenda.

84.20 Date of the next meeting: Cllr Fell advised that due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the next meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Part 2 – EXEMPT MATTERS - STAFFING

85.20 Cllr Fell to propose the following resolution – ‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw in view of the confidential nature of the business on staffing about to be transacted’: Seconded by Cllr Woodward and RESOLVED by the meeting.

86.20 To consider and resolve to approve the Clerk’s salary award from 1st April 2020 in accordance with the National Association of Local Council’s document entitled ‘Employment Briefing E01-20 - 2020-21 National Salary Award’ and in accordance with her Employment Contract: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the salary award be approved.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.