

CHISELBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2020

Present: Mr R Brown, Mr A Pipe, Mr M Langdon, Mrs J Buckmaster, Dr R Bulley

In Attendance: Members of the public, Mr M. Hewitson, Mr M. Hamlin (Clerk)

Ms N. Palfrey (Carter Jonas), Mr C. Field (SCC).

- 1: **Apologies for absence: None**
- 2: **Declarations of Interest:** Dr R. Bulley PCC and item 7 Planning
- 3: **Public Forum:** Mr John Ball addressed the Council on the issue of the water drainage from the common requesting an update on the current situation. An email was read from SCC Flood Risk Management Team advising that as the flooding did not impact on living space, the authority would not fund flood protection measures or improvements to private property or roads. It was suggested that the attenuation pool be cleared out. (Although advice from Mr Stuart Wright was that there was never much flood water in the pond, and he had never seen it full). Cllr Mike Hewitson agreed to liaise with Mr Ball and with Cllr Langdon with a view to establishing what help might be available from the District Council.
- AP/Cllr
Langdon
- The Parish Council were very pleased to thank Natalie Lamb and Alex Macartney who had raised the money very quickly to replace the storm damaged bench on the common. Mr Ian Hodge had advised on securing the bench against theft. The bench would be identified as Parish Council property with lettering on the back. The money from the donations would be forwarded to the clerk as a donation to the Common Fund and the Parish Council would arrange the purchase. In due course the Parish Council would formulate a policy to cover requests for memorials on the Common.
- AP/Clerk
- 4: **Minutes of the meeting:** Held on 11th December 2019. These having been circulated were taken as read agreed and signed.
- Matters arising under:**
- 2018.11.15.2 The correct signage was now in place showing the width limit of 2.2 metres. Residents reported large vehicles about to attempt the manoeuvre, but mainly stopping upon realisation that the sign meant what it said. Agenda item now complete
- 2018.11.15.3 Cllr Pipe and Martyn had met on 10th January and completed top line outline of the contents of the welcome pack. Further information being gathered, once complete Cllr Pipe to circulate draft to Parish Council
- 2018.09.14 Water drainage from Common dealt with under Public Forum.
- 2019.09.14 Cllr Pipe had collected the new finger post and produced it for the benefit of the Council. All agreed that it looked splendid and it was handed over to Mr Hodge who had agreed to install it.
- 2019.10.16 Digital mapping – to be dealt with under agenda item 14.
- 2019.12.12 Cllr Brown had discussed the issue of the two Parish Council owned mowers both of which were claimed to need replacing. Agreed that the Parish Council would only be able to replace one mower this year or any year. It might be possible to replace the other one next year, but finances did not allow both mowers to be replaced this year. (The annual grant for the Churchyard maintenance of £350 was offered for consideration as a contribution towards the mowers by the PCC chairman). Cllr Brown to ascertain which mower/s was most urgently in need of replacement and to bring details to the next meeting of the machine to be bought and the cost.
- AP/Cllr
& Cllr
Pipe
- AP/Cllr
Brown
- 5: **District Councillor's Report: Mike Hewitson.** Thanks were expressed to D. Cllr Mike Hewitson for kindly agreeing to step in and

help following the resignation of D. Cllr Anthony Vaughan. The Environmental Strategy was the current biggest piece of work and all parishes had been asked to nominate an Environmental Champion. Noted that Chiselborough was very grateful to Grant Morley who had taken on the position of Environmental Champion and Stuart Wright who had stepped in as Tree Warden. The Parish Council had taken up the offer from SSDC to have 50 free trees for planting in the village. District Council Budget was on track to be balanced helped by commercial activities. Local Government reorganisation was still being discussed and attempts were being made to keep costs down and improve public services. Nominations for a new District Councillor had to be in by 14th February and the election would take place on 12th March. Some major changes would take place regarding refuse collection involving greater recycling and a move to 3 weeks collection of black wheelie bins, with good effects for the environment. Further information to be disseminated once available. D. Cllr Hewitson advised that if any member of the public needed to contact him his contact details were with Martyn and on the SSDC Website.

6: **County Councillor's Report: Mark Keating** C. Cllr Mark Keating was not in attendance. He had provided details of new signage for the A356. Also noted that pothole issues could now be reported on the SCC website and this system had been used successfully by the Parish Council to report potholes which had been repaired with the benefit of an audit trail.

7: **Planning: Richard Brown** Cllr Bulley vacated the Chair and handed the Chairmanship of this item to Cllr Buckmaster. The Parish Council had two planning applications to comment on. 19/02706/FUL Conversion of existing agricultural building into a residential dwelling and 19/02709/Out demolition of barns and the erection of 2 semi-detached dwellings. Both in Skillgate Lane. Cllr Brown advised that he had consulted the neighbours and collected information as to concerns and objections.

Mr Charlie Field of SCC advised the Parish Council that a lot of effort had gone into ensuring that prior to making the planning application it was compliant with current planning policy and that his role was to maximise the value of County assets within the confines of current policy covering brown field sites. In reply to the question as to whether the current plans were the total extent of the intended development, Mr Field advised that the applications were made having regard to current planning policy and that there was no intention at the moment to develop further, but that the Council would continue to hold their strategic land banks which could be used for any kind of development which reflected the decision to lease the fields to CPC so that they might be used for other purposes, and reiterating that the plans on the table right now were made within the confines of up to date planning policy.

Ms Nicola Palfrey representing Carter Jonas advised that revisions had been made to the plans and they were working very hard with planning officials to agree the plans for both the barn conversion and development of the brown field site. The outline permission for the brownfield site was to agree size, scale and access.

Ms Palfrey explained that original plans were formulated with a view to minimise the impact of the developments on privacy and to keep them as traditional as possible. The revised plans which showed more modern additions and with a greater impact on privacy were as a result of disagreement from planning officials who had favoured the latter approach.

Ms Palfrey advised that all practical measures would be taken to

**AP/Cllr
Brown**

protect the ecology of the sites.

Ms Palfrey advised that a meeting would be taking place with planning officials the following week and that she would come back to the Parish Council following that meeting and that if the village wanted it a public meeting could be held. This would be considered once revised plans had been received.

Cllr Brown to ensure that the concerns and objections he had collected from neighbours to be submitted to SSDC Planning Officials. All plans and correspondence available on SSDC Planning Portal.

- 8: **VETS Update:** Cllr Brown reported that the best quote for painting the phone box was £350 from Dave Chant. The other quote was in excess of £550. Accordingly, Dave Chant had been asked to carry out the work when the weather permits.

Cllr Buckmaster advised that there was a delay in getting the maps printed which were required for the VETS volunteers. This was now under control and would be solved in the next few days. The illuminated full-scale map was now in situ in the bus shelter. Maps were available to buy for £2.00 from Brian Wickins proceeds to go to the Common Fund.

The VETS testing had taken place on 3rd February and it was all working well.

A leaflet was being produced which would be distributed to every house in the village explaining the system in full.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved in getting the VETS system set up which had been quite a complex undertaking.

- 9: **Community Land Trust:** Cllr Pipe advised that the ground rent for the houses in Minchingtons Close had been received and had increased in line with the RPI. A partner was being sought to grow saplings on the spare land pending further decision on the solar array. The shop would close from 16:00 on Saturdays within the next two weeks. A leaflet had been produced for distribution to new properties explaining about the shop and CLT. The Facebook Page which was well used was constantly updated.

- 10: **Environmental Issues:** Thanks expressed to Grant and Stuart for agreeing to accept the roles of Environmental Champion and Tree Warden. Cllr Bulley had spoken to Graham Wheeler who had agreed to offer support about arboreal issues. Sustainability and housing and electric car charging would be issues for further discussion in due course.

Cllr Buckmaster advised that in addition to the free trees from SSDC, 420 saplings from the Woodland Trust had also been secured which would be available in November and would be utilised on the Common. Thanks expressed to Stuart Wright who had collected the free trees from SSDC and planted most of them. It was hoped to source a disease resistant Elm for planting on the common. Our draft tree policy had been passed to Grant to look at and comment on and the Parish Council would hope to formalise it once all comments had been received.

- 11: **Finance:**

- 11.1 The budget and precept for the year 2020/21 was confirmed as £6,176.00 being an increase of 2.5% on the previous year's figures.
- 11.2 It was resolved to pay the sum of £120 to Cllr Brown in reimbursement of the website charges for the year being domain and hosting costs.
- 11.3 It was resolved to pay the sum of £24.61 to Ian Hodge being reimbursement of the charge for the toughened glass for the map case in the bus shelter.
- 11.4 It was resolved to pay the sum of £25.57 to Stuart Wright being reimbursement of the cost for bird feeders (to come out of the

Common Fund).

- 11.5 It was resolved to pay the sum of £138.00 to Quantock & Exmoor being the charge for making the new finger post sign.
- 11.6 It was resolved to pay the sum of £13.63 to Tony Perry being the cost of laminating pouches for the volunteer's maps.
- 12: **Reports: Ranger** Thanks to Richard Holloway who had dug out most of the grips when he cut his hedges, it had not been necessary to employ the Ranger. Cllr Langdon advised that the Ranger Team did not have plans of where the grips were located so he had marked them all. He had not enquired further as everything seemed pretty much up together with the voluntary help the village was fortunate to have. It was noted that the cost of the Ranger is prohibitive, and that the village had not suffered from not using the service. It was Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Pipe and resolved that the policy would be that the Ranger would only be used to cover specific pieces of work as identified by the Parish Council as and when they arose.
- Highways:** Cllr Langdon reported that all potholes had been repaired except for one by the pub which had sunk again. This would be done by using the SCC reporting facility. The situation at Cat Head Cross was that the only way it could be resolved would be by adjustment to the visibility splay effecting SCC land. Mr Charlie Field advised that SCC would look sympathetically on a request to improve the visibility and advised that the first step would be to make a planning application upon which Highways would be consulted.
- Parish Land:** Cllr Bulley reported that we had now received from SCC a provisional plan of the area that it might be possible to lease along with a draft Farm Business tenancy. This would entail reconvening the Farmland Working Party to decide about taking the matter forward. Norton CLT remained willing to assist if required. A meeting would be arranged of the Working Party. Mr Field advised that delays had been caused by hold ups in working with the planning authority, it having been hoped to get the planning permission for the development of the brown field site agreed so that the lease for the Parish Council of the farm land could be formalised. In response to the specific enquiry as to whether or not the door was closed on affordable housing on part of the county owned fields, Mr Field advised that in the spirit of the decision by County to lease the fields to the village in order that it would have some measure of control over their use, there were no closed doors. The Chairman thanked Mr Field and Ms Palfrey for their input.
- Common:** It was reported that space had been made in the Church shed for the Parish Council owned tools bought for the Common. Thanks again to those who raised the money for the replacement bench.
- Bramble removal had been delayed due to the bad weather and would probably have to wait until the autumn.
- A dawn chorus walk would take place on March 12th with refreshments. To be publicised by posters and on the website.
- Noted that further to the decision of the Council that permission was not granted for gravel to be laid on the track to Fairplace House, it was reported that gravel had been laid without permission in direct contravention of the decision of the council. The Parish Council resolved Proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Pipe, that steps should be taken to ensure that its decision was complied with. A suitable letter would be drafted by the Clerk requiring the householder to comply with the decision of the Council.
- A suitable space would be found on the Common to accommodate the

rare white elder, sambucas gaudichaudiana as reported to the December meeting.

Burridge Copse: No Communication had been received from Wessex Scout Group or directly from Ritchie Scammells. It was noted that photographs of Burridge Copse had been used in marketing material for Mr Scammells' business venture. It was agreed that notification would be sent advising that the partnership between Chiselborough Parish Council and Wessex Scout Group was terminated forthwith. SSDC Environment had agreed to draw up a management plan for Burridge Copse at no cost. Cllr Pipe to follow up. Additionally, Cllr Pipe had been supplied with the name of a woodland consultant by Andy from Quantock and Exmoor who made the finger post who would carry out the maintenance. Grant and Stuart to be copied into Cllr pipe's report along with the Clerk.

**AP/Cllr
Pipe.**

Rights of Way Footpaths: The footpath between Chiselborough and Norton remained closed. The first bridge would be replaced, the second bridge would be refurbished. The bridges are dangerous, and the public should not use them. Agreed that this is an important path used to access the Community Shop. Agreed that we would ask C. Cllr Mark Keating to ensure that repairs carried out as soon as possible.

A letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Holloway advising that unfortunately walkers had again ignored the No Access signs along Ten Acre Field which currently contained in-lamb Ewes. Agreed that the Parish Council would give publicity to this by way of the Parish Magazine and Website. Mrs Holloway advised that next year they would endeavour to improve the signage as some members of the public admitted to not having noticed the signs.

13: **Correspondence:** None

14: **Points for New Business:** Discussions had taken place between Cllr Bulley and Cllr Pipe regarding setting up a working party to look at IT strategy, communication, and Website design. Mrs Sarah Morley had signified her willingness to assist with the website design. In due course Cllrs Buckmaster, Bulley and Pipe would get together with Sarah to see what could be achieved.

A request for volunteers would be made in the next Parish Magazine for people interested in starting up a Local History Society to preserve our Local History for this and future generations.

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England were asking for observations between 22 to 28 February as to the clarity of stars visibility to help them gauge the effect of light pollution.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th March 2020.

Signed _____

Date _____