

***Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers Parish Council***

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**MINUTES**

**Meeting:** Parish Council Meeting

**Date:** 12 January 2021

**Time:** 7.30 PM

**Venue:** Video Link

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**PRESENT:**

**Councillors (13):** Cllr John Collins (Chairman), Cllr Baines, Cllr Busch, Cllr Jim Collins, Cllr Cooper, Cllr, Dackombe, Cllr. Devereux, Cllr Foulser, Cllr Padfield, Cllr Radbourne, Cllr Schwier, Cllr Silk, Cllr Stevens

**Also in Attendance (1) :** Julia Milovanovic – Parish Clerk

**Members of the Public: (0)**

**Members of the Press (0)**

**D.036 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Foulser, Cllr Silk, District Cllr Ian Hadley and County Councillor Maggie McEwan

**D.037 OTHER ABSENCES**

None

**D.038 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**D.039 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed. This was PROPOSED Cllr Busch SECONDED Cllr Radbourne.

**D.012 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

## **D.013 HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Danielle Frost, Health and Wellbeing Officer from the EALC gave a short presentation on how we could improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. She suggested that the Parish Council have a Health and Wellbeing plan based on the template circulated with the Agenda. Although she appreciated that as we are very small parish funding is limited.

Cllr Bush raised the point that the presentation was more suited to a post pandemic situation and not our current lockdown. In response Danielle Frost said that this was a good time to start putting together a plan which could be implemented post lockdown.

The Chairman thanked Danielle for attending and Danielle kindly offered to forward further information to the Clerk.

## **D.014 REPORTS**

### **a) Bobbingworth Nature Reserve**

Cllr Cooper advised that on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December a group of approximately 18 residents together with two representatives from EFDC's Country Care Team, all socially distanced, had started to clear the brambles on the Nature Reserve. A further meeting was going to be arranged with the Country Care team to put into place a series of events to deal with the brambles.

Cllr Cooper also mentioned that it was hoped to arrange a litter pick sometime during February for part of the parish, subject to Covid

### **b) District / County Councillor Reports**

None

### **c) Parish Councillor Reports**

None

## **D.015. HIGHWAYS**

### **a) Speed, parking and congestion survey Church Road, Moreton**

This has been further delayed due to the most recent Covid restrictions.

### **b) Church Road footpath outside Moreton Primary School**

The Clerk advised that the installation of the footpath would start during half term and then be completed during the Easter holidays.

**c) Request for speed restriction on Watery Lane and through Little Laver**

No update was available.

**d) Request for depth signage at Watery Lane**

Following a request from a resident following the recent flooding requesting a depth gauge and sign indicating flooding, it was AGREED that the Local Highways Panel be asked to approve appropriate signage. PROPOSED Cllr Radbourne, SECONDED Cllr Padfield.

The Clerk would ask County Cllr Maggie McEwan to forward the request to the LHP.

**e) Transport East Survey**

Details of the Transport East Survey would be publicised to residents and a link put on the Parish Council's website.

**D.016 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by the Clerk at Stanford Rivers Parish Council regarding flooding on the A414 asking if the Parish Council will be willing to take a collective approach with Highways to resolve the issue.

The Clerk established during the conversation that the problem appeared to be related to a blocked culvert and she suggested that in the first instance the Clerk at Stanford Rivers should liaise with the Environment Agency.

**D.017 DEDICATED E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR COUNCILLORS**

In progress.

**D.018 REPAINTING OF PHONE BOXES**

The phone boxes had been undercoated and a change in the weather was awaited so that the task could be completed.

**D. 019 DEFIBRILATOR**

In addition to the funding from Essex County Council the Clerk was successful in a bid to the British Heart Foundation who agreed to fund the new defibrillator

(excluding the cabinet) for the phone box in Bobbingworth. However, today (5<sup>th</sup> January) she has received notification that due to the most recent lockdown they will be suspending all funding of new defibrillators.

The Clerk has located some alternative funding and she will update Councillors at the meeting, and she will also liaise with Essex County Council to see if the date of 31<sup>st</sup> March when projects are due to be completed can be extended because of the most recent lockdown.

#### **D.019 NEW RURAL POLICING UNIT**

It was noted that Antony Alcock has replaced Lewis Batsford. Cllr Cooper advised that he had a list of local policing contacts and he would forward these to the Clerk.

#### **D.020 INTERNAL AUDIT 2019/20**

The Clerk had now had a response from the auditor and it was anticipated that the audit report would be received in the next 14 days.

#### **D.021 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

A quotation had been received from the RCCE to provide a housing needs survey at a cost of £500. This was APPROVED by the Council. PROPOSED Cllr Devereux. SECONDED Cllr Radbourne.

#### **D.022 STOP STANSTED EXPANSION**

The Clerk would be giving evidence on behalf of the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> January. A copy of the Parish Council's response had already been circulated to all members.

#### **D.023. FORMAL COMPLAINT TO EFDC RE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND MALTINGS FARM APPLICATION**

The current position as per the Agenda was NOTED.

#### **D.023 CLIMATE CRISIS**

This would be reviewed at the next meeting following Cllr Devereux's attendance at the EALC Climate Conference.

However, it was generally agreed that as the Parish Council had limited financial resources it was unlikely that a great deal could be undertaken to

reduce the Parish's carbon footprint directly by the Parish Council, other than encouragement and suggestions to residents.

However, some action had already been taken and 130 trees ordered via the Woodland Trust for Planting at the Nature Reserve but due to the current pandemic these would not be delivered until the autumn.

The Community Spirit Group organised a "war on plastic" litter pick at the Nature Reserve and collected a large amount of plastic rubbish. There is also ongoing interaction with the Countryside Team at EFDC to improve natural habitats.

#### **D.024 EPPING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SHOPPER BUSES**

The Clerk had received a response from EFCT regarding the concerns raised by the Parish Council. Unfortunately the response was both unclear and contradictory.

The Clerk had asked EFCT how many residents used the bus but was still awaiting a response. The Clerk was particularly concerned that in order to use the service, the cost of which is £6 per journey, residents also had to pay a membership fee of £15 before they could book a ticket. This was not acceptable.

Cllr Radbourne suggested that EFCT be contacted and that a fee of, say, £100 for membership for all residents could be paid by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this should be pursued by the Clerk.

#### **D.025. BIOGEN PLANT**

It was NOTED, as per the Agenda, that a provisional date of 17.3.21 had been agreed for a small delegation of Parish Councillors to visit the plant and find out more about how the process is managed.

Cllr Stevens advised that initially he had thought that the problem only affected residents who were close by to the plant. However it transpired that this was not the case and the odour issue, not just in the summer, but all year round affected a large part of the Parish. Further those living closer to the plant were affected by noise, flies, light pollution and traffic movements.

Those affected by the plant had been asked to keep a record of level of odour, traffic movement etc. A form had been drafted by Cllr Stevens and this would be utilised.

#### **D.026 CENSUS**

NOTED as per the Agenda. Further that a response was still awaited from the Engagement Manager.

## D.027 PLANNING

1. NOTED as per the Agenda.
2. The planning decisions were NOTED as per the Agenda.

## D.028 PRECEPT 2021/22

It was AGREED that the precept should be increased by 7%, for the 2021/22 financial year. This equated to an annual precept of £17,424 for 2021/22.

## D.029 BUDGET

The 2021/22 budget was APPROVED subject to the following amendment. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Cooper and SECONDED by Cllr Radbourne.

£500 to be added for the cost of the housing needs survey detailed in D.021 above.

The point was made that £2000 for a post covid event may be over budgeting but after discussion it was decided to leave it unchanged.

## D.030 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i) The receipt of the VAT repayment of £974 for the 2019/20 year was NOTED.
- ii) The payments as per the Agenda, reproduced below, were APPROVED. PROPOSED Cllr Stevens and SECONDED by Cllr Padfield.

Payment Number/met hod	To	For	Amount
SO	Julia Milovanovic	Jan Salary*	<b>£498.51</b>
SO	Julia Milovanovic	Feb Salary*	<b>£498.51</b>
BACS	Julia Milovanovic	Home Office expenses 11 January – 9 March 8 x £10	<b>£80.00</b>
BACS	Julia Milovanovic	Reimbursement mulled wine & Tumblers	<b>£15.17 + £39.92 =£55.09</b>
BACS	Calcott Hall	Christmas Tree	<b>£120**</b>
BACS	Julia Milovanovic	Reimbursement of phone box paint	<b>£257.02**</b>
BACS	EALC	Climate Crisis Conference	<b>£60</b>

BACS	Information Comissioner	Data Protection Fee	<b>£40</b>
BACS	Payroll Manager	Annual Payroll Software subscription	<b>£88.80</b>

iii) It was NOTED that the return of £89.40 from Attwells had now been received.

iv) The Bank Balances as at 6 Jan 2021, detailed below, were NOTED

Unity Current Account	£1,234.18
Unity Deposit Account	£23,017.61

v) The bank reconciliation as per the Agenda was NOTED.

## **D.031 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Litter Pick**

In response to a question from Cllr Radbourne, Cllr Cooper advised that it was hoped that a community litter pick could be arranged following the current lockdown although this would not be ideal as the grass would be quite long.

### **Salt Bins**

Cllr Padfield advised that she still had a supply of road salt in storage and had checked the salt bin in Magdalen Laver.

She asked if Cllr Stevens could check the salt bin in the phone box at Bovinger Mill, the Chairman the salt bin at Pedlars End and Cllr Cooper the salt bin by the garages in Gould Close.

### **Rapid Covid Testing**

Cllr Stevens raised his concerns over the promotion of rapid covid testing on our website and requested that a separate informal meeting be arranged, next week to discuss this further. This was AGREED and the main points for discussion would be whether the rapid testing information, as supplied by EFDC, should be placed on our website or whether there should just be a link.

### **Community Spirit**

The Chairman rased the question of whether it would be possible to have closer working links with Community Spirit and also to ensure that the Parish Council and Community Spirit were not in competition.

Cllr Cooper pointed out that the Lane Ambassador scheme had been brought before the Council on three separate occasions and rejected but said that he would be happy for this to be added to the Agenda for the March meeting.

#### **D.032 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be on the 9 March at 7.30 pm. It is currently scheduled to be held in Moreton Village Hall but may have to be held virtually.

There may be Planning Committee meetings held before this date if there are applications that need to be considered