

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2020 7.30PM * HELD VIRTUALLY

* The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (Regulation 5)

Those Present:

Cllr G Nelson
Cllr O Dudman
Cllr C Dennis
Cllr S Hewer
Cllr J Evans
Cllr J Bowler
Cllr A Hewitt
Cllr A Lane
Cllr A Davies

Chairman

D Cllr P Clark
D Cllr D van der Klugt

District Councillor
District Councillor

Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge

Clerk

Before the meeting there was an opportunity for members of the public present to speak with council. There were no public in attendance.

20 / 25.00

TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

20 / 26.00

TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No new declarations were received for the meeting.

20 / 27.00

TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Nelson proposed Cllr Evans for Vice Chairman as no one else was proposed, Cllr Evans was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

The Clerk would distribute the "Acceptance of Office" to Cllr Evans, for signing and witnessing by the Clerk.

20 / 28.00

TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

Minutes for the council meeting held on 13th October 2020 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

20 / 29.00

FINANCE

20 / 29.01

Account Summary: The Clerk distributed copies of up to date accounts for the Parish Council and Alban Head Playing Fields Committee to members prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix A & B respectively.

It was noted that the Parish Council's balance is currently in a health position.

20 / 29.02

Payments: Authorised and cheques signed by signatories after the meeting for:

Sandham Memorial Village Hall	Post Office Rent	£150.00
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20 / 30.00

BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2021/22

The Clerk gave all Councillors a copy of up to date Proposed budget for 2021-22 for the Parish Council and is attached as Appendix C. The Clerk displayed the budget on screen for members to see.

Cllr Nelson highlighted that in the current financial year the budget the Parish Council is currently showing an underspend, which is obviously subject to further spend, perhaps because of the COVID situation we have had quiet year. This might catch up, later in the year, especially the Alban Head with its decline in income.

The Clerk continued with an explanation of the figures in the budget for discussion for 2021/22, highlighting changes to: the Alban Head salaries are likely to change when the minimum wage rate is announced; increase to the clerk's salary in line with previous years; reduction for the insurance premium.

Cllr Nelson highlighted the item of the Neighbourhood Plan, although the parish hasn't started this, due to the COVID 19 situation. If there is a start to this process, after training and guidance from SDNPA, there will be some cost involved (printing etc.).

Cllr Dennis recalled that, at the last meeting, Storrington Leisure Centre had written to the Parish Council requesting funding to re-opening the leisure centre. Cllr Nelson noted that he had been in contact with Storrington Parish Council, regarding this. It is not clear how this is going to proceed, or who is operating it. D Cllr Clarke was asked regarding Pulborough Parish Council position, regarding making a contribution: PPC are not contributing, as are already committed to refurbishing and developing the Sports and Social Club and leisure facilities in Pulborough, and are looking for additional funding too. To conclude, Cllr Nelson suggested that as it wasn't clear what Parish Council would be committing funds to, but should more definitive details emerge, any contribution can be discussed later in the year.

Returning to a budget figure for the Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Nelson explained, in March we had arranged a meeting with SDNPA, members from Fittleworth Parish, our councillors and members of the community who were interested to explain what to expect and the level of commitment needed. There are three reasons we are not in a position to hold this; not being able to meet, continued COVID commitments and the Governments' white paper possibly undermining the value of neighbourhood plans. Cllr Evans suggested £250 to cover any initial training and printing costs.

Cllr Evans suggested including an article in the Link to explain the reasons for the delay in our development process for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Evans asked if there was any inflationary increase built into the budget. The Clerk explained that the main items affected would be salaries, most other items are predetermined, or change infrequently.

D Cllr Clarke noted that the national agreement for clerk salaries increased salaries by 2.5%, Cllr Nelson confirmed that the salary figure should be amended.

Cllr Nelson noted that this budget is still open for discussion as the final decision can be taken at December's meeting.

Members then discussed the Precept, discussions highlighted the current surplus and the current financial hardships within the community, however Cllr Dennis warned that this has been a very unusual year and should not draw any conclusions from it. Members suggested increases of 1.5% or 2%, to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Cllr Nelson summarised these discussions; that members were in agreement with the budget as adjusted during the meeting, and to set the precept with an increase of 2%, these to be finalised at the December Meeting.

20 / 31.00

COLDWALTHAM HUB

Cllr Nelson updated members that we have had lots of contact from HDC, who are very keen that the hubs are up and running again, saying that this lockdown is quite different from the previous one. With

this being a set one-month lockdown, people know what to expect more, are better prepared and already have their support networks in place, especially for prescriptions.

Cllr Nelson highlighted that they had received very many fewer requests for help than in the spring. Residents have again volunteered to help. The pharmacists advised that they are continuing with their van deliveries of prescriptions. The Pub is providing essentials and a take-away service. The major difference being that the schools remains open.

Cllr Nelson noted that residents are respecting the lockdown but more in a way that 'they are aware that it is on but that they still have things to do' manner.

D Cllr van der Klugt updated members that HDC recognise local communities are well organised, highlighting the main avenues for residents requiring support, giving contact numbers for WSCC Community Hub, NHS Responders and HDC helpline.

D Cllr Clarke as before the Government has come up with grants for businesses that have had to close down for this four-week period, although the definition of closed down is not clear. These would be in place until March 2021, should there be another lockdown. HDC also have a small business, matched funding grants towards website or computer costs etc.

Cllr Nelson noted an initial newsletter had been sent to residents and posted on the website, but that these would not be weekly as before, but when there is something to update residents with.

20 / 32.00

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK

20 / 32.01

The Clerk updated the Council regarding recent applications

- SDNP/20/01620/FUL, The Old Mechanics Church Lane Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/19/00616/HOUS, 1 Priory Cottages, London Road, Hardham, Permitted
- SDNP/20/01800/FUL, Hillview London Road Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/20/04209/TCA, Applegarth London Road Watersfield, Permitted

Cllr Nelson highlighted the Hillview application which had received some local opposition.

20 / 32.02

Cllr Lane inquired about updates on the slipway. The Clerk had not yet been able to obtain a copy of the Act changing the boundary. We are also awaiting feedback from WSCC.

20 / 32.03

Cllr Evans noted that the school is due to contact him this week, regarding the carparking demand from the staff and parents. Recent comments from the school indicated that they thought that the parking issues had diminished recently. Cllr Nelson disagreed with this and wondered upon what basis such a view could be held, there is no evidence of diminishing concerns.

On a wider basis parking remains an issue through the whole village, Cllr Evans noted that there are no yellow lines in the village apart from those on the crossroads of Arun Vale and Church Lane, maybe it could be considered.

20 / 32.04

At the previous meeting, Cllr Nelson asked for comments regarding the meeting for next year, the only suggestion he has is to hold fewer meetings and at regular intervals, The Clerk displayed a schedule with meetings every two months from January. Cllr Evans asked if this allowed for budget discussions, the clerk advised that the precept request needed to be with HDC by the end of January, so the proposed schedule would allow this. The clerk advised that the only other prescribed deadline is the audit sign off, which is currently completed at the May meeting.

20 / 33.00

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of Council: is on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm. to include finalising the precept and budget for 2021-22.

Meeting Closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman:..... **Date:**.....

Distributed to those present, also C Cllr Arculus and D Cllr Donnelly.