

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Guilsborough Parish Council (held remotely by video conference) on**

**Monday, 8 March 2021 at 7.15 pm**

Present: Cllr A Hart (Chairman), Cllr D O'Neil, Cllr D Wooldridge, Cllr I Miller, Cllr G Metcalfe, Cllr K Fulcher, Cllr S Harris and Mrs C James (Clerk)

**038.2021 Public Forum**

Mrs Sue Myers introduced herself as a candidate for the forthcoming District Council elections for Long Buckby and stated she would just like to observe the meeting.

**039.2021 Resolution to accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Jaggard. The Clerk stated that following the resignation of Cllr Ashworth at the end on the February meeting there was now a casual vacancy and it was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Elections Office at DDC to start the process to allow the co-option of a new Councillor.

**040.2021 Declarations of interest for items on the agenda.**

None

**041.2021 Resolution to consider written requests for dispensations on agenda items**

None received.

**042.2021 Resolution to sign and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 February 2021**

The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any amendments required. It was then resolved to approve the minutes and the Chairman signed them as a true record (copy to be scanned to Clerk)

**043.2021 Matters arising (for information only)**

**043.2021/1 Signing of New Playground Lease**

The Clerk stated that all parties had now signed the new playground lease and that a copy had been sent to Hugh Lowther.

**044.2021 Village and Other Matters**

**044.2021/1 Adoption and improvement to roadway outside Village Hall**

Cllr O'Neil reported that he had written to Highways and was awaiting a response.

#### **044.2021/2 Consideration of Council's response to further Covid-19 lockdown**

The Chairman stated that no further action was required.

#### **044.2021/3 Update on traffic issues in Nortoft**

Cllr Wooldridge stated that the traffic monitoring would start in mid March once the schools had returned. It was noted that a 20mph pilot scheme was commencing in West Haddon and that the intention was to extend the pilot to other villages in due course. The Chairman stated that he was organising a Zoom meeting with the School – Cllr O'Neil/Cllr Wooldridge to attend if available.

#### **044.2021/4 Update on enquiries for land for new Cemetery extension**

Cllr O'Neil updated the Council on the current position regarding his enquiries into the possible purchase of a piece of land suitable for an extension to the existing cemetery. After discussion, it was agreed that a land surveyor should be contacted with a view to providing a more definitive valuation of the land in question. Cllr O'Neil to follow up/discuss with Danny Moody of NCALC.

#### **044.2021/5 Consideration of purchase of new litter bin for Village Green**

Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Wooldridge/Clerk would source details of alternative (possibly smaller) bins that could be placed by the bench on the Green.

#### **044.2021/6 Consideration of quotations received for Grass Mowing contract for Small Playing Field for 2021 season**

After discussion, it was resolved to award the contract to Maximow as there was only £1 difference in price per cut (£46 compared to £45) and the Council had been very satisfied with the contractor in previous years.

#### **044.2021/7 Consideration of quotations received for Village Weed Killing contract for 2021**

After discussion, it was resolved to award the contract to Maximow at cost of £280 per spray even though it was not the cheapest quotation received on the basis that the contractor had prior knowledge of the problem areas and that he would liaise with Cllr Miller prior to commencing the first spray of the season.

#### **044.2021/8 Consideration of Date for Annual Village Litter pick**

After discussion, it was resolved that, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it would not be appropriate to arrange a litter pick this Spring.

#### **044.2021/9 Consideration of quotation to provide an electricity supply to the Village Green**

The Council considered the quotation that had been received from E-on regarding the supply of electricity to the Village Green and the installation of the feeder pillar totalling approximately £1,539 depending on the length of cable required. It was agreed that this was too expensive given that an

ongoing monthly cost would also have to be factored in and the only known use for the electricity, at the present time, would be for the Xmas Tree lights for a short period each year.

#### **044.2021/10 Annual Report and Constitution Change Process**

Cllr O'Neil stated that the Village Hall Committee were looking to change the constitution as it was very archaic and wished to simplify it. He confirmed that he and the Chairman would be on the Steering Group to look into the matter.

#### **044.2021/11 Annual Inspection of Cob Barn Thatch**

The Clerk stated that Russell Fox, Master Thatcher, had inspected the thatch on the Cob Barn and had informed the Council that it was in a fair condition at the current time but it was likely to need replacing within a 3-5 year timescale. Clerk to notify insurance brokers.

#### **044.2021/12 Approval of replacement lantern for street light number 1 outside St Ethelreda's Church**

It was resolved to approve the replacement of the lantern on street light number 1 outside St Ethelreda's Church at a cost of £280 (exc VAT).

#### **044.2021/13 Update on Bus Route 59/60 and proposed revised timetable**

The Chairman referred to the email that had been received from John Hunt in regard to the revision of the bus timetable after some Parish Councils had decided not to contribute funds this year. The revision meant that Guilsborough would lose the very early morning bus but that some buses would now link with Brixworth.

#### **045.2021 Planning**

##### **045.2021/1 New applications**

##### **DA/2021/0053 – Land Adj 21 Church Mount, Guilsborough**

The Council considered the above application and made the following observations:

[1] Church Mount occupies the former site of Guilsborough Hall and is a development of the 1960s with a strong and distinctive style very much of its period; built on spacious plots in recognition of the earlier historic surroundings, allowing the prominence of the Church to be maintained, each of the six single-storey and fifteen two-storey dwellings was designed to generous proportions in wall and window with a shallow double-pitched roof and an attached garage of flat roof; facing materials included brickwork, horizontal timber boarding, hanging tile and stone clad panels; No1 and No 21 at the entrance to Church Mount have garden walls of stone reclaimed from Guilsborough Hall;

[2] Over the years, there have been a number of modest extensions made to the houses on this estate, most recently to Nos 13 & 20, each of the typical single storey dwelling design that the applicant owns at No 21 Church Mount;

[3] The application is for a small detached bungalow of a strikingly different design, the first of its kind on this estate, to infill the gap between No 20 and No 21; a restrictive covenant exists in the deeds of each householder to prohibit more than one dwelling and garage per plot;

[4] The applicant has not sought assistance or prior advice from the local authority about this application.

The Council has the following objections to the application as submitted:

[1] The siting and design of the proposed new bungalow are very obviously contrary to the clear intent of Policy 1, General Development, of the Guilsborough Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2029 and Policy ENV10 Design Local Plan (Part 2) for Daventry District 2011-2029, to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness and enhance its surroundings, to take account of local building traditions and materials, to integrate well with the existing layout and neighbouring houses on the estate in terms of scale, location and design;

[2] The proposed new development is of an inappropriate design mass in scale, fenestration, angle of roof pitch and facing materials, completely at odds with the strong and distinctive style of Church Mount, being an intrusion by over-development of the site at the entrance to the estate in removing the garden space and stone wall between the houses and a significant view of the Listed Grade II\* church of St Etheldreda's;

[3] This development of poor design, in not adding to the character and quality of the area and the way it functions, cannot be supported. This example of infill, if approved, would set a destructive precedent for future development.

## **045.2021/2 Completions**

### **DA/2021/1031 Holly Cottage, Nortoft, Guilsborough**

Listed Building Consent for fitting of secondary double glazing.

*Permission granted*

## **045.2021/3 Planning Other**

Cllr O'Neil stated that he had been in touch with the Planning Department about the work being carried out at Paddock House, Guilsborough which appeared to be contrary to the original planning application and that he had been informed that a planning application was awaited and would be forwarded to the Parish Council for observations in the normal way.

## **046.2021 Finance**

### **046.2021/1 Receipts**

None

#### **046.2021/2 Payments**

It was resolved to approve and sign the following cheque payments.

<b>Details of Payee</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>Invoice number</b>	<b>Cheque Number</b>
Mrs C James – Clerk’s March salary	356.55	n/a	102323
HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s salary	89.00	n/a	102324
Mrs C James – Office Expenses	22.00	n/a	102325
Village Link – advertising space	35.00	n/a	102326
Website Hosting fee- Re-imburse Cllr Hart	49.50	60337275	102327
Mark Hazle – Hedge Cutting in Playground	800.00	790	102328

#### **046.2021/3 Bank reconciliation**

The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation for the period ended 28 February 2021 showing balance at bank was £28,324.42

#### **046.2021/4 Confirmation of Internal Finance Checks**

Cllr Harris stated that she had recently carried out the internal finance checks and all was satisfactory.

#### **047.2021 Playground**

The Chairman stated that Mark Hazle had completed the hedge cutting prior to the deadline date of 1 March and he was dealing with the clearance of the cuttings. The Clerk said she had booked an inspection visit at a cost of £150 but due to a significant backlog, it could be many weeks before it was carried out.

#### **048.2021 Highways**

Cllr Wooldridge stated he had nothing further to report.

#### **049.2021 Street Lights**

The Clerk stated that she had received no new reports of faulty lights

#### **050.2021 Parish Assets**

Cllr Miller stated he had nothing new to report.

### **051.2021 Village Trees**

Cllr Metcalfe stated he had nothing new to report. The Chairman stated that he had heard from Spratton Parish Council of a scheme whereby Japanese Cherry trees were being donated to Councils to plant in public open spaces. Cllr Metcalfe stated he would look into this and report back at the next meeting.

### **052.2021 Footpath Report**

Cllr Metcalfe agreed to take over responsibility for footpaths following the resignation of Cllr Ashworth.

### **053.2021 Village Link**

Cllr Fulcher stated she would add the Annual Parish Meeting, the Census and the casual vacancy for a Councillor to the next Newsletter.

### **054.2021 Correspondence received**

- Emails from Parishioners in respect of Planning Application DA/2021/0053 Land Adj to 21 Church Mount (see minute 045.2021/1 above)
- Email from John Hunt providing details of revised timetable for Bus Route 59/60 (2021/22) to take account of reduced contributions from Parish Councils (see minute 044.2021/13 above)

### **055.2021 Items for next meeting – Monday, 12 April 2021 at 7.00 pm**

- Cemetery extension update
- New litter bin
- Playground Inspection report (if available in time)
- Casual Vacancy for Councillor
- Update on Nortoft traffic issues
- Scheme for Japanese Cherry Trees

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm