

SAPPERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7PM VIA ZOOM

1 IN ATTENDANCE

Members of the Parish Council: Sarah Osborn Smith, Chair (SOS); Charles Houldsworth, Treasurer and Vice Chair; Sara Taylor (ST); Barbara Maloney (BM) Clerk.

Also, CDC Councillor Julia Judd, Philip Hackett (BHS) and Anthony Pilkington

APOLOGIES

GCC Councillor Stephen Hirst; Marcel Puyk (MP),); Graham Marchand (GM); Daniel Janocka (DJ) -Unable to connect via Zoom tonight:

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the July 2020 meeting of the Parish Council via Zoom were approved and will be signed by the Chair as soon as practicable.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Order of agenda changed by agreement

4 CDC AND GCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllrs Julia Judd and Stephen Hirst provided their reports by email for Councillors prior.

4.1 CDC CLLR JULIA JUDD REPORT

- Cllr Judd's full Report is included with these Minutes and published on the Parish Council Website
- Julia alerted Council to several consultations regarding proposed radical changes to the planning system put forward by Govt in White Paper 'Planning for the Future'.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf

National Association of Local Councils are also conducting a consultation on these major changes – policycomms@nalc.gov.uk. deadline for comment 17 September 2020. The briefings from NALC are attached to Julia's report for each consultation.

Changes to the current planning system (NALC deadline for responses 17 September)

Planning for the future - the Govt planning white paper (NALC deadline for responses 15 October)

Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control (NALC deadline for responses 16 October).

4.2 GCC CLLR STEPHEN HIRST REPORT

- Cllr Hirst's full Report is included with these Minutes and published on the Parish Council Website: Main points:
 - Covid-19 cases rising in all areas across the county:
 - Total confirmed cases at Sept 4 = 2,030
 - Total Confirmed cases Aug 4 = 1,882 – details by local area in full report
 - Mobile Testing Unit Locations.
Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester
University of Gloucestershire, Entrance 3 Park Campus, The Park, Cheltenham
National Testing Programme is experiencing exceptionally high demand due to a number of factors such as the return of schools, and this is expected to remain high for the next few weeks. To help manage this demand, testing slots are being made available the evening before for morning appointments, and on the morning for afternoon appointments. Please regularly check the website
 - Monday 21 September we will mark our first ever 'Gloucestershire' Day –an opportunity to publicly thank those who have gone above and beyond their normal duty during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a time to celebrate everything that is great about our county; www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosday
 - MASSIVE SOLAR FARM PROPOSED IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE GREEN BELT.
A planning application has been submitted for a massive solar farm across 106 hectares in South Gloucestershire. The proposal for Larks Green Solar Farm comprises photovoltaic panels and a battery storage facility near Iron Acton substation between Thornbury and Yate close to the M5. The generating station would supply 49.9MW of renewable electricity providing the equivalent annual electrical needs of around 17,000 homes.

5 PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public attended the meeting specifically to participate on the subject of the closure of Frampton Mansell Level Crossing; Philip Hackett from British Horse Society and Anthony Pilkington, interested party with livery in FM.

6 FM LEVEL CROSSING

The level crossing has been closed by Network Rail since December 2019 as a means of preventing unauthorised usage by motorcycles. Philip Hackett, BHS Access Officer, South West, and Anthony Pilkington, local horse rider who has used the bridleway and level crossing for over 40 years attended to lend support to PC campaign to retain and re-open the Level Crossing.

CURRENT PROPOSAL

GCC/Highways/PRW Manager Allan Bentley is currently in negotiations with Network Rail.

- BR Legislation 1972 downgraded the Level Crossing to a PRW/Bridleway.
- The route either side of the crossing remains an ORPA – Other Route with Public Access
- ORPAs allow all vehicles to use the route including motorbikes, however these cannot cross the level crossing. This is confusing as the whole route appears as an ORPA on the definitive map.
- To effectively prevent the misuse by motorcycles using the crossing, the whole route would be downgraded to PRW/Bridleway

- Signage would then be clear – no vehicle access except for the Landowner.
- Landowner has been advised of proposal and supports this as means of addressing misuse while retaining level crossing and route for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders

Philip Hackett strongly recommended that the Parish Council officially support this proposal as this route is safer for horses and walkers than local roads with poor visibility.

MOTION: PC to fully support the proposal to downgrade the route either side of the crossing from ORPA to Public Right of Way and Bridleway. Carried unanimously.

Anthony Pilkington was pleased to hear the comments of Councillors in support of the motion and offered to assist the PC should a ‘letter drop’ or other canvassing of public opinion be required.

Philip Hackett (PH) will continue to campaign on PC’s behalf and provide updates. Network Rail has confirmed that it is not intending to close the Level Crossing but PC was urged by Anthony Pilkington and Philip Hackett to be vigilant and PC agreed to continue to campaign until re-opening achieved. PH advised that Section 56 of the Highways Act 1980 empowers the PC to serve a Notice on the Highways Authority requiring the re-opening of an obstructed bridleway should there be an attempt to permanently close the Level Crossing at any point.

7 FINANCE

7.1 Sapperton Village Hall request for advance of 3 years annual donation to restore parquet flooring in small committee room. PC has previously provided 4 years annual donation (£250 per year) – further advances would take payments to 2025. PC considered this too cumbersome. Grant recommended instead.

MOTION: TO PROVIDE A GRANT FOR £600 + VAT = £720 TO SAPPERTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE FOR RESTORATION OF PARQUET FLOORING IN SMALL COMMITTEE ROOM: Carried unanimously

PC to notify Sapperton Village Hall Committee that Grant is specifically for restoration of the floor; that this is the last funding that the PC able to provide due to having other important priorities of our own to meet; and to request a report on completion.

7.2 Public Inspection Period – set for 31 August – 9 October – Notice amended

7.3 Certificate of Exemption from External Audit submitted to PKF Littlejohn – no further action

7.4 Other Financial Business:

- Current Bank balances: Current Account: £170; Savings: £11,908

Payments approved by PC:

- KP Gardens – Sapperton Maintenance - £741 x 2 = £1,482 (July/August)
- Clerk’s remuneration £150

Accounts approved for audit.

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

20/02657/FUL – Jolly Nice Café and Farm Shop

Deadline for comment 16/09/2020. Map of proposed track unclear. Route traverses designated agricultural land to new exit point onto Long Lane/Rodmarton Lane. Reference made to previous application 19/03644/FUL – this route was proposed and then omitted from revised scheme. PC resolved to request clarification from case officer David Ditchett asap. PC expressed concern that work has already commenced. Julia Judd confirmed that this should be reported to CDC Planning.

ACTION:

- Clerk to request clarification from CDC Planning re confusing elements of this application and report that work has commenced.
- Apply for extension to deadline for comment.
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20/01589FUL - 24A Church Lane Sapperton

Retrospective application – Objection lodged by neighbour who is monitoring compliance. PC previously resolved to make no comment

20/03000/TCONR - The Great Barn Frampton Mansell

PC resolved to make no comment

20/02360/FUL - The Glebe House Sapperton

PC resolved to make no comment

20/01059/FUL + 20/01707/NEI - Aston Down Business Park – expansion

PC lodged objection/comment in support of residents' concerns. Traffic Assessment omitted any reference to East Gate. GCC Cllr Hirst is looking into current status of application as no further news received.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk's Report was circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

New Website:

A proposal for a new website compliant with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations') was circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. The accessibility regulations stipulate that content on all public sector websites must be made accessible to people with disabilities such as sight impairment, hearing loss and for those who use assistive technology such as screen readers. This agenda item was marked as a matter of some urgency due to deadline for decision being 11 September 2020 in order for website to be operational by 23 September 2020. Meeting ran out of time before decision/vote taken.

10 PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The meeting ran out of time abruptly before Councillor Reports could be heard.

11 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7PM – VIA ZOOM

**IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK
ON 01285 760 276 FOR ACCESS LINK AND PASSWORD**