

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Meeting Held on 4 May 2021

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Present:
John Bevan – Chairman
Brian Devonshire – Vice Chair
Rob Bailey – Vice Chair
Anna Whitehead
Guy Gagen
Ruth Kolish | Apologies Accepted:
None

In Attendance:
Lucy Kirkpatrick
Sue Hine Clerk/RFO |
|---|---|

Declarations of Interest: None.

This meeting was held remotely via Zoom in accordance with the Coronavirus Pandemic Regulations 2020.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 8 March 2021

The Clerk had sent out the minutes and these were approved and will be signed at a later date by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising – These had been circulated. The actions that have been able to be carried out during the pandemic are transferred to Agenda items.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

4.1 A parishioner wrote to the Clerk about the large amount of soil being piled on to the Seaman's farmland. It was discussed that this might be due to building work. **Action: Clerk and JB to write to Seamans.**

4.2 A member of the public had rung the Clerk about the lack of food for the number of horses in Churchfield. There is a lot of churned mud in the field and very little grass. JB spoke to the Gales who advised their tenant is a horse trader so the number of horses varies.

5. Trees

The Church Lane trees have still not been felled. The Clerk reported that the contractor had experienced staffing issues and an injury and it was discussed by Councillors that as a sole contractor the job may be too big. **Action: Clerk and JB to consider sourcing alternative contractor.**

6. Village Hall Reopening

RB reported that WCC have inspected the village hall for Covid safe re-opening and were satisfied. There will be limited opening from 17 May and it is hoped that from 21 June full reopening will be possible. Bookings are being taken from June to September. The village hall have received two Covid support grants from WCC.

7. Planning Applications

The PC's application for work to the cherry trees in the playpark has been approved.

PL/2021/03167. Cotswold, The Werg. Plans for remodelling. Ground floor size to be the same. First floor sitting room and roof terrace will not overlook other properties and the revamp of the property will complement neighbouring properties. Councillors approved the application.

Poulton Hill. 15/12675/FUL – Breach of Planning reported to WCC Enforcement team. A condition of planning had been not to have windows in the large barn that would overlook the row of cottages to the side. New owners have employed contractors who have cut several openings directly overlooking the neighbours.

The Clerk reported that there were a few bugs in the new WCC planning system that were being dealt with before the PC was sent our own log in. At the moment access was via the public portal.

Planning Application for a horse hospital near the Og river. JB has been advised that there are plans for equestrian medical facilities on this Poulton site and that it looks as though a new access is already being built despite the fact that no plans have been submitted. JB has advised Steve Hind, Highways WCC. RK said that this would be a very dangerous spot for horse trailers to be turning and all agreed.

8. Grass Cutting

The Clerk had researched options for the village grass cutting as our current contractor had reported difficulties disposing of the cuttings. Councillors considered the various options and it was agreed that the local company DR Pittams provided the best value and solved the problem of disposal and storage of cuttings. It was agreed to retain GH for hedge cutting. **Action: Clerk**

9. Annual Governance Review (AGAR)

The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit for the Council had been concluded and the report was complementary with no issues raised. Councillors considered the Annual Governance statement for 2020-21 and the measures in place for Governance. The Governance Statement was approved and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date. Proposed by RB and seconded by RK. **Action: Clerk and JB Chairman**

10. End of Year Accounts (AGAR)

Councillors approved the Annual Accounts for 2020-21 and the Accounting Statements Section 2 of the AGAR form and these will be signed by the Chairman at a later date. **Action: Clerk and JB Chairman**

11. AGAR – Certificate of Exemption

Councillors approved application for a Certificate of Exemption from an external audit as the Council meets the criteria of income/expenditure both being under £25,000. The Chairman will sign the Certificate of Exemption at a later date. The Clerk will set the publication period for the excise of public rights as 1 – 13 August 2021 and place the relevant documents on the Mildenhall website. In practice previous AGAR forms remain on the website. **Action: Clerk and JB Chairman**

12. Financial Statements and Expenditure against budget to date

The Clerk presented two statements – 9 – 31 March and 1 April to 4 May and the first budgeted expenditure. Statements were approved by Councillors and will be signed at a later date.

13. Insurance

The Clerk reported that our current insurers have offered next year's premium at only £5 more than this year and as considerable work obtaining quotes had been carried out in previous years Councillors approved remaining with BHIB.

14. Playpark Cableway

The Clerk reported that two quotes for the cableway work had been received and a third had been contacted. The Clerk had spoken to the playground inspector directly as to the requirements. The main problem is the tree roots from the highway bank birch trees. Options will be presented to Councillors and discussed at the next meeting.

15. Area Board

BD reported that Area Board meetings have been reduced to 4 per year; the next being 15 June. The next Cat G meeting will be 27 May. Both will follow current government guidance as to whether they will be face to face or remote. RB and the Clerk stated that as the Coronavirus regulations expire on 6 May and have not been renewed despite a legal challenge face to face Council meetings will resume in July.

16. Any other Business

16.1 JB has received a request from the Francis family to use Church field on 31 July 2021 for a wedding. Approved.

16.2 Wiltshire Search and Rescue request for funding. Councillors approved £100 donation.

16.3 WCC Climate Strategy engagement events in May. Clerk to send to AW.

16.4 New Councillors – Lucy Kirkpatrick and Adam Kebble will be co-opted at the next meeting and the Clerk will organise initial training sessions.

Meeting finished at 7.40pm – next meeting Monday 12 July 2021