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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held on-line via Zoom at 7.00 pm on Monday 10th January 2022.

Present: Councillors: S Stacey (Chairman), P. Evans (Vice-Chairman), B Richards, P. Sansom, Cllr Pay, Cllr Knight, M. Bennett, and A Stokes

In attendance: Borough Cllr Andrew Eade (part) and Mike Atherton (Clerk)

(10/01/22)

Item 1 - Apologies: Cllr McKeown

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest: there were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session:

No Members of the public present.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Richards with all members present voting in favour.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2021 were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.</p>

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- a. **Encroachment - Wellington Road & Liddle's Bank:** nothing further to report. Clerk to seek an update from T&WC.
- b. **Pedestrian Sign in Garden:** Cllr Richards reported back on email correspondence between the Clerk and T&WC indicating that this longstanding issue will be resolved within the next month.

- c. **Future of Health Services in Newport:** the Clerk reported awaiting a response from the Wrekin Area Committee – subsequently confirmed that this would provide a good agenda item for WAC and will be pursued by them.
- d. **Provision of Seating / Picnic Tables in the Play Area:** Cllr Evans suggested and it was agreed to site the 'Sloper Seat' adjacent to the footway from Newtown where the ground is dryer. The Clerk confirmed that a site meeting with T&WC (AC & NM) and Cllr Evans was to be arranged asap to confirm final details of locations. A recalculation of costs had been provided by T&WC and these are in-line with budget estimates.
- e. **Electoral Review Update:** a response to the LGBCE 2nd stage review consultation had been made by the Clerk on behalf of CAPC prior to the consultation deadline of 7th February and a final report and recommendations are now awaited.

Note: the LGBCE 2nd stage review consultation deadline has subsequently been extended to 7th May 2022.

- f. **Asset Management:** Cllr Richards summarised thoughts of a need for a comprehensive asset management plan in light of increasing commitments for CAPC to repair and maintain assets.

In summary, these assets include: laptop, 7 no. planters, 5 no. boundary stones, 72 no. street lights, liability for R&M of the new MUGA and 2 no. seats, and the village noticeboard(s).

Action: A sub-group comprising Cllrs Richards, Evans and Stokes was formed to carry out a practical assessment of repair & maintenance needs and to report back to full council in due course.

- g. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** the Chairman and Cllr Bennet jointly summarised feedback from the Steering Group. The sub-group had identified two main options centred on the play area and the village hall and explained reasons in favour of and against each option. Members voted 7 in favour of the village hall option with 2 abstentions.

Proposals include entertainment, films and food stalls. Additional proposals include provision of 7 trees on the play area representing each decade of the Queen's reign. **Action:** Clerk to seek advice on suitable blossoming species.

Members discussed a budgetary proposal based on estimates provided by Cllr Bennett that would feed into a bid for grant funding from T&WC. Cllr Richards asked about the risk of T&WC not funding the grant and any cost implications for CAPC arising from booking deposits and early commitments. It was agreed that the risk was minimal however initial costs to be minimised until the grant bid is confirmed.

Borough Cllr Eade offered to provide £200 contribution to tree planting from his allocation from the Ward Member Pride Fund. Members expressed their appreciation for this generous and supportive offer.

The discussion also covered wider community involvement with options for the scouting groups to provide a series of traditional games, engaging the village school in community activities, and involvement of St. Andrew's Church.

In concluding the discussion Members confirmed a previously agreed budgetary provision of £750.00 from CAPC resources – this would provide match funding with Cllr Eade's contribution to the T&WC grant request.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Representative Reports

Village Hall: Cllr Knight reported on various aspects of the Village Hall's busy schedule including reference to new lighting & video / audio equipment that would enable 'flicks in the sticks' type shows to be held. A recent trial showing of Jurassic Park had worked really well.

Bus User Group: nothing to report.

NRP: nothing to report.

T&WC: Cllr Eade informed Members of T&WC proposals not to raise the general Council Tax level but that there would be the nationally recognised 1.9% uplift to help fund adult social care.

Cllr Eade also referred to ongoing discussions with T&WC about the introduction of speed control / traffic calming measures along Longford Road with a view to placing greater emphasis on pedestrian traffic. Cllr Eade explained that he would be making a contribution from his Ward Member budget and that a contribution from CAPC would help emphasise the importance of such a scheme. The Chairman, Cllr Stacey, confirmed that the proposal had been positively received and the matter of a parish contribution would be considered further when a scheme comes forward.

Item 7 – Communications Updates:

Correspondence: all relevant correspondence had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Newsletter: the Chairman thanked all involved in the distribution of edition 11 of the Parish newsletter with a large majority of copies being received by residents before Christmas.

Facebook: traffic regularly monitored and nothing significant to report.

Website: remains up-to-date and regularly reviewed.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 8 – Planning Matters

Contents of the Planning Schedule for January 2022 were considered and noted.

Cllr Pay confirmed that consideration of the Bloor Homes Development latest application by T&WC Planning Committee had been deferred from 8th December 2021 to 26th January 2022. The possibility of a further 'representation' is still under consideration.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 9 – Accounts & Payments

(a) Statement of Account: £19,104.21 at close of business on 31/12/2021.

(b) Cllr Evans proposed, and Cllr Richards seconded approval of the following payment made since the last meeting. All Members present voted in-favour of the motion.

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
AYP Ltd – newsletter	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s137	£121.00
West Mercia Energy	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 sch 14	£168.92
Zoom Communications Ltd	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s9	£102.88

(c) Cllr Stacey proposed, and Cllr Evans seconded, with unanimous vote in favour from all Members present at the meeting for the following payments to be authorised:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
HMRC (PAYE) – Dec 2021	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s112	£84.40

Resolved: the above accounts shown at 9(b) and 9(c) above are formally approved for payment at this meeting held on 10th January 2022.

(d) 3rd Quarter Bank Reconciliation 2021/22:

Following careful scrutiny Cllr Richards proposed, and Cllr Stokes seconded, approval of the 3rd Quarter Bank Reconciliation with all Members present voting in favour of the motion.

Resolved: that the 3rd Quarter Bank Reconciliation 2021/22 is approved at this meeting held on 10th January 2022.

Item 10 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting dates were noted:

- **Business Meetings:** Monday 7th February, 7th March and 4th April 2022

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a. Cllr Richards referred to arrangements for the Christmas social meal. After a brief discussion it was agreed by all present that they wished to proceed with the meal but that in light of Covid-19 it was appropriate to defer the event into February or March 2022.
- b. Cllr Richards referred to an ongoing issue of garden flooding along the former railway line and a need to maintain impetus in seeking a solution. It was noted that Borough Cllr Eade is promoting a motion to T&WC to review the local flooding which would consider this issue. All present agreed that this issue needs resolving and confirmed a commitment to support Cllr Eade's motion as well as lobbying T&WC and Severn Trent Water for a solution.
- c. Cllr Richards commented on a need to tidy up the village noticeboards including more actively promoting what's on at the Village Hall and Church Hall.
- d. Cllr Stacey reported that he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk and RFO. The letter included a recruitment plan including suggestions to ease transition during the change of personnel. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and individual Members thanked the Clerk for his services over the past 8 years. **Agreed:** to convene a Personnel Committee comprising Cllrs Stacey, Richards and McKeown to oversee preparations for and recruitment of a new Clerk & RFO.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date