

## BIRLEY WITH UPPER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting at 6.00pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

In view of government legislation re the Coronavirus Pandemic this was a remote meeting by zoom and telephone.

### Present:

Councillors: Mrs A Pendleton, Mrs I Stokes, Mrs S de Rohan, Mr J Gough, Mr A Last and Mr M Pytka.

### In Attendance:

M Jones (Ward Cllr) and Mr M Hopkins (Clerk).

**Members of the public:** Mrs K Morris and two other members of the public.

### 1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mr R Grayburn.

### 2. To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and Extraordinary Meetings held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Resolved:** The above Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### 3. To Receive Declarations of Interests and Applications for Dispensations

**Resolved:** No declarations required.

### 4. To Receive Brief Reports from:

#### 4.1 Herefordshire Councillor (Cllr M Jones)

Cllr Jones reported:

There was a £6m short fall in the first 6 months and by the end of the year this shortfall was expected to rise to between £10/15m.

The council will need to borrow and not take out of reserves:

£4.27m to pay for the flood repairs resulting from Storm Dennis in February.

£1.56m re the landslip at Fownhope, £1m to build a retaining wall, £2m to repair the slip road. Also £500k for repairs to the toll bridge at Whitney on Wye

The interest on the loan over 40 years would be £193k

Herefordshire council had also purchased the Maylord Orchards for £4.5m.

Long term the building may be used for University accommodation.

There had been much discontent re the travel restrictions in Hereford City re the implementation of cycle lanes and road closing etc to allow social distancing.

Now necessary to book visits to the refuse tips in the county.

Covid 19 figures to date - 997 cases and 128 deaths.

He had tried 3 times to speak with Mike and Rose Smith re planting wild plants on common ground.

**Resolved:** Cllr Jones thanked. The full report circulated and a copy attached to these minutes.

Cllrs Jones was requested to check on the progress of fibre optic broadband throughout the parish

#### 4.2 **Westhope Common Management Association** (Cllr Mrs I Stokes)

Cllr Stokes reported that the Management Association had not met since her report at our May meeting.

**Resolved:** No report on this occasion.

#### 5. **To Receive the Clerks Report, General Updates and Note the Information**

All updates since the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 are included in the Information Sheet which had been circulated.

Cllr Sarah de Rohan reported that due to Covid pandemic the Birley Community Project have quite understatedly been put on hold for the time being. Stage 5 grants from Fastershire have been announced and Birley, Aulden and part of Upper Hill have all registered interest and now awaiting hopefully a positive outcome.

**Resolved:** Reports, Updates and Information Sheet noted. A copy of Information Sheet is attached to these minutes.

#### 6. **Open Time**

No items were raised.

#### 7. **Financial Matters**

##### 7.1 **To Receive a Report from the RFO**

Bank Balances as of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020: Community Account: £6,167.04 and Business Premium Account: £985.63.

**Resolved:** Report noted.

##### 7.2 **To Consider the following Payments**

7.2.1 **Payments made since the last meeting:** Herefordshire Council (Election recharge) £85.02 (599), Digital River (Kaspersky internet security) £24.75 (600), SLCC (2020/21 membership) £44.00 (601), Eyelid Productions (website upgrade) £50.00 (602), Zoom (June) £14.39 (603), Zoom (July) £14.39 (604), HALC (Training) £40.00 (605), HALC (website hosting) £60.00 (606), Zoom (July 2020 – August 2021) £90.51 (607)\*\*, M&S (internal auditor payment) £30.00 (608).

**\*\* Re Zoom payments:** In July we paid £14.39 which for a 12 months subscription reduced the monthly payment to £11.99 per month i.e. £143.88 per annum.

Later in July a further offer was available for a 12-month subscription reducing the £143.88 to £100.72.

We had a further rebate of £10.21 on the July payment of £14.39 we had already made on cheque no 604 above. Therefore, for a 12-month subscription the cost was £90.51 i.e. £7.54 per month.

The above amounts include VAT which we should be able to claim back.

Furthermore, a grant was available from 'Fastershire Keep Connected' via Herefordshire Council which I applied for and we received £71.94.

Therefore, if we can claim the vat back on the above £90.51 the 12 months subscription will have cost us £3.49

**Resolved:** Above payments agreed.

7.2.2 **Outstanding Payments:** Clerks salary (July/Sept) £130.10 (609), HMRC (PAYE July/Sept) £32.40 (610)

**Resolved:** The above payments were agreed. It was also agreed to order a wreath from the RBL for Remembrance Sunday.

7.3 **To Comment on the Proposed Budget for 2021/22**

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Councillors would consider this item and formally agree the budget at the November meeting.

8. **Planning Matters**

8.1 **Planning Applications Received from Hereford Planning Department:**

**Resolved:** No planning applications received.

8.2 **Planning Decisions Received from Hereford Planning Department:**

192784 – Land at Cedar House, Bush Bank HR4 8EN (proposed development of 6 dwellings) – Granted with conditions.

**Resolved:** Decision noted.

9. **Highway Matters**

9.1 **To Receive any Issues for Herefordshire Highways**

**Resolved:** No issues raised.

9.2 **To Recommend the Appointment of a Footpath and Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer**

The rights and responsibilities of landowners, Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty, public and PROW officer were circulated. Mrs Karen Morris was present and agreed to be nominated as the PROW Officer for the Parish.

**Resolved:** It was agreed to recommend Karen Morris as the PROW Officer for the Parish.

10. **To Raise Items for the next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting - No Discussion**

**Resolved:** All items referred from this meeting and the refurbishment of the Parish Council owned red telephone box at Upper Hill.

11. **To Confirm the Date of the next scheduled Parish Council Meeting**

**Resolved:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 6pm (tbc)

Venue: By zoom should the Government Covid 19 restrictions still apply.

**Meeting concluded at 6.55pm.**

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**Signature of Chair**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
**Date**