



**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 15 July 2020
7.30pm**

Present

Cllrs Paul Berry (Chairman), Graeme Acraman, Barry Barnes, Edna Bengler, Sandy Duck, Garry Commins, Craig Gale, Dave Homer, Roy Margetts (from Minute 57/20), Jon Perks, Ken Peters (from Min 58/20), Sue Rogers and Mary Wild.

In attendance, via ZOOM.

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

53/20 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman

- a. Reiterated the guidelines, previously circulated to all Councillors, by which he would conduct this second virtual meeting of the Council. He also reminded Members that the meeting was being streamed on the internet.
- b. *Was very sorry to recently hear of the passing of the Council's former Litter Warden Haydn. Haydn was very well known in Billingshurst for many years. He was a real character, a bit of a devil at times but I think we all loved him all the more because of it. He always had a smile and time for a chat. He was a good man, had a good heart and our sympathies go to his family at this difficult time.*
- c. *On 2nd July, I attended the AGM of the Billingshurst Street Pastors. The meeting marked the 7th anniversary of the project. During the meeting we heard that throughout 2019, the group ran a total of 28 patrols. There are currently 7 active Street Pastors and 10 Prayer Pastors and the group aims to run at least 4 patrols per month. This is obviously dependant on volunteers and the group would welcome new members. The work the group does is well received by everyone they come into contact with, whether that be local businesses, pubs and restaurants or indeed the people they come across out and about in the village. Contact with people can range from having a friendly chat, to signposting them to other organisations should they have specific needs.*
- d. *The money the group needs to pay to the Ascension Trust, which mainly covers insurance, is going up quite a bit. I reminded the group that the Parish Council has a grants program if they needed to ask for funding assistance. They also mentioned a possible recruitment drive for new members, I said that I was sure that the Council would be able to help publicise this.*

54/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Alan Grant and Sarah Wilson (prior engagements). On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Sue Rogers **RESOLVED** that the reasons given be accepted.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Craig Gale had signed his *Declaration of Acceptance of Office* and completed his Register of Interests form.

55/20 To Receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for a dispensation.

None

Adjournment for

56/20 Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chairman).

The public had been offered the opportunity to either join the meeting to ask a question, or have the Clerk read out a question submitted in advance. No such requests or questions had been received.

Resume Meeting

57/20 To consider requesting that 'land at Maple Road' be designated as an *Asset of Community Value (ACV)*.

As reported at the last meeting, the subsoil of this (highway) land was up for sale. Local residents believe that the site should be retained *as is* for the benefit of the whole community and were looking to add layers of protection to prevent it being redeveloped. They had suggested that consideration be given to have it designated an *Asset of Community Value*. The Council had previously achieved such designation for the public toilets. Such status ensured that if put up for sale, the sale would be put on hold for 6 months to enable the community to purchase it at market value, although the owner could still sell it to whosoever they so choose. There was no cost implication to the Council in making such an application. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Garry Commins **RESOLVED** that the Council apply to have 'Land at Maple Road' designated as an ACV.

58/20 To determine future meeting arrangements, (and review appointments to committees etc. if appropriate)

The Council considered a series of options on the resumption of regular meetings, including all Committees and whether to hold a delayed Annual Meeting in September, or continue with existing post holders until May 20102, as allowed by legislation. Councillors felt that being halfway through the year already, there was little point in reviewing Chairmanships etc. now, but were keen to restart the planned meeting schedule, albeit still *virtually*.

- a) On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Mary Wild **RESOLVED** to resume the planned calendar of all (*virtual*) meetings from September.
- b) On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck **RESOLVED** to carry over all appointments etc. until the Annual Meeting in May 2021.
- c) On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Graeme Acraman **RESOLVED** the membership of Committees and outside appointments be amended accordingly, as set out in Appendix A. Following a verbal resumé by the Clerk of the various outside groups detailed, Councillors would look again at the list in September.

59/20 To approve action by Clerk to recruit a Temporary Litter Picker to litter pick Station Road Gardens and Jubilee Fields at £20 per 3 hours (20-year-old / slightly above National Living Wage) on Sunday mornings from 12th July until early September.

On the proposal of Cllr Garry Commins, seconded by Cllr Ken Peters **RESOLVED** to approve action by Clerk to recruit a Temporary Litter Picker as detailed. A Cllr commented that several members of the public had made positive comments about the lack of litter at Station Road Gardens last Sunday.

60/20 To consider making comments on the new model *Code of Conduct* consultation.

Members broadly welcomed the content of this draft document but had no specific comments to make upon it. Cllr Jon Perks said the document was a useful reminder to all about the need to respect confidentiality where required, especially when it came to forwarding e-mails containing contact details etc. [The Chairman asked the Clerk if all Councillors had completed their Register of Interests update forms? The Clerk reported that only Cllr Sue Rogers was yet to return her form – he would send her another.]

61/20 Any other matters for information only.

- a) A Councillor asked when lighting poles would be erected at the entrance to Lower Station Road Recreation Ground? The Clerk will update Cllrs in a future *Clerk's Update* about this.
- b) A Councillor remarked that the construction of and resulting traffic management of the new roundabout on the A29 was at variance with what was originally advised. The Clerk suggested that as the developer had offered to provide regular updates on the project, the developer's representative be invited to attend a September Planning Committee meeting as appropriate.

62/20 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 2 September 2020 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Chairman

Date

BILLINGSHURST PARISH COUNCIL**COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES****2020-21**

(The Council has set the max. membership for Committees to 10 members.)

COMMITTEES	
Planning & Environment	GA, EB, GC , DH , JP, SR, SW
Property	BB , PB, GC, SD, DH, RM
Finance & General Purposes	GA, BB, EB, PB, AG , DH, RM, KP , CG
Working Practices	PB, AG , DH, RM, MW
Billingshurst Centre	GA, AG , KP , SR, SW, SD, CG, RM
Flooding	
Complaints (5 members Max)	PB, SD, RM
Complaints Chairman	SD
WORKING PARTIES	
Neighbourhood Plan	SD, JP , SR, MW
Emergency Planning	GA, EB, AG
Internal Audit	GA, DH, RM
East St Traffic Calming	PB, AG , JP
Youth Liaison	RM, MW, SW
Jubilee Skatepark WP	BB, PB, DH, CG
CCTV	PB, GC, RM, GA
Local Plan	DH, BB, JP , GA

***Bold** indicates Chairman/Vice Chairman*

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES	
Allotments Society	EB
Adversane Traffic WP	AG, JP
B'hurst Sports & Recn. Assn. (BSRA) x4	GC, SD
Fireworks	BB
Friends of Station Road Gardens x1	BB
HALC (H'ham Assn Local Ccls)	AG, GA (+ SD if possible)
N'hood Warden Steering Group x2	GA, SD, AG + Clerk
Public Art Steering Group	SR + Clerk
SPD Working Group	SD + Clerk
Trustee of Adversane Hall x1	AG
Trustee of Dauxwood Pre-School x1	MW
West Sussex Association Local Councils (WSALC) AGM x2	SD, AG
Youth Council	MW
B'hurst Flood Action Group	GA