

GREAT NESS and LITTLE NESS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting of Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council held on Zoom on Monday 25th January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present Cllr. Brooks (Chairman), Arthur, Diggory, Gilbert, Jenkins, Mullis, Nunn, Peters, Turner

Absent: None.

In attendance Shropshire Councillor Ed Potter, Andy Gough (Woodsyde Developments), 1 member of the public

Clerk Mrs R. Turner

136/2021 **PRESENT & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All present

137/2021 **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

- Cllr. Arthur declared a pecuniary interest in Item 140/2021, having worked for the parties tendering.
- Cllr. Turner declared a potential perceived bias in Item 140/2021, as one party tendering had done work at his home circa 2 years ago.

138/2021 **DISPENSATION REQUESTS**

None received.

139/2021 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

A member of the public spoke re broadband, in favour of the gigabit broadband project:

- Has been working with technology for 40 years
- Has seen the birth of the Internet and was an early user
- Gave talks about how we would be buying houses and cars off the Internet in 1999
- Now run a digital marketing agency which is heavily reliant on the Internet
- Internet speeds have grown from the barely usable dial ups modems to where 100mbs is rapidly becoming the standard (for example we had 65mbs in Wigan before we moved)
- Currently, 30mbs which is what we get in the village is the barely accepted minimum - most speed testers assume 40mbs as the minimum for multi-use for TVs/digital devices
- Demand is growing:
 - TV will require more capacity as 4k and 8k TVs become the norm
 - More people in the household will demand more bandwidth
 - Online learning will become more prevalent
 - More people will be working from home as companies move to hybrid working (they wouldn't do it before because they hadn't invested in the necessary infrastructure - that investment has been made)
 - For example, I closed our offices on 1st Lockdown and will open a hub when restrictions permit and when we don't need social distancing. Everyone is a remote worker and they can choose if they want to work in the office. Meetings will be geared to remote workers.
 - Most company IT systems will be cloud based for flexible/virtual working.
- Poor broadband can lead to:
 - Mental health issues and stress because people can't work or learn
 - It's very frustrating when everyone's screen freezes and you are giving an important presentation - very stressful
 - COVID is not going away soon - the vaccine is believed to be less effective with South African variant
- Not investing in the technology will:
 - Depress house prices in the village because younger, more affluent people will want higher speeds
 - Stress levels will increase for those working from home as more demand is placed on the infrastructure
 - Learning will suffer as more people use remote learning

- Without the higher speed infrastructure in Nesscliffe it will be hard to get better connectivity for the properties furthest away from the existing cabinets

Chris Priestley, Rural Engagement Manager at Openreach outlined the possibility of a Community Fibre Partnership. This involved using Government vouchers, issued by DCMS to part-fund the cost of installing FTTP infrastructure. The vouchers can be topped up by other funds, such as top-up fund from Shropshire Council, available until 31st March 2021. Including SC top-up, this equates to funding of £4000 per residential premise or £7,000 per business premise (including businesses registered at home but not employed home workers)

Chris outlined 2 options for this area:

- One including 289 addresses @ £1,300 per premise on the Nesscliffe exchange (to east of A5). This would cover Nesscliffe/Hopton
- Or 335 addresses - £1,406 – this includes Cabinets 1 and 5 and some exchange only premises.

An option for the whole parish had been looked at but this was not viable with there being a funding gap of £1.3 million

There are two possible models for a CFP:

- Demand led. This requires 130% of the project cost pledged in vouchers, circa 154 residential voucher equivalent if 335 addresses served.
- Contract legal entity. Need 154 vouchers for demand-led assuming all vouchers were residential.

The next steps, with a view to collecting vouchers before 31st March to access top-up funding are:

- Chris to give info on pledging terms and conditions
- Chris to give examples of other schemes.
- Parish council to collect registrations of interest in pledging vouchers on form provided by Openreach Chris gave in interim.
- Check premises at Hopton Park as they have FTTP as part of the build anyway
- A final offer from Openreach is needed followed by DCMS approval, before vouchers can be authorised
- Consider holding public Zoom meetings to get interest
- Chris to also cost a Wilcott scheme but may not be possible to get this through by 31st March. Ask army camp about taking part in broadband project.

It was RESOLVED that pursuant to Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press should be excluded during discussion of Item 140/2021, due to the likely disclosure of confidential information

Cllrs. Turner and Arthur went in the waiting room.

140/2021 **TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME**

Andy Gough outlined the tenders received. Two had been received on time and one late; the late tender will not be considered. Andy had scored the tenders, both were of a high standard but one was more specific on health and safety and communication with public and better aligned to timescale.

Further to the report by Andy, it was **RESOLVED** to select Asset Surfacing and Construction, subject to a successful pre-contract stage (walking the route to ensure brief fully understood). Contract to be authorised at February meeting.

Cllrs. Turner & Arthur returned to the meeting.

141/2021 **GIGABIT BROADBAND PROJECT**

It was **RESOLVED** to gather interest in the 335 premises scheme with a view to claiming vouchers by end of March 2021, to access top-up funding. SurveyMonkey survey to gather interest to be posted online and mailshot to all premises in the project area; a local resident had offered to help design a leaflet free of charge. Council to cover postage cost as hand delivery not sensible due to Covid-19.

The meeting re-opened to the public

142/2021 **MINUTES –**

- (i) *Minutes of the Council Meeting dated 1st Dec 2020* - it was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as being a correct record and the chairman was authorised to sign them.
- (ii) *Minutes of the CIL working group dated 19th January 2021*- noted and confirmed as being a correct record by the CIL working group members present.

143/2021 **REPORTS**

a) *Shropshire Council*

- Support available if people need it re lockdown – signpost people towards support.
- Vaccine rollout – Shropshire very behind in vaccine delivery to over 80s and care homes. Pressure being put on CCH and NHS England. Only GP practice network that would do vaccine was SE network, due to issues re storage of Pfizer vaccine. Rest of primary care network wouldn't deliver vaccine via GPs. RSH, RJA. SC has made sites available for vaccine and helped recruit volunteers. Relying on CCG to put this forward. Shropshire to get Oxford vaccine this week.
- Businesses will get grant automatically this time, if qualified previously.
- Elections scheduled for May but uncertain if it will happen.
- Noted that lights at Wilcott satellite area keep coming on – Cllr. Peters to check for info on who manages lights.

144/2021 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS – FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 1) 20/04936/FUL - Rose Cottage, Holyhead Road, Montford, Shrewsbury, SY4 1A
Proposal: Erection of one replacement dwelling following demolition of existing

Comments: The parish council supports the application as it will improve the appearance of the site.

- 2) 20/05198/FUL - Fernleigh, Alderton, Nesscliffe, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1AP
Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension following partial demolition of rear single storey elements - (revised scheme)

Comments: Support.

- 3) 20/04624/FUL - Land Adjacent Keepers Cottage, Fairview, Kinton, Nesscliffe
Proposal: Formation of an agricultural vehicular access to include formation of visibility splay (re-submission of 17/01038/FUL)

Comments: None.

- 4) 21/00058/TPO - The Villa, Wilcott, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1BJ
Proposal: Works to 5No Ash Trees and 1No Ash three stemmed tree protected by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council (Land Adjacent to Wilcott House, Wilcott) Tree Preservation Order 1990

Comments: No comments but if they find during the course of works that the tree(s) need complete removal, the parish council would like to be re-consulted.

- 5) 20/05427/FUL - Oakfield, Great Ness, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 2L

Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling and detached double garage; modifications to existing vehicle access off public highway

Comments: Incongruous, excessive scale, out of character with the conservation area. Increasing footprint and out of context. Not in accordance with current policy.

- 6) 20/05389/FUL- Nesscliffe Training Camp, Wilcott, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1B
Proposal: Erection of 7No. single storey accommodation blocks with associated external works following demolition of existing buildings

Comments: Support.

145/2021 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) *Q3 budget report & bank reconciliation* – it was **RESOLVED** to note the report, as per Appendix 1, the reconciled balance being £182,497.23.
b) *Budget & precept 2021/22* – it was **RESOLVED** to set the budget, as per Appendix 2, the precept requirement being £29,929.00 (£55.94 per Band D household)
c) *Payments including payments made between meetings* – it was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

- d) *Income received*

146/2021 **NEXT MEETING**

- a) *Council meeting — 4th Feb 2021, 7.30pm on Zoom*
b) *Items for next meeting agenda*
- Local Plan
 - Broadband
 - Legal issues re land
 - Traffic calming
 - Maintenance contract – ask existing contractor for quote for 3 years
 - Shrewsbury Homes re workmen for sewer being rude to parents & condition of grass