

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Bourton on the Water Parish Council

held at 6pm on Monday 26th July 2021 in the Windrush Room, George Moore Centre

Those Present: Cllrs R Hadley (Chairman), A Davis, L Hicks, P Millett, N Randall, A Roberts, B Sumner, L Wilkins, and B Wragge.

In Attendance: Sharon Henley (Clerk/RFO)

Members of Public: 4 and one child.

1. Consider and accept apologies for absence: Cllr S Coventry and M Macklin – accepted. In addition, District Cllrs Richard Keeling and Nick Maunder, County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

Public Session: Three members of the public spoke in support of the proposed motion. In addition, emails had been received from three other members of the public in support and these were read out by Cllrs Hadley and Davis.

3. To debate and agree the following resolution:

“This resolution proposes that we (Bourton on the Water Parish Council) continues to provide public access to all Council meetings and Committee meetings by Zoom as well as in person, as a matter of inclusivity, and to prevent exclusion and inequality of opportunity to participate in the democratic process. If further resources are required to enable this, then funds should be identified and agreed”.

Cllrs Davis and Wragge outlined the reasons for presenting the motion to Council and a discussion was held. It was noted that the support from members of the public had centred around the assumption that they would be able to speak at meetings if they attended via Zoom. However, the most recent advice given to the Clerk from GAPTC was that members of the public, including district and county councillors, were not able to participate unless they attended in person. This meant that attending via Zoom would only allow observation of proceedings. Concerns were raised that the proposals to set up existing equipment for multiple meetings each month would have a permanent impact on staff workload.

Alternative suggestions discussed were the option of recording meetings for upload to the website and livestreaming on Facebook or similar. The proposed motion did not include any indication of costs and it was thought that a fixed camera, sound system and additional laptop would be needed to provide either of these on a permanent basis. In addition, improved wi-fi was needed for users of the Windrush Room.

Cllr Randall proposed an alternative motion to provide Council with a fully costed proposal for having Zoom at all meetings. In addition to look at a fixed camera and suitable sound system as an alternative for recording the meetings or for live broadcasting. This was seconded by Cllr Wilkins all APPROVED by a majority vote. The Clerk and Cllr Hadley to produce the proposal.

Cllr Davis to investigate how to livestream a meeting via Facebook using her mobile phone and to test this at a future meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18.44 hours.