

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BOURTON ON-THE-WATER EXTRA-ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 27th May 2020
at 6.45 pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllrs. R. Hadley (Chair), B. Sumner, A. Davis, L. Hicks, B. Rogers, N. Randall, K. Cronin, S. Coventry, B. Wragge and L. Wilkins.
District Cllr. N. Maunder.
1 resident of Bourton-on-the-Water

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this meeting had been arranged to solely discuss the urgent removal of the temporary village fence to comply with Government Guidelines.

20/022: Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence had been received from District Cllr. R. Keeling and County Cllr. P. Hodgkinson.

20/023: Members' Interests: There were no declarations of interest declared.

20/024: Urgent Removal of the Temporary Village Fence to comply with Government Guidelines: A Councillor raised that once the village fence was removed the village would be back to how it was before where people just could not move as there were too many people in one space.

Cllr. Sumner questioned the Chairman and indicated that Cllr. Hadley had an interest to declare as he was a director with a one third share of the Visitor Information Centre in the village. Cllr. Sumner asked Cllr. Hadley to declare an interest and withdraw from voting when there was a conflict of interest.

Cllr. Hadley responded that the VIC in the village was for the residents and the visitors as the VIC also sold tickets for local events and he would not declare an interest in this matter.

Cllr. Randall stated that if Cllr. Hadley did not declare an interest then this matter would be taken to CDC as a matter under the Code of Conduct.

Cllr. Hicks pointed out that Cllr. Hadley had been interviewed by the BBC and he had stated that the village was closed to all visitors, car parks were closed and the public toilets were closed.

Sections of the temporary metal fencing was removed at the end of last week to enable people to social distance and the remainder of the fencing had to now be removed as the village would be getting more visitors over the coming weeks and the Parish Council need to put measures in place to enable people to social distance. A reminder of the temporary metal fencing being put in place was purely to protect the village green during the winter months and the original agreement was to remove the fencing by 1st April 2020 but when Covid-19 became apparent the Parish Council made a decision to leave the fence in place until Government guidelines had been received to open up public open spaces.

It was noted that the Whats App page for Bourton Businesses had people requesting the village closed signs down, public car parks opened, public toilets opened and the metal fencing removed from the village green.

Cllr. Hadley proposed to remove the temporary metal fencing from the village green. Cllr. Hicks seconded the proposal.

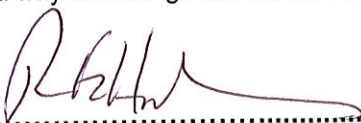
Cllr. Sumner proposed an amendment to the proposal to remove some of the metal fencing panels but leave the section of fencing over the diagonal path from Victoria Street to the High Street and leave one panel by the end, close to the middle bridge. Cllr. Hicks seconded the proposal. A vote was taken on this proposal with 1 against and the remainder in favour. Cllr. Randall requested to check whether the fencing left in place would be stable enough when removing the other panels.

A Councillor suggested putting up additional signage stating that visitors to the green use the green at their own risk. The Parish Council agreed to not move forward with this suggestion at this point as GCC were looking into pedestrianizing the High Street and adding additional signage in the village.

Sue Cretney, resident of the village reminded Councillors that the village green had been gifted as a public open space and the land had a covenant on it to remain as a public open space. Details of this had been noted on the Responsibility Register of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Hadley stated that in future a date would be set for the temporary fencing to be put up and a date to be set to remove the fencing as the whole of the idea of the fencing was to protect the village green during the winter months. Cllr. Hadley agreed that a way to manage the tourism in the village was to be worked on.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE.....  **DATE:** 07.06.2020