

East Drayton Parish Council

Minutes of the (virtual) Parish Council meeting

held at 7pm on Tuesday 19th May 2020

Present: Cllrs D Jopling(Acting Chairman), R Small (by phone), P Darlow, S. Manson, A. Stanley; the Clerk.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr I Stephens, Dcllr S Isard, PC Gareth Mitchell, Steve Ellis. The resignation of Cllr N Stanley was accepted, with regret.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2020** – approved and will be signed by the Acting Chair when practical.
- 3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman** – postponed to May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this point, Cllr Jopling thanked Cllr N Stanley for 15 years of dedicated service to, and hard work on behalf of, the Parish Council (the last 12 as Chair). The members of the PC understood his reasons for resigning – frustration at the lack of support regarding planning and highways issues and general disinterest in the village. He was also praised for his work as mentor to many involved with the PC over many years. It was agreed to send Mr Stanley a letter of thanks and a token of appreciation. **ACTION** – Clerk. The Clerk explained that a notice of “Casual Vacancy” would be displayed from the next day (20th May, for 14 working days) on the village noticeboard and the website. This allows for village residents to contact the Returning Officer at BDC to call for a by-election. This could not be held until May 2021. Cllr Jopling asked the members of the PC to give some thought as to who may be interested in being co-opted onto the PC in the short term. The Clerk to notify those on the PC database (NP SG and interested parties).
- 4. To consider matters arising from the above minutes:**
 1. VE Day 75 celebrations , 8th May. Village BBQ cancelled. Dcllr S Isard asked that the £10 she had given at the previous meeting (for 2 tickets) be passed to the Clock Fund. **ACTION** – Clerk. Instead of the BBQ the village had been invited to join the national “Tea At Three” event. The village crossroads and Village Hall (as well as many homes) were decorated with flags, bunting and poppies. Many thanks to all who participated.
 2. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak there was to be no APM in 2020 (Government order). The Clerk had notified the village organisations and requested updates for collation and distribution. Those who responded were thanked.
 3. The Clerk confirmed the Precept from BDC for 2020/21 had been confirmed (£3132, paid in two instalments , April and September).
 4. Cllr Manson thanked the Mortons for helping to maintain the village planters. He asked if it was in order to refresh the planters where necessary. Cllr Stanley will replace the plants at the foot of the soldier. Both **AGREED**.
 5. There were no further matters arising.
- 5. Declarations by Councillors of any disclosable pecuniary interest(s) in any agenda item.** None.

- 6. Planning** – 19/01201/FUL, Harrowside – update. Three items for discharge had been applied for. Between the builder and the Small family (field at rear boundary of site) a suitable drainage solution has been found which should alleviate problems of flooding on neighbouring properties. The PC would like to thank the builder for his willingness to keep neighbours informed of progress and for respecting the working hours on site. The material on the “bonfire” would be removed by him in the very near future. His co-operation in all matters is greatly appreciated.

Applications 20/00393/CAT (Yew Tree Cottage) and 20/00428/HSE (3 Holmefield Close) – a response of “no objection” has been submitted in both cases.

- 7. Correspondence** – see attached sheet. No circulation file prepared due to COVID-19. All correspondence (including COVID-19 administrative and legal documents) distributed by email.

8. Urgent Business –

- COVID-19 Volunteer Team – now stands at 10. The Clerk keeps in touch with with vulnerable households by phone or information notices. The team has not been in great demand, but an appreciation of the fact they exist has been expressed by many. Help consists of shopping, phone calls and prescription collection. Stephen Bennett is to be thanked for his regular collection of prescriptions. Thanks too, to Serene and Robert Allen for their donation of face-masks to the village. The Clerk has distributed 40 masks and delivered notes regarding future supplies to other households, who can contact the Allens directly.
- The future of the Neighbourhood Plan was discussed, and is in doubt, in the light of responses regarding planning issues by BDC. Further details to follow.
- Kushti Tan – a large “mobile home” has been placed on this plot on North Green, without planning permission. BDC Planning department have issued an enforcement statement and will investigate. The owner of the plot has explained this is a temporary development . DJ to monitor.
- The Paddock, Long Lane. An enquiry about the number of caravans on this site has been passed to BDC. The Clerk to monitor.
- Intimidation of councillors and other villagers. PC Gareth Mitchell has been contacted in this regard.

9. Meeting adjourned for public discussion – None

10. Finance

a. Income : Western Power (annual Wayleave payment) £3.45; BDC Precept (first instalment) £1566

b. Accounts for payment

- ICO (Data Protection annual fee) £40 APPROVED
- Zurich Insurance (annual premium) £221.88 APPROVED

c. Balance of accounts, as at 30/04/20

TSB - £2380.60 and NBS - £1872.48

Total = £4253.08

- d. Transfer of funds – The Clerk had received a letter from the NBS advising that the savings account would be closed in line with government directives. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate an alternative savings account before the closure in September. This action is on hold until current restrictions are eased.
- e. Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 (section1 annual Return)– AGREED
- f. Accounting Statements 2019/20 (section 2 Annual return) – AGREED
- g. Approval of Certificate of Exemption - APPROVED
- h. Items (e, f, g) to be signed by the Acting Chairman following virtual meeting and when practical.

11. General Business

- The Clerk had forwarded an email from Andrew Bax (Drayton, near Abingdon) regarding his current research into other “Draytons” to Cllr A Stanley. Mrs Stanley was happy to share her research on East Drayton with him. He will send us a copy of his finished project in due course.

12. Date of next meeting – TUESDAY 21st JULY 2020 at 7:00pm, details to be arranged nearer the time.

There being no further business, the Acting Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00pm and thanked everyone for attending a successful virtual meeting.

Signed.....

Cllr D Jopling, Acting Chairman, East Drayton Parish Council

Dated.....