

MINUTES OF THE BITTERLEY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 2022

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PRESENT: Richard Osborne(Chairman), , Mrs. K. Wheeler (Vice Chairman), Mr. C. Chillingworth, Mr. G. Dolphin, Mr T. Millard, Mr. J. Reardon-Smith, MR J. Gatehouse, Mrs A. Holman and Mr. D. Rogers

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Sue Jones (Clerk) and Mr R. Huffer (Shropshire Councillor)

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
2022/29	Apologies: None	
2022/30	SmartWater Project Presentation Francis Bridgwater and Lilly Hughes from West Mercia Police to demonstrate the benefits of Smartwater. There is a small vile of Startwater in each kit, that is made with natural elements, all bottles have own unique DNA barcode. There only needs to be a small dot used on each item. A UV touch is carried by every Police Officer, so they can scan anything, if someone stopped. The purpose of Smartwater is to prevent inquisitive crime. The Parish Council would provide each residence with a Smartwater kit. You will see the CRIMINANALS BEWARE SIGNS in the Parishes that have signed up to the scheme. This is to deter the criminals. Anyone driving into the Parish will know that 70% of residents have Smartwater. Since Smartwater has been introduced there has been a 23% reduction in crime. Stickers are also provided to put in the windows of properties that are protected. When criminals were asked what would deter them from stealing from a property, they say Smartwater. Criminals want a quick in and out of a property, this is made difficult when they are unsure if property has been markedmor not. Police only need one dot to know where it came from, it doesn't matter where it came from in the country, will always come back to where it was registered too. The Parish Council would need to ensure that each household registers the kit. Costing: The kit is £25.50, the Parish Council can have the kit for £8.90 plus vat if they join the scheme, if they purchase 100 kits they will only be paying for 75. Smartwater must have a licence fee, but if we join with West Mercia Police scheme we do not pay licence fee. The kit has a 5 year guarantee. These Kits are for domestic use but there are Farm kits available. You can go online and change address the if you move. If you sell something, tell the buyer and they can then trace item if need be. Shops like cash converters have to register with the Police, staff will use the touches to ensure items taken in are not stolen. JG: Does it catches the criminals. FB:Yes, as Police will follow it up if something is sold on. With this scheme the Parish Council are giving something back to the community. RO: Do homeowners have to keep records. FB said that it is a good idea to record the vile number and make a note of items you have marked but it's not necessary to do so. AH: how long does the vile last for. FB: There is an expiry date but if still runny still ok, keep it in cool dry place. RO: If PC decided to go ahead what	

	<p>do we do we need to do? FB: Submit application form, add the number of dwellings and it will calculate the costs. Kits can be made up very quickly, can be within a week. The kits can also be registered quickly. A letter will be provided explaining how to use the kit. Councillors or Police could distribute. The Parish Council could get printed labels from Shropshire Council. There are in the region of 370 properties in the Parish. DR said he has used Smartwater on the farm and advised to use more spots on larger items. All computers in tractors need to be marked. Rural and Business Crime has the Farm package. Large number of insurance companies give discounts if you have a kit. Once there is 70% registered the Smarterwater signs will go up in the Parish. SNTs, Councillors, FB and LH will go out to distribute them. If the Parish Council need more kits they will still be at a 25% discount. Bitterley PC can be put on the large signs on the main routes into the parish. If there are roads that are cut throughs, they can go there, so can be strategy placed in the parish. Residents may not register but it is in their interest to do so. The PC could send a flyer out in 6 months time to remind people to do it. There are several villages now that you drive through that have the signs. In a few years' time you could purchase more as people move in and out. The Chairman thanked Francis and Lilly for attending the meeting.</p> <p>TM proposed that we complete the application form, and get the labels from SC, AH seconded, all agreed, They will pre-register. They can provide the letters to go out too. Distribution: through PC if possible. Ask SNT their availability to help us and come with them.</p>	
2022/31	Public Participation None	
2022/32	Declarations of Interest: Mr G. Dolphin declared a pecuniary interest in the Grant request for Cleeton Church.	
2022/33	To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 25th May 2022 were APPROVED , and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record subject to Mr D. Rogers and Mr. J. Gatehouse being in attendance: Proposed RO Seconded: AH Minutes to be signed by Chairman.	
2022/34	Approve Accounts and Internal Audit and complete AGAR for year ending 31st March 2022. a) Annual Audit Report Proposed by AH and seconded KW to accept, all agreed except TM Who abstained from the vote. b) Annual Governance Statement Proposed by AH to sign and seconded KW, all agreed except TM who abstained from the vote. c) Annual Accounting Statement Proposed by AH to sign and seconded KW, all agreed except TM who abstained from the vote. d) Certificate of Exemption Proposed by AH to sign and KW seconded KW all agreed except TM who abstained from the vote. e) Payments Made since last meeting None f) Financial Summary – 22/23 Bank Reconciliation £27,479.64 g) Approve Payments Chq No. 741 Zurich Insurance £380.91	

	<p>Chq No. 742 SALC £426.49</p> <p>Chq No. 743 Bitterley Village Hall – Hire £200.00</p> <p>Chq No. 744 D Forster (May) £40.00</p> <p>Chq No. 745 K Adams (Internal Auditor) £100.00</p> <p>Chq No. 746 S Jones (April – June Salary) £561.25</p> <p>Chq No. 747 S Jones (April – June HMRC) £140.20</p> <p>Chq No. 748 S Jones (Stamps) £11.40</p> <p>Chq No. 749 Cleeton PCC £250.00</p> <p>h) Grant Application</p> <p>St Mary's Church- Cleeton St Mary have submitted an application for £500.</p> <p>Background from RO: Other parishes do provide grants. There is the legality around PC not giving money to the upkeep of the Church itself, but can give a contribution to the grass cutting as it represents the look of the village, and to ensure the graveyard looks respectable. We now have the application for £500. There was a discussion on whether the churches could be expected to maintain the space from their own funds, funding that churches have already and how used nationally and locally, the degree of public use and amenity created by the space. The model in place in neighbouring parish that a sum is given for volunteer expenses in regard of the maintenance was noted. RO asked for proposals</p> <p>AH proposed £250 and CC seconded, also JRS, but added could volunteer time be included if another application was made in the future. £350DR proposed £350 and KW seconded. Agreed at £250</p>	
2022/35	<p>Clerks Report</p> <p>I have received an update that the Roundthorn potholes have been done. I sent photos of numerous potholes from The Orchard to the Ford.</p> <p>I haven't received an update on the junction to Bedlam and Hilluppencott, but sent photos of those too.</p> <p>After chasing SALC for an update, a meeting is scheduled for next Friday for the Clerks in the Highway group for an update on Fix My Street. Would it be best to wait for this meeting so that specific questions can be asked and then followed up with the FOI.</p> <p>It was reported by JRS that an engineer told a resident that they have been told to close a ticket once it is passed to Keir, and that SC wouldn't chase Keir, so If work not completed in 3 weeks report again and put in again.</p> <p>This to be reported back to the group.</p> <p>The Portfolio holder for Highways is Richard Marshall who could be invited to a meeting, but the PC need as much feedback from reported issues as possible before being invited.</p> <p>Mr Clayton has given a quote of £290.00 plus VAT for the Ditching work at Cleeton. This includes all of the ditching work from the top of the bank by the Church down to Cleeton Gate. Also, to Clean the Gullies by Cleeton Court. Proposed by RO and seconded by TM All agreed to instruct Mr. Clayton to do the works.</p> <p>Lynn Osborne from the VH committee has invited TM to a meeting to discuss any new documents found, if the Council feel appropriate LO could attend the next meeting to present to the PC. It was agreed that TM would meet LO first and report back to the next PC meeting.</p> <p>More photos have been sent to Highways about the highway issue at Cleeton Rectory, AK is only just back from annual leave so no further update. Check if the footpath has been diverted and report to Footpaths officers if needed.</p> <p>JRS has contacted Keir on behalf of the residents of Squirrel Lane about the signage. Being done this week.</p>	

	The clerk and TM are going to have a demonstration from a company called Scribe who have a package that specialises in Town and Parish Council Accounts, and will report back.	
2022/36	Roads Clerk to report the blocked drain by chapel.	
2022/37	Notice Board - Lower Ledwyche It was reported that only 1 out of 9 properties want a notice board – No further action to be taken.	
2022/38	Planning Items: 38.1 Planning application for consideration a) 22/02196/ful The old Shop house Planning Committee to have a site visit b) 22/02151/FUL Proposed Solar Farm to the East of Squirrel Lower Ledwyche - Formation of solar Farm including installation of solar panels, security fencing, CCTV camera, internal access track, underground cabling, invertors, substations, grid connection, environmental enhancement measures and other ancillary development. Planning Meeting arranged for the 17 th June @ 7.00 pm	
2022/39	Items for the Next Agenda – 13th July at 7pm. a) Election of Chair – Due to resignation of Mr.Richard Osborne b) Reserve Balances c) Councillor reports If anyone has any further items to add to the agenda, could they notify the clerk at least a week before the meeting.	
2022/40	Close of Meeting: 22.00pm	