

MINUTES OF THE BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2020

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PRESENT: Richard Osborne(Chairman), Mr. C. Chillingworth, Mr HWJ Watkins, Mr T. Millard (Vice Chairman), Mr P. Martin, Mr D. Rogers and Mr R. Watkins

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sue Jones (Clerk) and R Huffer (Shropshire Councillor), Mr and Mrs. Cherry

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1. Apologies: Apologies – Mrs AM Holman	<u>Apologies agreed</u>
2. Declarations of Interest: 2.1. None	
3. Question from the public 3.1 Planning for the Future Paper: JC commented that it seems to divide into protected or not. The Parish is part in ANOB, seems no long-term effect on Bitterley. 3.2 Parish Plan: JC: The summary document on the website needs updating and needs an amendment with the updated tasks. 3.3 JC asked where they could find the boundary of the ANOB, RO directed them to the SC website where the GIS system will show them.	
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July 2020 4.1 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 29 th July minutes were APPROVED , and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record. Proposed by Mr R. Osborne and seconded by Mr P. Martin. Minutes to be signed by the Chairman.	
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes: 5.1 Clerk has contacted the Steering Group of the Parish Plan to establish the next steps. To confirm if the remainder of the funding should be used to have a get together of the Parish when able to see the results. 5.2 No specific areas have been identified for highways maintenance, clerk to ask Mr Gatehouse to co-ordinate with Mr Clayton the contractor to produce a list. 5.3 The works at Roundthorn has been scheduled into the SC programme of works and will be addressed, SC will monitor the situation.	<u>Clerk will update the PC when decision is made</u> <u>Clerk to contact JG and AC</u>

<p>6. Roads</p> <p>6.1 A4117 at Henley despite the signs to reduce speed and vehicles emerging onto this road from Bitterley, Middleton (via Henley Lane), Henley Hall, The lodge and from Henley Farm, a local farmer (Mr Hamer) was trying to cross this road in his tractor and said how difficult it was with fast vehicles coming downhill from Clee Hill as the bend obstructs visibility of approaching traffic at speed. Its only possible for people emerging from these exits to see so far and the speed of oncoming vehicles no longer allows this procedure to be done safely.</p> <p>6.2 One of the signs on the A117 is damaged so that the words 'REDUCE SPEED NOW' are partly obscured, and other signs need cleaning or replaced with larger signs so they can be clearly seen in advance by drivers.</p> <p>6.3 Ideally, this section of the A4117 should have a 40mph limit; without it vehicles can legally be driven at 50mph which is much too fast for this section of road. There are also several houses with frontages either side of this road, some right up next to it, others with driveways with vehicles emerging onto it. It's an accident waiting to happen and it needs inspecting urgently and the necessary remedial action taken.</p> <p>6.4 The resurfacing of the B4364 through Middleton, including repairing potholes in the vicinity of the old railway bridge, new 'white lining' is also needed especially at the eastern end of the village where heavy braking of vehicles has worn away most of the white rumble strips when entering the 30mph limit at speed.</p> <p>6.5 Subsidence of the road by the railway bridge has also not been repaired yet and hopefully it can be done soon before winter as the traffic lights there sending traffic into a single lane will not be ideal in adverse conditions, especially as they only operate erratically.</p> <p>6.6 There are residents in Farden that have complained of having nowhere to walk due to obstructed footpaths; one should connect Farden with Snitton Gate but appears to be obstructed near New House Farm. (ROW 0508/7) Old maps show this right of way existed in the 18th century and it needs to be made available again for present day users.</p> <p>6.7 TM commented that the roads in the Parish are a disgrace and any work previously done needs redoing the Contractors works is not up to standard.</p> <p>6.8 RO replied that we needed specifics to be able to report back to Shropshire Council.</p> <p>6.9 DR reported that when the verges were cut on the B4364 the machine was turned off when it went through Middleton between the "30" speed limit signs and turned back on after they had gone through the village, this was in early June is anyone one back to finish the work?</p> <p>6.10 TM reported that when the grass cutter went through Bitterley on the Clee Stanton Road but none of the verges were actually cut.</p> <p>6.11 RO suggested we ask if there is a grass cutting schedule, so we know what works should be done and when.</p> <p>6.12 RW reported that the footpath between Brick Hill turn and Henley is so overgrown that pedestrians cannot on walk on it and the grass on the verge is too long to walk through.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to report all items to Shropshire Council</u></p>
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<p>7. Street Lighting</p> <p>7.1 Quote for change of provider</p> <p>7.2 The cost of Shropshire Council providing the energy for our street lighting purposes would be an annual fee of £451.84 plus vat per year. This compares to £1,260 last financial year with our current provider. It was proposed by TM and seconded by PM to accept the quote. All agreed.</p> <p>7.3 To discuss changing the times the lights are on.</p> <p>7.4 A resident has requested this item to be discussed, as an energy saving exercise.</p> <p>7.5 TM and RO suggested that the lighting should be on all night for security reasons as this can be a deterrent.</p> <p>7.6 PM asked if the current quote includes hour of darkness which it does, as and when the bulbs need replacing, they can be done so with more efficient bulbs.</p> <p>7.8 As this is an unmetered supply, switching them off will not save us money, but saving electricity should also be considered.</p> <p>7.9 RO asked the clerk to investigate if SC had a replacement scheme for street lighting that we could part-take in too.</p> <p>7.10 Clerk to find out the cost of replacing all the bulbs for energy saving ones.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to contact SC to begin the changeover</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to contact SC re Replacement Scheme</u></p>
<p>8. Telephone Boxes</p> <p>8.1 Quote for Refurbishment</p> <p>8.2 The total to refurb all of the box phones is £1,360</p> <p>8.3 It was proposed by TM and seconded by CC that we accept the quote.</p> <p>8.4 TM agrees that the work be carried out and wishes to say thank you for this to be scheme to go forward.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to Contact Mark Kinsey to accept the quote</u></p>
<p>9. Consultations:</p> <p>9.1 PC 10-20 Changes to Current Planning System.</p> <p>9.1.1 CC to produce a brief and circulate to members for agreement. Proposed by RO and seconded by T.M, all agreed.</p> <p>9.2 PC12-20 Transparency and Competition</p> <p>9.2.1 No comments</p> <p>9.3 PC11-20 Planning for the Future White Paper.</p> <p>9.3.1 RO: Classified into 3 bands: Growth, Protected and not for development. SP9 has limited possibilities for Bitterley. There is more flexibility on 106 and CiL monies so would not be tied to the Parish in which it was gained. Will be up to SC how the money is used. By fixing requirements and guides up front they are hoping to shorten the planning process, if there are developments sites they must adopt National Standards.</p> <p>9.3.2 CC commented that it would shorten the process, Ludlow has a lot of development, but there should be a need and it should be weighed up around the infrastructure, eg, medical facilities and schools. Seems too rushed not sufficient notice. It is the loss of local representation.</p> <p>9.4 Draft Housing Strategy</p> <p>9.4.1 Supports Affordable housing where needed, although the document says a lot it does not say how this is going to be</p>	<p><u>CC to produce a briefing note</u></p>

<p>achieved. No comments to make.</p> <p>9.5 Local Plan Review Consultation</p> <p>9.5.1 RO:There are distinct areas of major development in Shrewsbury, with high-level in the Market Towns and moderate in key centres such as Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms. Community Hubs such as Clee Hill, where it is deemed there is enough local services and infrastructures to support growth, but on a smaller scale and in context with those areas. Then everything else under Open Countryside, this is what SC have called the SP9 policy. In effect the whole of Bitterley Parish is in the SP9, part of the Parish is in the AOB that does give it additional protection. The SP9 is strictly controlling development but potential for affordable housing where there is a need, known as exception sites. SP9 means limited possibilities for Bitterley. SP9 not easy to find.</p> <p>9.5.2 RO has concerns about the growth for Ludlow, as the Parish uses the services in Ludlow if stretched it will have effects on Bitterley residents, more children at the school, or new school which could be a detriment for Bitterley School.</p> <p>9.6 EPC4 – Communities framework & the devolution white paper</p> <p>9.6.1 No comments</p> <p>9.7 Shropshire Fire & Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan</p> <p>9.7.1 No comments</p> <p>9.8 Code of Conduct</p> <p>9.8.1 No major changes, revised Code to be added to the agenda when draft agreed for adoption, proposed by R.O and seconded by T.M</p> <p>9.9 RO reminded Councillors that they can individually respond to these consultations if they wish.</p>	<p><u>Added to agenda when revised model has been agreed</u></p>															
<p>10. Village Hall Agreement</p> <p>10.1 As discussed previously there is some concern about the legality of the Mortgage Deed that the Village Hall Committee has for the loan for the building of the Village Hall.</p> <p>10.2 It was felt that a Solicitor should be consulted to determine what the role of the Parish Council is as a Custodian Trustee, who owns the Hall, who is responsible for the mortgage and administration. What will this document mean in the future?</p> <p>10.3 It was proposed by P.M and seconded by C.C that the clerk makes a formal request to Shropshire Council for any documents, including a copy of the agreement and the deeds that they may hold regarding the agreement. It was agreed that TM and RO to see solicitor after 2 months, during which time additional information to be gathered including ascertaining what information held by Shropshire council.</p> <p>10.4 PM suggested we ask any other Parish councils that may have had the same issue.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to contact SC for any documents they may hold on the agreement with SSDC, Bitterley Village Hall and Bitterley PC</u></p>															
<p>11. Financial Items</p> <p>11.1 Payments Made since last meeting</p> <table><tr><td>Chq 677</td><td>D Forster</td><td>£40.00</td></tr><tr><td>Chq 678</td><td>S Jones – Zoom</td><td>£14.39</td></tr></table> <p>11.2 Accounts for Payment:</p> <table><tr><td>Chq 679</td><td>D Forster</td><td>£40.00</td></tr><tr><td>Chq 680</td><td>S Jones – Zoom</td><td>£14.39</td></tr><tr><td>Chq 681</td><td>S Jones – Salary</td><td>£419.62</td></tr></table>	Chq 677	D Forster	£40.00	Chq 678	S Jones – Zoom	£14.39	Chq 679	D Forster	£40.00	Chq 680	S Jones – Zoom	£14.39	Chq 681	S Jones – Salary	£419.62	
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<p>Chq 682 S Jones – HMRC £105.00</p> <p>11.3 Financial Summary: Balance of £29,343.29 as detailed in supporting information, including Bank statements and reconciliation.</p> <p>11.4 Contribution to Clerks training: The clerk has attended a training course called the Clerks Knowledge at the cost of £75 at the request of another PC that she works for, that PC has asked if Bitterley PC would consider contributing to that course and the CiLCA qualification at the cost of £570. The Councillors ask for the clerk to forward the detail of what the course covers to enable them to make a decision.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to forward course details to Councillors</u></p>
<p>12. Planning Items:</p> <p>12.1 No Planning Applications made since last meeting.</p> <p>12.2 No Planning Applications to discuss.</p> <p>12.3 No Planning applications granted by Shropshire Council</p> <p>12.4 Planning Application at Tasley Farm, Bridgnorth for Chicken Farm An email had been received from a Councillor at Tasley PC that the above planning application includes the removal of the waste to come to the digester at Bitterley. It was agreed to formulate a response to show the concerns and object about the traffic this would bring to the Parish. CC to formulate.</p>	<p><u>CC to formulate response and send to Clerk to pass on to Tasley PC/SC</u></p>
<p>13. Correspondence:</p> <p>13.1 Bus Shelter request</p> <p>13.2 The Parish Council has received a request from a resident for a Bus Shelter at the bottom of Dhustone Lane on to Angel Bank, where children wait for the school bus in all weathers. Visibility can also be poor for drivers where the children have to wait. It was proposed by RO and seconded by TM and all Councillors agreed to have a site visit to look to see if there is a suitable place for a shelter. When previous shelters have been purchased funding has been available, clerk to see if any funding available now, and discuss with Caynham Parish Council the possibility of sharing the cost due to it being on the boundary of the Parishes.</p>	<p><u>Clerk to Contact Caynham PC, find if any funding available and reply to resident to give update.</u></p>
<p>14. Reports:</p> <p>14.1 None</p>	
<p>15. Close of Meeting: 9.30pm</p> <p>15.1 Next Meeting 11th November at 7.30pm</p>	