

East Hagbourne Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held
virtually using the ZOOM platform on
Thursday 18th February 2021**

- 1) ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND VACANCIES:** Present were Chairman I. Duff, Vice Chairman D. Button, Councillors D. Rickeard, C. Shaikh, J. Elliott, P. Dixon and District Councillor A-M Simpson

In attendance: L. Lloyd (Parish Clerk)

Apologies were received from Cllr. C. Gover.

I. Duff confirmed there is currently one vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

- 2) PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS: NONE**

- 3) REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:**

- 4) Confirmation of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2021:** The minutes were verbally agreed. L. Lloyd confirmed that she will post the minutes on the website as a DRAFT, and the hard copy will be signed at the next physical meeting.

- 5) ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

2019-04-03 Main Road 20mph speed limit: Nothing to report

2019-04-04 Village Gateways: No update this month.

2020-10-01 Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) Application: L. Lloyd confirmed that she has received the forms for the full application and has clarified which ones need submitting for the village hall path. She plans to insert a map into the witness statement to aid completion (having confirmed this is allowed) and circulate to volunteers by email after Christmas.

2020-11-01 Dangerous Trees on Footpath 197/8: D. Button confirmed that he emailed S. Clarke on 1st December with the background on the situation, but nothing has happened since then. I. Duff agreed to follow this up with S. Clarke.

D. Rickeard queried two ongoing items that are not shown on this agenda – dog bins and the grass cutting contract. L. Lloyd confirmed that both were awaiting further clarification and would appear again on the January agenda.

- 6) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION:**

- a) Draft Budget and Precept:** The draft budget was discussed, following circulation to all councillors and some clarifications earlier in the week. I. Duff queried the St Anne's Court entry, and it was agreed that this should be followed up and resolved by the end of the current financial year. As an aside to the budget planning, the BGG quote for hedge trimming along FP18 and FP6 seems quite high and clarification is needed on exactly what is proposed for the cost. D. Rickeard suggested that FP18 could be a potential HUGS project, and FP6 may be maintained better with occasional trimming only.

D. Rickeard proposed that the precept should be held at £30,956 for a further year, D. Button seconded the proposal and this was approved by all councillors. D. Button confirmed that this decision will result in a slight decrease in the parish council element of the tax next year due to the new tax base, which is good news. L. Lloyd confirmed she will complete and return the Precept Request form.

- b) Planning Applications:** P20/S4483/HH 5 Kingsholm Close – It was agreed that a no objection should be posted, with a comment confirming the Parish Council's awareness of the location within the East Hagbourne Conservation Area and the Article 4 directive.

There has been no update on 34 Main Road, Millennium Wood paddocks or Sandringham Road. D. Button confirmed he would speak to the owner of the paddocks to check on progress.

Deanfield Homes have identified 2 areas that require improvements following the drainage survey, under the allotments and at the entry to the culvert under Main Road. These findings are welcome and support the concern with the overflowing drains on Main Road last month.

I. Duff confirmed that he will speak with Deanfield Homes about the social housing element to clarify whom they propose to work with.

D. Button commented that some panels of the Grainger fence on New Road have come down. I. Duff confirmed that the adoption of the Local Plan should hopefully now ensure that developers will not submit applications for housing on the site.

- c) **Hopfields lease:** L. Lloyd confirmed that the existing lease is allowed to be continued on a year-by-year basis and that the current rental rate is at an appropriate level (confirmed by the agent in late 2018). D. Button and D. Rickeard felt that this was a sensible approach and the council agreed to continue on a year-by-year basis at the same rental rate.
- d) **County and District Councillor Grants – potential applications including funding for the Art Benches project:** I. Duff confirmed that when he spoke to S. Clarke, it was clear that the emphasis this year was on COVID-19 related funding requests. I. Duff also confirmed he has spoken to A-M Simpson about possible funding for the Art Benches, but has not been given a clear indication of its chance of success. D. Rickeard confirmed that there has been an application made by HUGS for the Owl project. I. Duff suggested that councillors should consider projects that could be suitable. In terms of the Art Benches project, D. Rickeard reported that West Hagbourne will discuss funding their part of the joint project at their next meeting, Upton are looking into funding options and Sustrans are supportive of the project and happy to co-ordinate.
- e) **Community Projects including:**
 - Liaison with farmers:** D. Rickeard reported on a meeting between HUGS, Jeff Powell and himself, which was very positive and resulted in the circulation to local farmers of the wildlife and habitat documents supporting the NP. Jeff Powell has confirmed he is happy to act as a liaison for local farmers going forward. D. Rickeard and I. Duff confirmed that they had spoken with the Community shop, and they hope to progress this conversation in the New Year.

7) ITEMS FOR REPORT:

- a) **East Hagbourne Sport and Recreation Committee:** D. Rickeard confirmed that football has continued but the changing rooms are still not in use. The Pavilion has also been hosting Didcot Casuals U17 and U16 teams, who are happy to go home to change. Table Tennis club, Pilates and Yoga are all keen to return. D. Button confirmed that only one bill is still pending payment and this is due to an updated contact. D. Button confirmed that he has submitted a claim to SODC for £1334 due to forced closure during lockdown 2.
- b) **Cemetery Committee:** D. Button confirmed that the overall quote for the two parking signs was £251.00 including installation, and that the plan is to complete this early next year. The ash tree with die back has been removed and has left a large gap to the right of the Lych Gate.
- c) **Employment Committee:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Butts Piece Allotments:** P. Dixon confirmed he will chase SOHA about the fence issue.
- e) **Community Speedwatch:** No update this month.

A-M Simpson joined the meeting at 8.25pm. She confirmed that there is a lot of enthusiasm to put deliverable measures in place now the Local Plan has been adopted. This is being worked on with the expectation to make these public in January. I. Duff confirmed the relief of EH and Didcot residents that the plan has been adopted although it was also agreed that other areas were less fortunate as a result of the plan. A-M Simpson confirmed that the Sandringham Road appeal inspector was waiting for the Local Plan decision before confirming his decision so this should be imminent.

It was queried whether there was an expected date for an outcome for the Planning for the Future White Paper consultation and A-M Simpson agreed to check up on this situation.

A-M Simpson also noted that although it has not been highlighted in recent meetings, SODC Officers have been heavily involved with the COVID vaccine and it is good to see the rollout of vaccinations.

I. Duff confirmed that A-M Simpson should receive HUGS and Art Benches applications for the District Councillor grant and A-M Simpson confirmed that she would begin to review applications next week.

I. Duff mentioned the issues EHPC are having trouble trying to establish whether a new bin can be installed at Butts Piece. A-M Simpson agreed to query this and it was agreed that L. Lloyd would forward correspondence for information.

I. Duff reported to A-M Simpson on matters discussed earlier in the meeting including the lack of Millennium Wood paddock and 34 Main Road planning progress, and the drainage survey conducted by Deanfield Homes.

f) **East Hagbourne Community Support Group (Coronavirus):** No update this month. I. Duff mentioned the Age UK communication today offering Christmas meals for elderly and vulnerable people who may be alone over

the Christmas period. The deadline is tomorrow so it is very short notice, but it was agreed that councillors would consider this and send details to L. Lloyd if they know of anyone who could benefit from this offer.

g) Didcot Garden Town: P. Dixon reported briefly on the residents sounding board on 30th November. There were 22 public representatives so it was quite a successful session in terms of attendance although he was not able to stay for the duration of the meeting.

h) Flood Group: Nothing to report.

i) District and County Plans: Please refer to the discussion following item 7.e) in these minutes.

j) Oxfordshire Growth Board: A-M Simpson spoke briefly about the OGB Open Thought Strategic Vision consultation which has a January 3 deadline. The infrastructure strategy is looking good, although other strategies need to be reinforced and well represented.

P. Dixon reported that the recent Oxfordshire Growth Board meeting spoke mainly about rail connectivity.

k) Neighbourhood Plan: D. Rickeard confirmed that last month's resolution has been passed to R. Rios to facilitate posting of the made plan on the website but it is still pending. This is likely due to a heavy workload but it was agreed that this would be followed up. D. Rickeard also noted that now the Local Plan has been adopted, he and the chair of the steering group plan to cross-check that the plans fully align.

8) Correspondence: Nothing noted.

9) Finance:

a) Expenditure and receipts since the last meeting and account balances:

a) Payments since last meeting: NB: Payments pending approval are shown in yellow and are not included in the account balance shown in c)

| Payee | Item | Cheque Number | Amount | VAT | Total | Date |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|---------|-------|---------|------------|
| Royal British Legion | Section 137 Donation | 102787 | £100.00 | £0.00 | £100.00 | 20/11/2020 |
| Grundon Waste Management | Cemetery bins October | DD | £41.90 | £8.38 | £50.28 | 23/11/2020 |
| Castle Water | Allotment water monthly charge | DD | £3.33 | £0.67 | £4.00 | 30/11/2020 |
| Scoop Dotty Dog | November bin emptying (x4) | 102788 | £160.80 | £0.00 | £160.80 | 30/11/2020 |
| Dark White Digital | December web hosting | 102789 | £30.00 | £0.00 | £30.00 | 01/12/2020 |
| JRB Enterprise Ltd | Dog Poo Bags x 2000 | 102790 | £32.77 | £6.55 | £39.32 | 08/12/2020 |
| L. Lloyd | December salary | 102791 | £673.24 | £0.00 | £673.24 | 31/12/2020 |
| Hagbourne Parochial Charities | Butts Piece Lease (half rent owed for 2020/21) | 102792 | £341.82 | £0.00 | £341.82 | 01/01/2021 |

b) Receipts since last meeting:

| From | Item | Amount | Date |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| MJ Didcock | EROB and Burial JM Hill F176 | £600.00 | 23/11/2020 |
| MJ Didcock | EROB and ashes interment J East CM73 | £340.00 | 15/12/2020 |

c) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled as of last bank statement through 30/11/2020)

Barclays Bank Accounts (2) £66,914.73

d) The Special Project Balances (as of 17/12/2020) are:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Planned Development Support Fund | £5,303.15 | |
| Cemetery | £10,669.94 | |
| Community Infrastructure Levy Fund 2 | £1,905.97 | Received 24/04/19 so requires spending by 23/04/24 |
| Community Projects Reserve Fund | £10,619.89 | |
| Total | <u>£28,498.95</u> | |

b) Bank Progress: No progress despite efforts from both L. Lloyd and D. Button. The whole process is increasingly frustrating. D. Button agreed to phone again on Monday.

10) Items for report and inclusion on the January agenda.

Dog Bins

Grass Cutting Contract

Bank Progress
Art Benches Project

The meeting closed at 21.06pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be on 21st January 2021 using the ZOOM platform.

Signed.....Dated.....

ATTACHMENT 1: ACTION LIST

| Action No | What | Who | Status |
|------------------|--|------------|-----------------|
| 2019-04-03 | Main Road 20mph speed limit | LL | Follow Up |
| 2019-04-04 | Village Gateways | CS/A-M S | A-M S Follow Up |
| 2020-10-01 | Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) Application | LL | In progress |
| 2020-11-01 | Dangerous Trees on FP197/8 | DB/LL | In progress |