



A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 27th July 2020, remotely via zoom at 7.30pm

Those present at the meeting:

Parish Cllrs Present: Ms C Boase, Mr M Boddy, Mrs E Buckland, Mr A Forbes (Chairman), Mr K Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Mr I Kilpatrick, Mr G Lloyd, Mr C Lomas, Mr T Nicholson, Mr V Slater, Mrs L Stephens, Mr J Taviner and Mr L Van Haaren

Members of the public: Four
Clerk: Mrs L Rampton

Parish Cllrs Absent: Mr G Paterson (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr P Watkins

42. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** (*Agenda item 1*) had been received from Parish Councillor Paterson, Parish Liaison Officer Mr J Kirby, and Police Representatives.
43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (*Agenda item 2*). Cllr Lomas declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11. as the contractor engaged to carry out ground works on the site.
44. **TO CONSIDER & DECIDE UPON ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION FROM MEMBERS TO ALLOW THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION OR VOTE ON A MATTER IN WHICH HE/SHE MAY HAVE A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST** (*Agenda item 3*).
Dispensations are granted to Parish Councillors under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council delegated the power to grant dispensations (s 101 of the Local Government Act 1972) to the Clerk or appointed Deputy (see PC meeting 23.07.12 min 52 iv.)
For the benefit of the Parish Council, members would be permitted to ask Cllr Lomas technical questions only regarding pitch construction works. Then, with the member not seeking dispensation Cllr Lomas would leave the meeting at the appropriate time.
45. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND JUNE 2020** (*Agenda item 4*) **The minutes to the meeting were approved as a correct record.**
Proposed: Cllr K Joyce Seconded: Cllr G Lloyd
All members present at the last meeting were in favour.
46. **MINUTE UPDATE FROM THE JUNE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES AND JULY CLERK'S REPORT – Annex 1** (*Agenda item 5*) None
47. **CRIME REPORT FOR THE LAST MONTH PERIOD Annex 2** (*Agenda item 6*)
A report for the last month period was read to the meeting by the Chairman.
48. **RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** (*Agenda item 7*) With all matters raised having been addressed or included on the meeting agenda for further discussion there were none.
49. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*Agenda item 8*) *The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow public participation and stated that this was the only time during the meeting members of public present would be allowed to address the Council.*
- a. **To receive an update on works in the parish from National Grid Project Communications Manager and Lead Project Manager for Sandford substation**
Representatives gave a presentation on works taking place in this area, especially with regard to Hinkley C Connection Project. National Grid own and operate the National Electricity Transmission System in England and Wales as well as two electricity interconnectors. Covid-19 working restrictions were being adhered to and the project was proceeding with a significantly reduced workforce. Works to underground cables and build a new substation started earlier in 2020 and will continue through to 2024. A number of questions from members were answered and included information about the removal of foundations for the old pylons, maintaining access to public rights of way, cycle path improvements and vehicle identifiers as well as final build levels and heights for the substation.

Whilst the Parish Council as a statutory body was not eligible, local groups and organisations were encouraged to apply to the National Grid Community Grant Fund for assistance towards projects.
With no further members of the public wishing to speak, the Chairman re-convened the meeting.

- 50. TO RECEIVE A WARD COUNCILLOR & NSC PARISH LIAISON OFFICER UPDATE** (*Agenda item 9*)
With no Ward Cllrs or NSC Liaison Officer in attendance, there was no report available.

- 51. TO AUTHORISE BILLS FOR PAYMENT Annex 3** (*Agenda item 10*)
Direct payments, cheques, direct debits, and standing order payments as detailed totalling £12,937.37 (incl. vat) were authorised for payment.
Proposed: Cllr V Slater Seconded: Cllr J Taviner All in favour

With the agreement of the meeting, the Chairman varied the order of the agenda at this point to allow a member of the public to hear discussion on Agenda item 13 prior to discussion taking place on items 11 & 12. For the purposes of the minutes, items are recorded in the order they appeared on the agenda summons paper.

- 52. Lease of Sandford Strongvox football pitch from NSC** (*Agenda item 11*)
Questions were answered by Cllr Lomas in relation to drainage installed, soil type and construction method.

Due to a previously declared interest, Cllr Lomas left the meeting.

- a. Parish Council to consider fence and drainage detail as submitted to, and accepted by NSC**

It was accepted that the junior sports pitch had been constructed to specification as agreed in the planning application, but this included only one land drain to the south side of the pitch and no drainage to the actual pitch itself. With the pitch containing a large element of compacted clay, ponding of water had already been noted in both summer and winter months and the usefulness of this to the community as a sports playing pitch was questioned, especially after heavy use by the school. At the outset of discussions regarding a lease from NSC, the Parish Council had raised the matter of drainage and sought a condition or guarantee against ponding or drainage issues. It was noted with dismay in an email exchange between the developer and NSC that there was no requirement in the signed Unilateral Undertaking in relation to warranties and therefore the Parish Council would need to carefully consider the financial implications of taking responsibility for improving, maintaining and insuring the junior pitch.

When considering fencing detail although members were pleased to note that this now included a 1.8m high mesh type fence to all four sides, the usefulness of this was questioned if it were to be installed around the perimeter of the site and below the surface level of the pitch.

It was proposed that the Parish Council refuse fence and drainage details as submitted by NSC

Proposed: Cllr K Joyce Seconded: Cllr G Lloyd All in favour

- b. Parish Council to consider and comment on draft Heads of Terms agreement for the pitch along with lease term of 25 or 99 years?** The Heads of Term Agreement as submitted by NSC laid all costs and responsibility, legal and otherwise firmly with the Parish Council. The Council considered the junior football pitch area to be a valuable asset to both the school and community but with costs to rectify drainage issues being unknown, further communication was invited with NSC to allow them to make a realistic and costed proposal through the Heads of Term Agreement that was acceptable to the Council.

Proposed: Cllr K Joyce Seconded: Cllr J Taviner All in favour

- c. Parish Council to instruct Solicitors to comment and advise on proposals?**

It was proposed that Parish Council Solicitors are not engaged in lease proposals at this time

Proposed: Cllr T Nicholson Seconded: Cllr I Kilpatrick All in favour

Cllr Lomas was readmitted to the meeting

- 53. Parish Council to receive comments on footpaths surveyed to date, to prioritise those paths and to respond to the NSC Consultation on the Revisions of Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation ends 1st September 2020** (*Agenda item 12*)

With findings for the structures and surfacing on a number of paths yet to be submitted and recorded, the item was deferred to the September Parish Council meeting for discussion and decision. NSC had granted an extension to the deadline for comments date.

- 54. BT Consultation on removal of Red Telephone Kiosk, Woodborough** (*Agenda item 13*)
With only 3 calls having been made from the Woodborough Road public telephone box in the previous 12-month period, members were in favour of this being decommissioned and removed.

Proposed: Cllr K Joyce Seconded: Cllr C Lomas 10 in favour, 3 abstained
As the red kiosks were considered to be part of local history, enquiries should be made to ascertain if this could be relocated to an alternate position such as a local primary school or Millennium Green.

- 55. To accept and agree updated repair and refurbishment fingerpost sign quotation – 3 signs at a total cost of £2,175. Works to be completed Spring 2021 (Agenda item 14)**

With refurbishment to the fingerposts being somewhat weather dependant, work on these would start work Spring 2021. The price quoted will be valid for that time.

The new quotation of £2,175 for repair and refurbishment works that would take place in Spring 2021 was agreed by the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr J Taviner Seconded: Cllr G Lloyd All in favour

The contactor should be advised that the previous 'arm' to the sign on the Triangle (junction of Church Road and Woodborough Road) had been knocked off by a passing vehicle and consideration should be given to careful repositioning of this to limit further risk of damage.

- 56. Safety Surfacing, senior swing set at Recreation Ground – members to view deterioration of the surfacing and to allow for a speedy replacement, consider replacement quotations received, or to delegate decision on the surfacing to a meeting of The Chairman's Committee (Agenda item 15)**

As further quotations were awaited, decision and acceptance of a quotation for replacement surfacing to the four-bay swing set at Winscombe Recreation Ground was delegated to a meeting of the Chairman's Committee. Due to the rapid deterioration of the surfacing, it was deemed that the matter should be decided before the September meeting of the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr A Forbes Seconded: Cllr L Stephens All in favour

- 57. To receive a report from, and approve the minutes from a meeting of the Chairman's Committee held on 29th June 2020 – committee considered the re-opening of the skate park along with parish play areas (Agenda item 16)) The minutes to the meeting were approved as a correct record.**

Proposed: Cllr L Van Haaren Seconded: Cllr J Taviner

All members present at the meeting were in favour.

- 58. Covid-19. To identify and agree possible additional measures to assist the parish (Agenda item 17)**

- a. To consider the safe return of office-based working for admin staff and public opening hours? Government Guidance changes on 1st August 2020.**

A paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting to members on latest Government advice giving employers more discretion to decide whether employees should work from home or the office.

Due to the office layout, social distancing and a one-way system for public opening was not possible. It was therefore proposed that office-based staff continue to work from home and the public opening hours do not resume at this time. The matter should be further considered and reviewed at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr C Boase Seconded: Cllr G Lloyd All in favour

- b. Use of changing rooms now that sporting activities have resumed at the Recreation Ground**

A short cricket playing season had now started along with football training at the grounds. Sports changing rooms and shower facilities remained out of use. Access for toilet facilities was permitted if necessary.

- 59. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION (Agenda item 18)**

- **NS ALCA meeting** – a reminder was given of the zoom meeting to take place on 29th July

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.15 pm

Signed..... (Chairman) Date.....

Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council acknowledge the general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, religion & belief, pregnancy & maternity and disability) Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.