



**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on
Monday 27th January 2020,
Sidcot School, Old Library at 7.30 p.m.**

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 G Paterson (Vice-Chairman), Mr V Slater, Mrs L Stephens, Mr J Taviner and Dr P Watkins

NSC Ward Councillors: Dr K Haverson

NSC Parish Liaison Officer: Mr J Kirby

Clerk: Mrs L Rampton

Members of the public: One

Parish Cllrs Absent: None

129. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (*Agenda item 1*) With all members present, there were none

130. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(*Agenda item 2*). The following interest were declared:

Cllr Boase non-pecuniary agenda item 13 Trustee, Sandford Community Association

Cllr Stephens non-pecuniary agenda item 15 Husband Chairman of Cricket Club

Cllr Taviner non-pecuniary agenda item 15 Cricket Clubhouse member

131. 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.)

Interests were not deemed significant enough to exclude the members from discussion and vote on the matters. Dispensation was granted to the three members for this meeting only to speak and vote on the items.

132. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2019 (*Agenda item 4*) ***The minutes to the meeting were approved as a correct record.***

Proposed: Cllr T Nicholson Seconded: Cllr K Joyce

All members present at the last meeting were in favour.

133. MINUTE UPDATE FROM THE NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES ALONG WITH THE DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020 CLERK'S REPORTS Annex 1 (*Agenda item 5*)

Min 119 – D of E students had started clearance works on land adjacent to the Woodborough Road public conveniences

Min 120 Hill Road Bus Shelters – no further requests for funding for replacement glazed panels had been received from NSC

Min 123 – Award Land volunteers had completed repair works to the bridleway to what was thought to be a very good standard.

134. TO RECEIVE A CRIME REPORT FOR THE LAST TWO-MONTH PERIOD (*Agenda item 6*) **Annex 2** In the absence of police representatives, a report for the period that had been sent to the council was read to the meeting. A member commented with concern about the number of dwelling burglaries in the period, mainly carried out when properties were known to be empty.

- 135. RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** (*Agenda item 7*) There was none.
- 136. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (*Agenda item 8*) With no members of the public wishing to address the meeting, there was none.
- 137. TO RECEIVE A WARD COUNCILLOR & NSC PARISH LIAISON OFFICER UPDATE** (*Agenda item 9*) The Ward Member apologised for her early departure from the last council meeting due to difficulties in hearing discussions taking place. In response it was suggested that a different room layout could be trialled, or members in the public gallery could move to a point where they could better hear council discussion.

Parish Councillors had previously been advised of current open NSC consultations, especially with regard to the Climate Emergency Strategy. Individual comments from members to this would be welcomed before the closure date.

Future NSC consultations would include 'neighbourhood plans' where proposals such as the introduction of annual charges for green garden waste collection would be included. Current proposals would place NSC in line with other authorities with likely annual costs for collection of green garden waste bins being £50 per annum per bin. It was hoped that proposals would encourage increased home and community composting. Some Parish Councillors considered this could lead to more fly-tipping. Whilst not affecting villages at this time, a review and consultation of carparking charges would take place. NSC budget proposals had been agreed following consultation on the draft Corporate Plan and draft 2020/21 Budget.

Parish Liaison Officer, Mr Kirby explained the proposed adoption of the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP), to be considered by the NSC Executive Committee on 5th February. The plan to run from 2020-2036 would, if adopted be on an interim basis as a living document and subject to change as proposals for a new NSC local plan progressed. Numerous questions about the JLTP were answered by Mr Kirby especially with regard to the protection of the proposed Banwell bypass and the expected planning decision by NSC for Bristol Airport expansion plans by 10th February. The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) would decide on the JLTP in March 2020.

- 138. TO AUTHORISE BILLS FOR PAYMENT Annex 3** (*Agenda item 10*) Questions were answered with regard to the gully cleansing carried out on the Recreation Ground Roadway.

Direct payments, cheques, direct debits and standing order payments as detailed totalling £22,767.38 (incl. vat) were authorised for payment.

Proposed: Cllr I Kilpatrick Seconded: Cllr L Stephens All in favour

- 139. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A MEETING OF THE EMPLOYMENT, FINANCE & POLICIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2020 AND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THAT MEETING: Annex 4** (*Agenda item 11*)

The minutes to the committee meeting were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr G Lloyd Seconded: Cllr L Stephens

All members present at the meeting were in favour.

- a. To approve the budget and set a parish precept demand for 2020/21**
The projected forecast figures (2019/20) and the proposed budget (2020/21), as considered by the committee were detailed to the meeting. This would result in a recommended precept demand figure for the next financial year to be increased from £143,000 to £149,000 and would mean a Local Council Element of Headline Council Tax per D Band property increase from £70.25 to £71.86 which was equivalent to a 2.3% increase rise per 'D' band property on the current financial year.
It was proposed that the 2020/2021 budget is approved and the Parish Council precept demand to NSC for 2020/21 be set at £149,000

Proposed: Cllr M Boddy Seconded: Cllr K Joyce All in favour

With the agreement of the meeting, committee recommendations b-m, as listed below were discussed, considered and agreed en-bloc

- b. Payment of small grant applications (2no.) received for the current financial year: 1. W&S Tree Wardens £168 2. MS Therapy Centre £200. Both applications were approved.
- c. To instruct re-valuation of the Woodborough Road Public Conveniences at a cost of £350
- d. To authorise the opening of a new 30-day notice savings account with the Hampshire Trust Bank and the closure of HSBC bank accounts. Four Parish Councillor account signatories with two members to authorise any payments/transfers.
- e. Regular payments already made by direct debit or standing order – were reaffirmed for 2020/21
- f. The appointment of an internal auditor for the period 2020/21 – 2022/23 was confirmed. Contract awarded to Auditor 1 Bridget Bowen FCA
- g. The appointment of a ground’s maintenance contractor for the period April 2020–March 2023 was confirmed. A one-year break-clause had been included in the contract. Contract awarded to contractor 3, J.K.Gardening
- h. To authorise and confirm an increase in the hourly pay rate for the WMRG Gate Orderly to £9 per hour with effect 1st April 2020
- i. To agree to enter into a three-year contract for the supply of two Christmas trees for the Parish with the council contributing 50% of the costs annually (remainder to be from contributions from local businesses). Contract awarded to The Christmas Decorators.
- j. To approve a contribution of £1,000 to Banwell Parish Council to be made in April 2020 towards running costs for the Banwell, Winscombe and Sandford Children’s Centre
- k. To continue the provision of the Banwell, Winscombe and Sandford Rural Outreach Citizens Advice Service for 2020/21
- l. To agree that unused annual leave for the Clerk be carried forward into the 2020/21 holiday year.
- m. To agree reimbursing part-time staff members working less than 10 hours per week at the appropriate rate for any unused holiday entitlement at the end of the holiday year.

With proposals having been explained to the meeting, it was proposed that recommendations b-m were approved by the council

Proposed: Cllr T Nicholson Seconded: Cllr V Slater All in favour

140. PARISH COUNCIL AWARD LAND. Members to consider absorbing the Award Land Working Group into the Environment Working Group. (Agenda item 12)

It was proposed that the Award Land Working Group, including annual budget be combined with the Environment Working Group. Group members were encouraged to pay regular visits to the Award Land so that guidance could be given to the team of Friday volunteers who carried out maintenance works to the land.

Proposed: Cllr J Taviner Seconded: Cllr M Boddy All in favour

141. SANDFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE – REQUEST TO SITE 2 NO. BENCHES AND A CHILDREN’S PICNIC TABLE IN THE SANDFORD WINNOWING END PLAY AREA. (Agenda item 13) The location for two seats and a children’s picnic play bench as shown on a plan circulated at the meeting were agreed by the council. The preferred colour for the furniture made from recycled plastic was blue.

Proposed: Cllr M Boddy Seconded: Cllr C Boase All in favour

142. PARISH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MENDIP HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP – to consider nominating a Parish Councillor as the NS Representative (Agenda item 14)

At this time, no member wished to be nominated.

143. WINSCOMBE CRICKET CLUB LEASE – Parish Council to consider an additional clause to be added to that of the already agreed lease with the Clubhouse Trustees (Agenda item 15)

At the request of the cricket club, the ability to assign the lease to a third party during its term had been requested. It was advised that the club had no intention of exercising the clause, but it was there in case the Trustees were not able to keep the site going and the lease needed to be assigned. Advice from PC Solicitors recommended the addition of the following wording:

The clause read at present:

The Tenant may only assign the whole of the Premises with the consent of the Landlord, whose consent may not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and only to a person or persons who are trustees of Winscombe Cricket Club.

To be added to the clause: *‘or if there are no such persons, to any person or organisation with a close connection with the Parish of Winscombe whom the Parish Council considers to be an appropriate person to take an assignment of this lease’*

The ability to assign the lease, including advice from PC Solicitors as detailed was accepted by the council.

Proposed: Cllr K Joyce Seconded: Cllr G Lloyd 13 in favour, 1 against

144. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A MEETING OF THE CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER 2019 (Agenda item 16)

With no actions needing the consent of the council, the meeting report was duly noted.

145. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER AND TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THAT MEETING: (Agenda item 17)

a. Woodborough Road road safety – Parish Council to contact NSC for suggestions to improve pedestrian safety in this area.

Proposed: Cllr V Slater Seconded: Cllr C Lomas All in favour

b. Parish Council to agree actions to be taken by this council towards a more ‘Green and Sustainable’ future.

Considerable discussion took place on suggestions made by the working group with reference to the Parish Council’s previous resolution to support the NSC declaration of a Climate emergency, along with debate ‘for and against’ the use of the term ‘climate emergency’, and what was achievable under current budgets. It was proposed that the following actions were explored and progressed where they were considered achievable:

- i) Use of 100% recycled paper in the office where possible
- ii) Investigate possibility of solar panels for changing rooms at WMRG – public toilets and cemetery garage, as other pc owned buildings were dismissed as neither were in full sunlight.
- iii) Encourage and finance tree planting schemes in the parish
- iv) Consider re-wilding some Parish Council owned areas of land
- v) Encourage residents to create wildlife havens in gardens
- vi) Occasional Newsletter – encourage use of on-line version with deliveries to all homes in the parish being ultimately phased out. Hard copies could be available in some village outlets such as pubs, shops etc.
- vii) Budget head for grants – encourage local groups to apply for projects that will provide a carbon reduction.
- viii) As flower planters need replacing, consider planters made of recycled plastic and containing a water reservoir (to reduce watering).

Proposed: Cllr C Boase Seconded: Cllr E Buckland 13 in favour, 1 against

An article could be included in the June edition of ‘The Occasional’ newsletter detailing the Parish Council resolution along with suggested actions from the Parish Council.

c. Parish Council to arrange another Parish Litter pick on 14th March 2020

A former Parish Councillor had volunteered to lead another Parish litter pick, with refreshments (funded by the Parish Council) and the sorting of collected waste taking place at the Winscombe Community Centre after. The Parish Council trailer could be made available to transport litter collected from Sandford to the WCC.

Proposed: Cllr L Stephens Seconded: Cllr I Kilpatrick All in favour

146. A REMINDER THAT PARISH COUNCIL RELATED ARTICLES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER (Agenda item 18)

Articles were invited for the June 2020 edition of the newsletter. The deadline date for submission was confirmed as 15th April.

147. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION (Agenda item 19)

- *Sustainable Winscombe & Sandford* – a meeting of the group had taken place on 24th January. Members were encouraged to look at the village’s website for further details.

- *Woodborough Road road closures* – numerous complaints had been received regarding increased traffic using The Lynch as an alternative route.
- *Office Working Conditions* – it was understood that a meeting of the Trustees would take place on 28th January, with the condition of the 'Old Headmasters House' being listed for discussion.

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.45 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.