

COATES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 7 September 2020
7.30PM via **ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE SERVICE**

Chairman for this meeting: Richard Harrison

Present:

Councillors and Officials:	
Harrison, Richard (RH)	Chairman
Austin, Keith (KA)	Councillor
Harris, Stephen (SH)	Councillor
Hobson, Andrew (AH)	Councillor
Torry-Harris, Gilly (GTH)	Councillor
Dobson, John (JD)	Councillor
Coates, Caroline (CC)	Clerk

In Attendance:

Members of the Public:
Berry, Tony Cotswold District Councillor
Hirst, Stephen Gloucestershire County Councillor
Large, Simon – Tree Warden
5 members of the public attended

1. RECEIVE APOLOGIES

All present no apologies needed

2. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No changes to the register of interests were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6 July 2020 were approved by all council members and signed by the Chairman.

4. ACTION POINTS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Neighbourhood Watch update

JD is liaising with Keith Handley, new Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Co-ordinator, civilian, for Gloucestershire Constabulary. NHW registration form completed. JD will provide update for Watershed.

2. Policy update

Thanks to councillors for updating policies, now all complete and uploaded on the website.

3. Tree planting update

Update provided by SL. SL is liaising with Rob McMichael to produce a leaflet for villagers explaining the concept behind the donation. The response to the request to postpone the donation of trees for a year was negative due to donations from sponsors being for this year.

The imminent leaflet will be well timed to share information with villagers prior to arrival of trees in November.

The leaflet will help establish who is interested and ascertain available labour for planting. *Councillors would like to see the leaflet prior to circulation.*

The Woodland Trust and Councillors strongly believe that the planting of trees is a community activity to bring the community together. Councillors felt the activity could safely be carried out under current social distancing guidelines.

RH shared concerns that in the current climate it is not possible to talk to villagers about volunteers and where to plant the trees. Covid-19 has delayed community discussion and support.

Suggestion raised to temporarily plant saplings until discussions and support could be established.

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There is an additional initiative, funding for Parish Councils through CRPE Gloucestershire to address the impact of ash dieback. Initiative is not restricted to publically owned land. SL intends to apply for funding and then contact landowners re replacements.

4. **Victory Green (VG) update**

2 councillors met with a member of the community to discuss VG developments. It was agreed that the lack of signage and closed gates did not help suggest that VG is a community space.

Councillors were asked if they had an objection to new signage recognising the entrance to May Tree Close as a 'community garden.' No objection was received. Village members are supporting the community garden, engagement being communicated through Facebook. Examples of information boards were shared and discussed with a suggestion of informational signage at ground level to provide clarification regarding wild flower garden/meadow.

VG is back on mowing schedule. Reminder given that VG needs to provide vehicle and pedestrian access at all times.

*RH to look into signage and involve members of the public co-ordinating the initiative.
Clerk to include information about VG in Watershed.*

5. **Bledisloe cricket field update**

This remains private land. Communication about this is currently difficult. The Parish Council needs to know if the new owners will allow the village to use the cricket field, if so, a lease is needed for insurance purposes. The lawn is currently being mowed by a villager to keep it in good order.

Cllr Tony Berry will investigate to see if he can provide contact details to move this forward.

6. **Resources identified as essential at Clerks training**

Councillors previously agreed to the purchase of a second hand copy of edition 10 Arnold-Baker: Local Council Administration. This was then not available. Edition 12 is due to be published December 2020. Councillors agreed that a second hand copy of Edition 11 could be brought by the Clerk when available at a good price.

5. FINANCIALS

Details of recent Invoices for payment:

1. Clerk's salary and expenses covering 1 July – 30 August £397.39
 2. Home Working allowance 9 weeks £54
 3. HMRC – PAYE £99.40
 4. Expenses £10
 5. Zoom (16) 3.7.2020-2.8.2020 £14.39
 6. Zoom 27.08.20 £14.39
 7. Batteries for the village clock (Amazon) - £9.99
 8. Room hire village hall. 4.11.19, 6.1.20, 2.03.20 £45
 9. PATA £18
- Total of above invoices £662.56

Proposed: JD Seconded: GTH

Councillors resolved to make all payments for invoices totalling £662.56

Paid from pre-approval 6.7.2020

10. Athena website accessibility(17) 22.7.20 £222
11. Greenfield Garden services – repairs((19) £582

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12. Watershed Grant £400

A further £2000 in addition to the agreed £1000 was transferred from precept account after approval by KA and RH. 27.7.2020

Pre-approval to pay:

13. Grass cutting September (12.8.20 and 26.08.20) £588.00

14. Grass cutting October - £588.00

15. Grass cutting November -

Proposed: JD Seconded: GTH

Councillors resolved to make all payments for invoices above

Approval sought to transfer £2500 from precept account to treasurers' account to pay invoices

Proposed: GTH Seconded: RH

Councillors resolved to approve the transfer of £2500 from precept account to treasurers' account to pay invoices

Bank reconciliation: July/August

Account summary and receipts and payments – shared – discussed

Bank statements had been circulated

RH had checked bank balances on-line and confirmed these correspond with the documents presented.

Bank Reconciliation resolved. Proposed: AH Seconded: RH

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 20/02976/TPO

Discussion took place around this application. Key points included

- 4 previous planning applications had been approved regarding trees at this site. This is the 5th application for work on trees
- there should be no gap in a non-gap tree line
- number of mature trees is quite small, losing more TPO trees is not necessarily a good idea and contradicts the Woodland Trust initiative to improve the volume of trees.
- concern that there are always good reasons to remove trees
- lack of expert evidence identifying why trees should be felled.
- the large area of trees needs careful management
- at previous application all trees to be felled were identified, question about the need for any more removal.

Councillors unanimously opposed the planning application. RH to write objection with support of SL and GTH.

- 20/02742/FUL 20/01200/FUL

RH shared that he had a vested interest so would not be making comment on the application.

KA shared he had not had the opportunity to see the application.

Members of the public shared concerns with councillors, a written concern was submitted prior to the meeting. Concerns included

- original/previous plans had been more in keeping with an agricultural building than a

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domestic building.

- Light pollution

- visibility

Submitter of application shared that original, more favourable plans had not been approved by planners. On-going discussions with planners regarding the maintenance of the fields. Reasons for shed and green house were explained along with planned screening and planting.

RH encouraged members of the public to meet with the applicant to discuss and resolve concerns.

TB will speak to planning officer regarding previous plans.

Clerk to pen a response to application and share with councillors prior to submission.

7. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

- PC10-20 – Changes to the current planning system 17.9.2020
- PC11-20 – Planning for the future white paper 15.10.2020
- PC12-20 – Transparency and competition(Land control) 16.10.2020

Clerk to register a protest at the short turn around for a wide ranging important consultation.

8. RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TONY BERRY, COUNCILLOR STEPHEN HIRST AND INTERESTED PARTIES.

Cllr Stephen Hirst provided an electronic update circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

No questions were received from Councillors. A reminder was provided about a potential Covid-19 spike October/November and the importance of continuing with social distancing, washing hands and the wearing of masks.

Cllr Tony Berry

Cabinet meeting currently taking place 6pm 7.9.20 on a climate strategy and a commercial strategy. Revised budget for the remainder of the year is approximately £400,000 over. 8.9.2020 interviews for new chief exec role to replace Nigel Adams. 4 candidates have been short listed.

Discussions taking place about unitary authorities – East and West – to split the councils and fill the gap between county council and district council.

Cllr Berry agreed to speak to the CDC about the TPO planning application and to find out more information regarding Bledisloe to help move forward cricket field negotiations.

No further questions were asked of Cllr Tony Berry.

9. GAPTC AGM: Call for resolutions.

Councillors to share any resolutions that need submitting by email.

10. MAYTREE CLOSE

- Signage discussed above under VG(Actions from last meeting point 4)
- Boundary – PC owns boundary so should make a contribution to the new fence. New fence being erected 11/12 November. Cranes to liaise with Angus Edmunds regarding entrance to May Tree Close.

Approved: SH Seconded: JD

11. FORMAT OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

There was no dissent from councillors for a 'live' meeting in the Village Hall for the next meeting in November.

There will need to be a risk assessment and requirements of Village Hall identified.

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12. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- KA shared that he will be stepping down as a Councillor but will continue doing the playground checks. RH thanked KA for his work as a Councillor.
- Clerk to send details of requests for involvement in Climate Change conference and Neighbourhood plan to AH to put on Facebook.
- Requests from charities – Councillors agreed that grants/donations would be for projects within the village only and a case would need to be put forward prior to budget planning. All other requests will be rejected following this agreement.
- What three Words App – only official requests by recognised organisations such as CDC, GCC, NHS or Gloucestershire constabulary should be followed up.
- KA shared a photograph of ‘wobbly’ playground equipment that he will follow up.

The meeting closed at 21:50

Chairman Signature:	Parish Clerk Signature:	Date:
		2 November 2020

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 2 November 2020 at 19:30 at the Village Hall.

Electronic copies of these and previous Minutes are available from:

The Parish Clerk: clerk@coatesparish.org.uk