

WEST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

Provisional Minutes to be approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

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Minutes of the remote meeting held on Monday 14th December 2020 starting at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr R Ireland (Chairman), Mr P Hutton (Vice-Chairman), Mr C Gay, Mr G Joyce, Mr J Mitchell and Mr D Wood.

APOLOGIES: Mrs R Wakeley and Mr P Wood.

One member of the public attended.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

Min. 3808 – Matters Arising from the Minutes – None.

Min. 3809 – Urgent Business as agreed by the Chair – None.

Min. 3810 – Correspondence

Please see Appendix 1

Min. 3811 – Highways and Pavements

Whistley Lane – Several residents had contacted the Parish Council regarding the poor condition of the lane.

It was agreed that the deterioration was the result of various utility and building works over the last 3 or 4 years, and that no one person was responsible. It was agreed to arrange a site meeting on 11th January 2021 and invite representatives from all relevant parties to attend.

Min. 3812 – Planning Matters

New application

Planning application 20/04283/TCA, Gournay Court, The Street – Cherry (T1, T2 and T3) – Fell. Replant elsewhere within grounds. Ash (T4, T5, T6 and T7) – Fell.

It was unanimously agreed to support this application.

Initials

Application pending consideration

Planning application 20/03968/FUL, West Harptree House, Bristol Road
– Erection of 1no. 2 bed detached dwelling within existing residential garden plot.

Min. 3813 – Report from B&NES Councillor Mr D Wood

An update on requests from West Harptree Councillors at the November meeting and by email since that meeting.

Speeding Feasibility Study

- 2x meetings with Senior Traffic Engineer
- Meeting with Assistant Director (Highways)
- 2x meetings with Cabinet Member (Transport)
- Statement at Public Cabinet Meeting on applicability of Liveable Neighbourhoods to rural areas and villages in North East Somerset
- Similar statements at 2x In-Camera Cabinet Meetings
- Meeting with Leader of the Council

Update: I made the strong case that the feasibility study would allow B&NES Council to examine how the Liveable Neighbourhoods agenda could be delivered in a village setting. This involves broadly the work we were expecting anyway but means the project aligns more closely with B&NES' current highways priorities. I'm very pleased to confirm that this £5,000 has been included in the DRAFT Transport Improvement Programme (TIP) for 2021/22. This is subject to change right up until the Budget Setting Full Council meeting in February 2021, so I have more work to do in ensuring this remains in the final TIP.

Speeding sign on Compton Martin Road and Harptree Hill Junction lining

- Site visit (solo)
- Phone calls with Jan and Peter
- Meeting with Senior Road Safety Engineer
- Meeting with Senior Traffic Engineer
- Meeting with Assistant Engineer (Traffic Management)
- Meeting with Assistant Director (Highways)

Initials

Update: The speeding sign was moved in May 2020. The junction of Harptree Hill and the Compton Martin road was refreshed in 2019 (by my observation only a partial refresh). B&NES Highways have agreed to completely refresh the lining at the bottom of the hill during the road closure, which is likely to be in February or March 2021 (subject to any slipping). This lead in is required due to the likely need to close the road, which requires an 8-week lead in period. During this road closure more gulleys will be cleared, we are discussing putting an extra sign warning of narrowing, we will conduct a drainage survey and any works to alleviate surface water flooding to protect the road. Jetting machine cleansing has already taken place this week of several gulleys on the hill.

West Harptree House Planning Application

- Submitted objection agreeing with the comments of West Harptree PC.
- Written to Case Officer to underline the objection (CC to Chair of the Planning Committee and Cabinet Member for Planning).
- 2x Discussion with Planning Case Officer
- Meeting with Director of Planning
- Meeting with Cabinet Member (Planning)
- Meeting with Leader of the Council

Update: This planning application is due for determination on (or before!) 25th December 2020. I have said to the Case Officer that I am happy for approval if the conditions suggested are applied. If these are not applied but is recommended for approval, I have said I will call this to the Planning Committee. However, Ward Councillor call ins do not automatically go to planning committee. For legal reasons the Case Officer cannot be compelled to reject/amend a planning application because a Councillor asks for it. Following the Officer recommendation later this month we can look at steps.

Harptree Hill road edging

- Site visit (solo)
- Meeting with Assistant Engineer (Inspections)
- Meeting with Highways Inspector
- Meeting with Senior Traffic Engineer

Initials

- Meeting with Principal Engineer
- Meeting with Leader of the Council
- Requested to attend the on-site meeting that took place with several Officers. Email from Officers said for Covid reasons they could not meet the Parish Councillors or myself on site.

Update: Statement issued by Officers on their intentions following inspections of Harptree Hill, await views from WHPC. “Just a quick note to confirm I have visited the site this week with Stefan to review further the concerns raised by the Parish Council. In addition, I have reviewed the enquiry history at this location and spoken with the area Highway Inspector. The majority of public reports received to date relate directly to the condition of the carriageway surface in the narrow section below the Bellhorse lane junction. We also note the recent concerns raised regarding rocks beyond the edge of the carriageway. The Highway priority at present is to address the drainage condition/concerns which link to some of the surface condition concerns. I will discuss further with our Highways Contractor what is required to address this aspect. It looks like we will potentially need to close the road. As you will likely be aware this will require longer lead in times due the requirement for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order. The proposal then is to investigate the drainage issue further, undertake repairs and take the opportunity to improve the existing hazard warning signage which relates to the bends and road narrowing on the hill. We are also considering the introduction of an edge of carriageway road marking to assist with emphasising the road widths and encourage drivers away from the road edge. We are not proposing or advising we introduce bollards or additional kerbs that will likely present a maintenance liability, potentially still get struck by motorists. It was apparent from our visit the existing kerb line is getting overrun. I am out of office now until next week but will update you further in due course.”

Greater Level of Consultation about Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU)

- Meeting with Director of Planning
- Meeting with Cabinet Member (Planning)

Initials

Update: I pressed the case for more opportunities for consultation were needed on the LPPU, especially for the Chew Valley Area Parish Councils and was mindful of requests by WHPC to provide opportunities for the Chew Valley Parish Councils to have organised opportunities to input collectively into the planning process on a number of issues. B&NES will invite CVNP Parish Council representatives (and anyone else as needed) to a meeting in the new year to discuss the LPPU and listen to the unique perspective of the Valley. This will be attended by myself, the Director of Planning, the Head of Planning and others as needed.

Response to Bristol Airport Application

- 3x meetings with Cabinet Member (Climate Emergency)

Update: From my recent email: "One of the Planning Officers is preparing a B&NES response and this will be approved at Cabinet level. I've asked that this is sent out to Parish Councils as soon as there is a draft available, so it can help to inform and to encourage PC responses. In addition my colleague Sarah Warren will be drafting a letter to our MP to urge his support for our view. I have asked that this is also circulated to Parish Councils to encourage them to also do the same. I will ask that Ward Councillors are also included in these distributions to encourage responses. Sarah spoke at Bristol City Council Full Council today to encourage them to vote to oppose expansion as their Council policy (they have been broadly in favour until now) and I'm told they now officially oppose."

Updates on wider issues:

- Budgets are under extreme pressure as a further £10m of savings needs to be found for the 2021/22 budget. Some of the costs of Covid have been met by the Government, but not all.
- B&NES and partners have been actively contacting 7,500 vulnerable local residents to offer them support during the second lockdown.
- Plans for a gas generator between a Nursery and Primary School in Midsomer Norton are on hold following B&NES negotiation with the applicant.
- £1m funding has been secured via WECA to complete the recreation trial around Chew Valley Lake.

Initials

- We are about to launch a consultation on whether to keep an appointments-based system at Old Welton Recycling Centre.
- We have launched a consultation about building a new state-of-the-art Recycling Centre at Keynsham.
- We have started a public consultation on how to use a £2m grant to improve Midsomer Norton High Street.
- Christmas trees can be collected from the road side when the green waste service restarts on 18/1/21. You don't need to subscribe to the green waste collections to have your Christmas tree taken away.
- Wrapping paper can no longer be recycled this year as UK paper mills are only accepting higher grades of paper.
- Mendip Hills AONB (of which I am committee member) has been involved in a successful bid for £248,900 for tree planting across the Somerset AONBs.
- Covid cases are increasing in B&NES and our tier will be reviewed on 16/12/20.

Councillors thanked Cllr D Wood for his support and asked him to continue to push to move projects forward.

Min. 3814 – Items for the Information of the Clerk – None.

Min. 3815 - Future Remote Meetings

The next remote meeting would take place on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year and declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman

Date Signed

Appendix 1

Min. 3810 – Correspondence

The following items had been received and circulated prior to the meeting.

1. B&NES - Improving understanding to stay safe.
2. ALCA – Covid 19 Restrictions.
3. B&NES – Planning Regulations, Weekly List No. 47.
4. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/03201/COND, East Harptree.
5. B&NES – Interagency meeting, reminder.
6. B&NES – Green Homes Webinar.
7. ALCA – New finance advice and training services.
8. B&NES – Development Management, New application, 20/04283/TCA, Gournay Court.
9. ALCA – Understanding how electric vehicle charging might work for you.
10. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 17th November.
11. B&NES – Street Works 17/11/20 – 23/11/20.
12. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/03188/FUL, East Harptree, 2004301/CLPU, East Harptree and 20/04311/FUL, Compton Martin.
13. B&NES – Planning application 20/04283/TCA, Update.
14. B&NES – Food Clubs now open in B&NES.
15. B&NES – Careers support for local residents.
16. B&NES – Reminder, Covid 19, Improving understanding to stay safe.
17. Electricity Safe – Electrical and Gas emergency information.
18. Ordnance Survey – Contract update.
19. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/04354/FUL, Hinton Blewett.
20. B&NES – Minutes, Parish Liaison meeting, 22nd October.
21. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/03201/COND, East Harptree.
22. B&NES – Fix my Street, Direction sign outside Stratford House. Work completed.
23. ALCA – Estimated subscription 2021/22.
24. B&NES – CIL Annual Report, Reminder.
25. ALCA – West of England Spatial Development Strategy Engagement.
26. ALCA, B&NES – Litter Summit.
27. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 24th November.
28. B&NES – Street Works 24/11/20 – 30/11/20.
29. B&NES – Planning Regulations, Weekly List No. 48.
30. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/04150/FUL, East Harptree and 20/04318/COND, East Harptree.
31. B&NES – Parish Liaison meetings 2021/22.
32. ALCA – West of England Placemaking Charter – Community Summit.
33. Mendip Society – Newsletter.
34. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/04509/TCA, Hinton Blewett.
35. B&NES – Interagency Bulletin.
36. ALCA – Virtual meeting agenda, 3rd December.
37. B&NES – Council Budget Webinars.
38. ALCA – Understanding Risk Management.
39. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/03615/FUL, East Harptree.
40. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/04570/TCA, Gournay Court, West Harptree.
41. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 1st December.
42. B&NES – Street Works 01/12/20 – 07/12/20.
43. B&NES – Planning Regulations, Weekly List No. 49.
44. South Stoke PC – Street Lighting.
45. Anna Iacono – Whistley Lane.
46. Somerset Planning Support – Application 20/P/2896/APPCON, Bristol Airport.
47. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/04151/FUL, Compton Martin and 20/04570/TC5, Gournay Court, West Harptree.
48. B&NES – Development Management 20/04283/TCA, Gournay Court, added information.
49. Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest, December 2020 Edition.
50. ALCA – Business Grants : Lockdown 2.
51. B&NES – Highways, Harptree Hill.
52. ICO- The UK has left the EU – Keep data flowing at the end of transition.
53. ALCA – Free briefing session – Covid 19s impact on the Council Tax base rate.
54. Chris Walkling – Orchard Cottage, Ridge Lane.
55. B&NES – Planning Notifications – 20/03968/FUL, West Harptree House, 20/039615/FUL, East Harptree and 20/04570/TC5, Gournay Court, West Harptree.
56. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 1st December.
57. B&NES – Street Works 08/12/20 – 14/12/20.
58. B&NES – Planning Regulations, Weekly List No. 50.
59. ALCA – Standards Matter 2: Public consultation and Public Sector surveys – Extended consultation deadline.
60. Katie Lewis – Recreation Ground hedge.
61. ALCA – In Short, December 2020.
62. B&NES – Have your say.
63. CPRE – Grant request.