

Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council
Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2020
Held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Burtenshaw (Chairman)
Cllr Blake
Cllr Errington (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Loader
Cllr Stainton-Burrell
Cllr Taylor
Cllr Wilson

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay

1. **20/11/69 Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Michael Thierry and District Councillor Emma Lane. Cllr Coutts was noted as absent.

2. **20/11/70 Declarations of Interest**
None declared

3. **20/11/71 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2020**

Chairman raised that a half yearly audit has been arranged which is currently underway and this was an omission from the minutes last time.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Taylor and **seconded** by Cllr Errington that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th October 2020 be signed as a true and accurate record. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

4. **20/11/72 Chairman's report on matters arising (not on the agenda)**

The Chairman's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Chairman stated with reference to item 20/10/60, the Clerk has requested more information several times from the Planning Officer of NFDC on how the Druce Acres site will be regulated going forward, however no responses have been received.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Lane to investigate further on our behalf

In reference to item 20/10/61 – Police presence in the parish - Cllr Burtenshaw confirmed that she had spoken to Dai Morgan (Hyde Neighbourhood Watch) and had a name to contact regarding car patrols. Cllr Burtenshaw requested that the Clerk follow this up by writing to the Police to ensure the parish area is included in those patrols.

Action: Clerk

All other matters will be dealt with on the agenda.

Chairman

Date

5. **20/11/73 Public Forum**

None present.

6. **20/11/74 Finance**

(i) **Payment of Accounts October - November 2020**

Payments to be sanctioned are:

Website Domain Payment – UK Cheapest	£52.99
HMRC – Late Filing Penalty Notice	£100.00
Cllr Errington - Expenses	£202.65
Cllr Errington - Projector Hire	£10.00
Clerk Expenses (Oct-Nov)	£21.90
TOTALS FOR NOVEMBER	£387.54

Clerk stated that the Website Domain Payment was to keep the old website for one year to assist with the transition to the new website and the HMRC payment was thought to be for a late return. Both were made out of council. The other payments to be sanctioned are for expenses.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Burtenshaw and **seconded** by Cllr Loader that the above payments listed be sanctioned. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

(ii) **Financial Report**

Clerk advised that the bank balances are as below, the Reserve (Instant Access) and the Dodington Trust accounts remain unchanged.

Current A/C as at 17 th Nov 2020	£23,292.58
Instant Access A/C as at 17 th Nov 2020	£57,431.89
Dodington A/C	£2,101.31

The Current Account is higher than what we have planned expenditure for as we have not received certain invoices yet. The actual balance is more like £21,085.34.

The Half Year Audit is underway. The external auditor has questioned our large amount of reserves. You are not meant to have more than 2 years equivalent of precept put aside but we do. Our precept is £19,175 so we have three times as much in reserve. Chairman confirmed the importance of expenditure being carried out or at least allocated for projects within the current financial year so as to reduce these reserves.

(iii) **Recognition of Services provided by the Temporary Clerk**

Chairman raised that she wanted to recognise the hard work and effort that the Temporary Clerk, Kate Mason, had put in for nearly a year during difficult times after the previous Clerk left and Covid-19 started. It feels appropriate to

organise something for this time of year, being Christmas. Suggestion was made for a voucher to the value of £100.00 and a celebratory bottle.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Burtenshaw and **seconded** by Cllr Stainton-Burrell that the above honorarium be given. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Action: Clerk/Cllr Burtenshaw

(iv) Noticeboards Quote

Cllr Stainton-Burrell confirmed that she had managed to obtain three quotes, however this information has been lost. It was noted that all of the noticeboards currently in situ have issues and it would be good to replace them all. Cllr Errington proposed he talk to a local joiner who may be interested in creating something bespoke. There are several companies online and some use recycled materials.

Action: Cllr Errington to contact local joiner for quote

Action: Cllr Burtenshaw to review other local parish noticeboards

Action: Clerk to get some online quotes

(v) Kings Oak Decision

Chairman thanked Cllr Loader for progressing this matter with Jeremy Barrell. The Somerley Estate have given permission to assess the tree and the Clerk has instructed Jeremy Barrell to do the report. We are waiting the results of the report.

7. 20/11/75 Parish Council Matters

(i) Policies

The following updated policies had been circulated prior to the meeting for reading – Social Media Policy, Retention of Records/Data Management Policy and Risk Assessment. Chairman asked if there were any amendments, none noted. Cllr Blake has adjusted the Social Media Policy for easier reading but the content is the same.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Burtenshaw and **seconded** by Cllr Blake that the policies be adopted. **IN FAVOUR – 6 COUNCILLORS, 1 ABSTAIN.**

Chairman thanked the Clerk for organising the review schedule and getting the policies up to date.

8. 20/11/76 Environmental Matters

(i) Lengthsman Jobs – January 11th Allocated

Chairman stated that she had spoken with the Lengthsman on his recent visit and he had cleared some of the debris around the entrance to the under-road culvert. The Lengthsman had also cleared some of the brash on the ditch crossing at the entrance to Ibsley Village Hall but had not removed the broken posts and rails. He is unable to do the replacement fencing. Suggestion was

made to use a local fencing company to address the issue and help delineate the route.

Action: Clerk to take forward

Clerk explained that there is no further Council meeting before the next allocated Lengthsman day, so if anyone has any jobs please put them forward. Suggestion was made to ask the Lengthsman to remove the broken rails and the dragon's teeth at Ibsley Service Station and Moyles Court in order to tidy the appearance of the areas before replacement works are carried out.

(ii) Roads and Footpaths

Chairman stated that part of footpath 38 at the southern end of Hamer Warren on the Somerley Estate is incorrectly represented. The Estate have applied for the definitive route to be amended to the actual 'as walked' route.

(iii) Ditches, Culverts, Verges and Overhanging Vegetation

Since the last meeting, Cllr Loader raised the question of whether the Council has a policy on verges or code on protecting the verges. Councillors indicated that they had seen several instances of the verges being treated poorly. Chairman raised that it might be prudent to first replace the existing dragon's teeth by Ibsley Service Station and Moyles Court. Then with regards to the conservation of the verges, maybe a mail drop could be done to remind residents of the SSSI area. Discussion was had about creating a leaflet from past examples. The importance of verges is not known widely and we need to get that message across to all areas, including urban areas who may visit the New Forest.

Cllr Wilson raised that the verges on the road both at South Gorley Green and from the Green towards Furze Hill are in a poor state due to cars having to pull over on the verge to allow others to pass. Passing bays might be a solution to this.

Action: Cllr Burtenshaw to circulate existing verges leaflet, which could be re-worked for a mail drop.

Cllr Errington stated that the NPA's Western Escarpment Conservation Area Group have mapped many the verges that need attention (about 12km to date) and that this information has been circulated to all relevant authorities – Forestry England, HCC Highways, Natural England, Verderers etc but we need their co-operation as consents for any works lie with them. Cllr Stainton-Burrell stated that using words such as western escarpment does not mean anything, communication needs to be direct and easy to understand. A brief discussion was had about creating a Christmas Newsletter instead to remind people about the verges, but also include information on the Kings Oak, the new website, and the Dodington Trust. Christmas may be a tight deadline, therefore it was decided to extend this out to New Year and have a looking forward newsletter.

Action: Cllr Burtenshaw to start the newsletter, and All Councillors to think of articles to put forward

(iv) Flooding at Ibsley Service Station

Chairman raised that the flooding is usually caused by a blocked culvert and HCC Highways have been informed to clear it. Cllr Stainton-Burrell stated that it is also very flooded outside Hockey's Farm; someone has cleared the ditch of washed down gravel but it is a temporary solution. The flooding happens instantly when there is a deluge of rain, maybe the water flow needs to be slowed or stopped higher up on the Common to prevent all the gravel being dumped further down. A site meeting with Natural England is required.

9. 20/11/77 Community Matters

(i) NFDC Waste & Recycling Collection Consultation Response

Chairman proposed that a draft response is put forward for discussion at the next Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Taylor agreed to collate responses and put together a balanced response of pros and cons. Clerk did ask Cllr Lane for her opinion before the meeting and will circulate the reply. There have not been many individual responses to the consultation, and the proposals seem to work for some areas but not all. Cllr Errington stated that he wanted to know whether the policy would be a 'one size fits all' and how are they costing it. Evidence supporting the claimed increase in recycling that would result is not included in the consultation.

Action: Cllr Taylor

10. 20/11/78 Crime in the Parish

Cllr Stainton-Burrell raised that there has been a significant increase in crime in the area, and along with attempted burglaries, there has also been an increase in the number of scams and dog crimes as well.

11. 20/11/79 Planning

**(i) Application 20/11117 Darvole, 37 Harbridge Green, Harbridge, BH24
3PT – Side extension and remodel**

Cllr Wilson presented the application.

The application is for a larger replacement extension at the west end of the property, the existing rear end outbuilding and garage will be removed. There is no Design Access Statement nor advice about new habitable floor areas. The proposed extension would be built on the existing line of the current extension, which is forward of the original thatched cottage. Little information is given about intended materials/finishes. While the existing extension has little empathy with the thatched elements, the proposal would be more unsympathetic and, with the increased massing, would overwhelm the original cottage. The works would not adversely affect neighbours as there are none nearby, but would impact the character of the area due to the property's proximity to the highway.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Errington we recommend **PAR 4: REFUSAL** to NFDC due to:

- The substantial extension proposed would be even less in keeping with the property than the extension it would replace.
- Due to its size, massing and being on the forward building line of the current extension, it would significantly overwhelm the thatched elements of the property.
- Details of materials and finishes proposed are minimal.
- Due to how existing areas have been calculated, the increase in habitable floor area allowance permitted is uncertain.
- A D&A Statement would be helpful.

This was **seconded** by Cllr Loader. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

12. 20/11/80 County/District Matters

Clerk circulated an email with regards to the available District Councillor grants from Cllr Lane and requested Councillors put forward suggestions to Cllr Lane on who may benefit. Ibsley Village Hall and Ellingham Church Hall have been suggested already.

13. 20/11/81 Website Update

Clerk stated that the website is still under construction and TLC have been informed about the revised logo.

Action: Clerk to follow up on progress.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Dates of 2020/21 EH&I PC meetings starting at 7.30 pm:

Planning Committee

8th December
12th January
9th February
9th March

Parish Council

26th January
23rd February
23rd March