

Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council
Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd September 2020
Held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Burtenshaw (Chairman)
Cllr Blake
Cllr Coutts
Cllr Errington (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Loader
Cllr Wilson

In attendance:

County Councillor Michael Thierry
District Councillor Emma Lane
Parish Clerk, Joanna Ramsay

1. 20/09/47 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Taylor. Cllr Stainton-Burrell was noted as absent, however Council approved this absence due to technical difficulties attending the meeting.

2. 20/09/48 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. 20/09/49 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2020

Chairman noted that there were two corrections to the minutes:

- Item 20/08/37 stated that the Scoopa Nan ice cream annual rent was £1,500 it should be £1,100. So with the agreed reduction the price for the year is £1,000 which has been paid.
- Item 20/08/41 stated that the tree with the TPO at The Barn, Snails Lane had been felled, this is not correct and the oak tree remains intact.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Errington and **seconded** by Cllr Blake that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th August 2020 be signed as a true and accurate record subject to the above amendments. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

4. 20/09/50 Chairman's report on matters arising (not on the agenda)

Chairman requested that with reference to item 20/08/37, and following enforcement action, the Clerk follow up and request a report on the current status of the Druce Acres site with the Planning Officer of NFDC.

Action: Clerk

Chairman advised that under item 20/08/39, the Clerk has checked and there have been no changes made to our current insurance policy with Zurich as a result of Covid-19.

Chairman

Date

Item 20/08/40 Community Funded Initiative – this was discussed and agreed at the last meeting and HCC would be instructed to reschedule and commence this scheme, however due to a slight misunderstanding, that action was not taken. Clerk to progress therefore.

Action: Clerk

Item 20/08/43 the new website - Chairman advised this would also be covered under agenda item 11. Chairman wished to record our ongoing thanks to Cllr Loader for continuing to keep the existing website up to date and notifying residents of the impending changes. Cllr Loader, in turn, thanked the Clerk for sending across the relevant documents in good order and well formatted.

Item 20/08/46 Moyles Court Property – Chairman stated that the Clerk had advised both HCC and Natural England of the large stones outside the property and queried whether they comply with existing regulations. A response is awaited. With reference to Toms Lane, a letter has been sent to NFDC and Forestry England about the speeding lorries and the communication has been passed to the Refuse department. In relation to the land opposite Ibsley Churchyard and Gorley Green Triangle these actions are to be followed up by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

5. **20/09/51 Public Forum**
None present.

6. **20/09/52 Finance**

(i) **Payment of Accounts August – September 2020**
Payments to be sanctioned are:

22-Sep	Clerk Salary until end of September (KM)	£1,789.93
22-Sep	Clerk Expenses (KM)	£29.49
22-Sep	Clerk Expenses (JR)	£156.68
22-Sep	Ellingham Village Hall Hire	£275.00

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

Clerk advised that the payments for August have been made, however those sanctioned at the last meeting have not been made as the Clerk is not yet on the bank mandate.

(ii) **Standing Order request for Clerk to start 1st October**

Chairman advised that the Clerk started work for the Parish Council on 1st September, and should be paid monthly in arrears. The request therefore is for approval of a standing order for the Clerk's salary to be set up from 1st October.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Burtenshaw and seconded by Cllr Blake that the request be agreed. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

(iii) Financial Report

Clerk advised that not having access to the bank accounts yet the current financial position is the same as it was at the end of August.

Current A/C Balance at 31st August 2020	£17,243.94
Instant Access A/C as at 31st August 2020	£57,431.89
Dodington A/C	£2,101.31

(iv) Noticeboards Quote

Chairman wished to apologise to Cllr Stainton-Burrell who has been looking into noticeboard options, but this has not been followed up. Chairman requested details be circulated in advance of the next meeting and the item be deferred to the next meeting for a decision.

(v) Grant Proposals – Ellingham Church Hall

Chairman advised that the payment agreed under item 20/09/52 (i) covers the period October 2019 to March 2020 plus the Clerk interview date. As deferred from the last meeting, Chairman proposed that the council should continue to support and assist the local facilities and give the Hall an ex-gratia payment for bookings already made even though we have not attended. The payment should cover the meetings from March 2020 to October 2020 except for the August meeting and Ibsley Hall meeting. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

Cllr Wilson arrived at this point in the meeting, 20:03pm

(vi) Kings Oak quote - independent report quote

At the last meeting, it was agreed to go ahead with the injection work by Apex Solutions, subject to Natural England and Somerley consent at a cost of £1,700. It was also agreed to have an independent report, Cllr Loader has obtained an estimate from Wadey Trees at a cost of £595.00. Concern was raised about spending this amount of budget. Cllr Loader stated that the injection work has been recommended by the company who undertakes the work, it would be preferable to have an independent report on the tree before this work goes ahead. The council could be spending the money unnecessarily as the work required does not warrant it. The tree is a special tree in the New Forest, however it maybe beyond salvation due to other reasons such as its location, history and pruning. Councillors generally agreed that it would be preferable to have the report first and then decide on the injection work. Cllr Errington did raise however that Apex Solutions have advised that the injection work should revive the tree and that they would refund the money if it did not work. Time is of the essence and the sooner any work is carried out the better. It was agreed to defer the decision to the next meeting, in the meantime Chairman agreed to approach Nick Gruber (Tree Officer) and Apex Solutions to get a further report on the tree and to get an estimate of how successful the injection work could be.

Action: Cllr Burtenshaw

7. 20/09/53 Parish Council Matters

Clerk's equipment – Chairman proposed that the Clerk should have a bespoke mobile smartphone for parish council work. Cllr Errington explained that there would be an upfront cost of about £150 for the handset and then a further £10 a month contract. To be used for telephone calls, emails, GPS and access to documents when in the parish. Cllr Blake stated that GiffGaff can provide a monthly tariff without a contract, the tariff can also be altered monthly dependent on usage. Cllr Loader raised that signal strength could be an issue, agreed that the provider could be changed if not found to be reliable.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Burtenshaw and **seconded** by Cllr Loader that the Clerk should have a mobile phone for parish matters. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

8. 20/09/54 Environmental Matters

(i) Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society Report

Chairman wished to thank the Society for trying to move forward on projects and progress matters of concern in the parish.

(ii) Parish ditches and culverts

Chairman stated that a meeting has been arranged with Steve Anton this week to consider further ditch maintenance in Gorley Road, but this will need Natural England approval. Once costs are known they will be brought back to a future council meeting.

(iii) Land adjoining Crossley Towers

The road is damaged, exacerbated by a burst water mains pipe. The situation is complex as the parish council own the verge, Crossley Towers own the track and Natural England will need to give approval to raise the ditch (it is currently 8 to 10 ft deep). Chairman advised therefore there may be some liability for the parish council, but a meeting needs to be held to get a three-way agreement on proposed works.

(iv) Linford Road

The residents are looking into the state of the road, the damage, the verges and possible traffic calming measures. The parish council is offering support where it can.

(v) Linford Park Nursing Home

Signs have been erected with regards to road closures, however we have been unable to obtain any further information on how long the work will take and when.

9. 20/09/55 Community Matters

Nothing to raise.

10. 20/09/56 Planning

(i) **Application 20/10937 Crofton, Mockbeggar Lane - Conversion & External Alternations**

Cllr Wilson presented the application.

The request is for a garage conversion to become a dwelling with its own front door. There was a previous application for the same conversion in March 2020.

It was suggested to send a similar response to that as before - We recommend **PAR 2: We recommend REFUSAL**, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

- Repurposing of ancillary building
- Change of use from garage to additional residential use
- Possible extra pressure on parking provision

It was **proposed** by Cllr Burtenshaw and **seconded** by Cllr Wilson that the same response be sent as before. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

(ii) **Application 20/0488 Hockeys Farm, South Gorley - Prune 2 x Fir trees, Prune 1 x Oak tree, Prune 1 x Group of Oak trees**

Cllr Burtenshaw presented the application.

The trees need to be reduced as they are over hanging the road, and limbs in the past have dropped onto the road. The trees also over hang outbuildings and they need to be pruned before they get bigger and cause more damage.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Coutts and **seconded** by Cllr Loader to raise no objection. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Since the agenda was created there have been two further planning applications received. Chairman raised that there is a timing issue with the applications in that they arrived after the agenda was sent out to one meeting and the response needs to be in before the next meeting. The consultation date is different to that on the email in which comments are asked for. Cllr Errington raised that NFDC are putting the application on their website two weeks before informing the parish council. This is not giving the parish time to respond to the request. Chairman explained that one of the applications has a Lawful Development Certificate and the second is in relation to a private riding arena at Ibsley Grange.

Action: Cllr Burtenshaw to check the dates of the application in relation to the riding arena and will respond on behalf of the parish.

Chairman further reported that she had attended two recent meetings virtually in relation to planning applications. The first meeting granted permission for the Hyde Band rehearsal room subject to several conditions, having been refused beforehand. The second meeting was in relation to Bleak Hill III at the Cemex site,

Hamer Warren. The parish council had previously refused the application based on the unsafe use of footpath 23 and highway improvements to Harbridge Drove. Chairman was disappointed that permission was granted and the decision was rushed as the meeting was drawing to a close. There seemed to be no interest in the concerns raised by the parish council.

Action: CCIr Thierry to take the issues raised forward

11. 20/09/56 County/District Matters (item not on original agenda)

CCIr Thierry raised that since March 2020, in these strange times, he has not been to the Castle at Winchester. In these circumstances one of the serious drawbacks for Councillors is getting information. Information seems to take a lot longer to access, and whilst HCC has had to concentrate on Covid-19 it has meant some officers have changed roles and some projects that were in the pipeline have not been completed and are being rescheduled, for example Highways works.

CCIr Thierry acknowledged the passing of Christine Ford, who had a special connection to Ellingham.

CCIr Thierry stated that he is now on the Planning Committee at NFDC. It appears that more and more planning applications are being determined by officers and fewer applications are coming to the committee. Having said that, parish and town councils need to be given enough time to respond, so the earlier discussion on planning is of interest.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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

Planning Committee

13th October
10th November
8th December
12th January
9th February
9th March

Parish Council

27th October
24th November
26th January
23rd February
23rd March