

SNELSON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Shareen Worthington Email: council@snelsonpc.org.uk

Chairman: Cliff Walsingham Vice-Chairman: David Clarke

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st December 2020

Present: Cliff Walsingham (Chair), Janet Winrow, Hazel Ardern, David Clarke, Les Stanier and the Parish Clerk. PCSO Julia Short (part)

Members of Public: None

20.48 Receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies

20.49 Questions from the public and police report

Item moved to the end of the meeting when PCSO Short was able to join.

PCSO Short reported Police surgeries are to continue via Facebook but Community Speed Watch schemes are still suspended. There were no incidents in Snelson.

The Chair enquired whether the parish could request funding from the Community Police Fund for pedestrian warning signs along Pepper Street due to the increase in traffic and lack of footpaths. PCSO Short was doubtful it met the criteria but would check and advise Cllr Clarke. It was noted that, should the parish be successful in securing a grant, it would have to meet half the cost.

20.50 Declarations of Interest in any agenda items

There were no declarations of interest

20.51 Approve the Minutes of the last meeting on 8th September 2020

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record. To be signed by the Chair at the next 'physical' meeting.

20.52 Matters arising from the Minutes, not already covered in the agenda

There were no matters arising

20.53 Finance

- **Receipts and Payments Report**

The Receipts and Payments report, which had been previously circulated, was approved.

- **Approve Budget and set Precept**

The draft budget was discussed and noted that the significant increase from last year was mainly due to professional advice needed on major planning applications, works to The Common and the subsequent increase in the Clerk's hours.

Cllr Winrow requested the majority of the consultancy costs be used on the Holly Tree House application as this was of particular importance. All members were in

agreement. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should share consultancy costs for the Radbroke Hall application with Over Peover Parish Council.

The budget and precept were duly approved and the Clerk to submit the latter to Cheshire East Council.

Action: Clerk

20.54 Highways

Mr John Firth submitted the following update:

Overall, progress has, again, been disappointing compared with that expected based on previous meetings/discussions with CEC Highways Department representatives. Personnel (and hence contact) changes, budget reductions and consequent difficulty in communication with the Department continue to impact adversely on the attention we can command despite regular expediting on the telephone and via e-mail. The current position regarding the main items is as follows;-

1. No more potholes have, as far as I can tell, been repaired since my comments in the September meeting. Large holes still remain on Mill Lane, Pepper Street, Common Lane and Common Farm Lane and additional damage has occurred. Two site meetings, arranged to view the situation, with Highways have not been attended by them and no explanation has been forthcoming so far, although I understand that the Officer involved has been transferred to another area. I hope to be able to arrange such a meeting with a new appointee in the near future.
2. Still awaiting action on the road surface marking required at the junction of Common Lane and Common Farm Lane and promised for end August and required by Highways.
3. The flooding problem, near Heath Cottage and Highfield Farm, on Common Lane has received further attention and the drainage improved to the extent that standing water, after heavy rain, drains away in several hours rather than several days, as previously experienced. Not yet good enough but, at least some progress. This will be reviewed again after the next heavy rain storm.

The issue of wagons going to Highfield Farm and perhaps not using the one-way system was raised, but it was suggested that it was being used correctly most of the time. The owner confirmed drivers are notified and directed but are occasionally unable to turn around due to the positioning of their parked vehicle.

20.55 Planning

- **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

The Ecology Report has been received and circulated.

The Chair reported that the social history of the parish needs to be written into the Plan and also, will soon be circulating the draft policies for approval.

Action: Chair

- **20/4747M Radbroke Hall**

The previous comments on this application are to be reissued subject to a response from the Highways consultant. The Chair to also send to the parishes of Over Peover and Chelford.

Action: Chair

- **20/4976M Holly Tree House**

The Chair commented on the vast number of documents and requested all members share the reading. The Chair to draft a response and circulate to all members for approval before submission to CE Planning.

Action: All

20.56 Housekeeping and Maintenance

- **Ownership of The Common**

The Ash trees either side of Common Lane will need to be felled, as they have 'ash dieback', in order to prevent the spread of this disease. Quotes will be obtained from two tree surgeons. Once quotes are received, the Ecology report will be sent to Astle Estate asking for a contribution towards the cost.

Action: Chair

- **Co-option Clarification**

The Clerk updated the members on the co-option rules, confirming that as all five seats are filled, additional members cannot be co-opted onto the Council. Co-opted councillors fill positions when vacancies arise outside of an election and, once on the council, are full members along with elected members.

- **Clerk's Hours**

The Chair requested the Clerk's hours be increased to four hours a week due to the expected increase in work relating to consultations and Highways issues. The increase was approved.

- **Set 2021/22 Meeting Dates**

The proposed meeting dates for the following year were approved with an adjustment to the December meeting date. The agreed dates are:

4th May 2021

6th July 2021

7th September 2021

9th December 2021 (Thursday)

1st March 2022

20.57 Correspondence

A project is currently running between North West Ambulance Service and the PCC to secure funding for more defibrillators in the community. The PCC asked for suggestions of where they might be needed. Members agreed that if funding became available to the parish, a defibrillator should be situated at The Methodist Church.

20.58 Items for the next agenda

VAT Refund

Meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 2nd March 2021