

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 2nd March 2021

Present: Cliff Walsingham (Chair), Janet Winrow, Hazel Ardern, David Clarke and the Parish Clerk

Members of Public: None

21.1 Receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies. Ward Councillor Marc Asquith was not present.

21.2 Questions from the public and police report

Cllr Clarke reported on a number of scams and thefts from vehicles. A request from PCC for additional funding has been approved. The Chair to continue pursuing funding for road safety signage.

21.3 Declarations of Interest in any agenda items

There were no declarations of interest

21.4 Councillor Vacancy

Following non-attendance of meetings over six months (prior to the December 2020 meeting), Cllr Stanier was informed in writing of his removal from the Parish Council. The Clerk is to notify CE Council and post a notice of a casual vacancy on the website and noticeboard.

Action: Clerk

21.5 Approve the Minutes of the last meeting on 1st December 2020

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

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

The Chair reported that the increased precept had been approved. CE Council had asked for the reasons behind the increase should any residents request this information.

21.7 Finance

- **Receipts and Payments Report**

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

21.8 Highways

Mr John Firth submitted the following update:

The heavy rainfall since the beginning of the year has required a change in our priorities and the current position regarding our major items is as follows:-

1 Flooding problem between Heath Cottage and Highfield Farm - Received major attention from Highways on 10th February when cameras and high pressure equipment were used to check and purge the drainage system. Subject to experience at the next rainstorm, it seems that the system is now working satisfactorily. Highways have agreed to monitor more often.

Based on my personal close observation, during the heavy rainfall period, it appears that, although the underground drains are in good order, the grids at the road surface are becoming blocked due to soil being washed down from, and/or gouged by heavy vehicles out of, the verges to form a thick mud over the grids.

2 For the second year running, Common Lane, and the start of Common Farm Lane, have also been flooded in the area near the two ponds. The main problem here is that the drains are not dealing with the volume of water flowing in from the surrounding fields because of blockages. Work has been carried out by the Farmer, Simon Massey, assisted by local residents, and the flow improved to the extent that the roads are now clear. It has been agreed, in conjunction with Highways, that a drying out period of several weeks is now required to allow the water level to fall so the access can be gained to determine whether there is a significant blockage under the road which will then require Highways Dept involvement in addition to our ensuring that the land drains across the fields to Peover Eye are operating properly.

Highways Dept have agreed to do the work, on and under the road, if and when informed by us. As the rainfall is forecast to increase, rather than diminish, for some years to come, this overall project, including maintenance, has a high priority for our area.

3 Potholes - No significant pothole repairs have been carried out during the past two months mainly "due to the bad weather and the concentration of resources on flooded areas". Highways have agreed to a site meeting, proposed by us, at the time of the decision on the Common Lane drainage in item 2., to cover all outstanding items including potholes and road marking they agreed to for the junction of Common Lane and Common Farm Lane.

21.9 Planning

- **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

There has been a delay to the NHP as a result of difficulties obtaining OS maps of Snelson; the Chair confirmed they would be acquired soon.

Cllr Ardern offered to request deeds from a local resident concerning the drains issue.

Action: Cllr Ardern

The Chair of Peover Superior Parish Council attended a planning committee meeting for the Radbroke Hall application. The committee agreed to a liaison committee being established.

The planning committee meeting for the Holly Tree House application is taking place on 24th March. The four parishes will decide who will be making representation on their behalf at the meeting.

21.10 Housekeeping and Maintenance

- **Chelford Train Services**

Cllr Clarke reported on a consultation over possible changes to train services at Chelford.

- **Ward Councillor**

Members questioned the Ward Councillor's lack of engagement with the Parish and attendance of PC meetings. ChALC advise writing to the Councillor before contacting them. The Chair proposed a vote of no confidence; the motion was passed. The Chair to inform the Conservative Chairman.

Action: Chair

- **Unlawful Activity on Marthall Green Belt**

A councillor from Ollerton with Marthall PC asked for support regarding unlawful industrial activity in Marthall. Members agreed to provide support along with a small financial contribution for consultancy fees, if required.

- **Land at Long Shott Farm**

Members expressed concern over rubble being placed on a field opposite Highfield Farm. Land Registry records show the land belonging to Long Shott Farm. Following the discussion, the Chair agreed to write to the persons responsible for the encroachment, after Cllr Winrow has made a further Land Registry search to determine the ownership of the field.

Action: Chair

21.11 Correspondence

There was no correspondence

21.12 Items for the next agenda

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Approve Accounts and Annual Governance Statements

Appoint Councillor Roles and Responsibilities

Meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 4th May 2021