

MINUTES OF AWLISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 14th December 2020

Parish Council meeting held virtually by Zoom.

- Present: Councillors R. Lawrence, W. Furnival, T. Harvey, N. Boulton, C. Wright, P. Gillingham, A. Summers, County Councillor I. Chubb, District Councillor D. Key. 2 members of the public (Gary Burford & Bernie Little)
 1. **Apologies for absence:** None
 2. **Items from County/District Councillors:** County Councillor Iain Chubb gave a short update from Devon County to say that the vaccination program had started in hospitals and would be rolled out to doctors surgeries in the next coming weeks. The government are due to update the Tiers on Wednesday 16th and we believe that Devon will stay in Tier 2.
 - Highways update - A new website was being set up to report and view blocked drains which could be very useful. Cllr Key did not have much to report as most of the Councillors in EDDC were still working from home. Planning committee meetings were continuing online.
 3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
 4. **To receive, confirm minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020.** The Chairman asked if everyone agreed to the draft minutes. All Councillors were happy but were then interrupted by Gary Burford who disagreed with agenda item 8 – Highways in which the council discussed an issue with land at Cot Green which had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council by Phil Morgan (Highways Officer) before the last meeting to downgrade the right of way. The council had agreed at the time that this was the right thing to do and therefore were all in favour that the draft minutes were correct, as at the time of the meeting in September this was the only information we had regarding the issue. The Councillors agreed that the minutes of the last meeting should be signed as a true and correct record. The issues that were raised by Mr Burford should be discussed in this meeting under item no. 5 - Matters arising. No signature was taken due to remote meeting but were confirmed as true and correct. All in favour.
 5. **Matters arising:** A long and heated discussion was had regarding the issues surrounding ownership of the small plot of land between Cot Green and Bishopshayne and the fact that there is a strip of land that runs down the hedge which many years ago was used as a track and therefore the Highways department had been involved at the request of Mr Burford and Mr Little so that access could be gained to the plot of land as Mr Burford's utilities run under the piece of land and he is worried that he will not be able to access them. The Parish Council have been involved in this following the original email from Phil Morgan before the last meeting and at the time this was the only information we could go on. More research is needed and to find out the reasons for the gates being locked. The Clerk and Cllr Chubb suggested that if Mr Burford wanted to make a complaint against the Parish Council and particularly the Clerk for the minutes of the last meeting then we could provide a point of contact for his information.
 6. **Planning:**
 - 20/2620/FUL – Mr & Mrs. M. Burrough, Grange Farm, Awliscombe -** Erection of permanent agricultural workers dwelling and associated independent vehicular access. *The council discussed and although there were a couple of comments regarding siting of the new build right in front of the main house and whether there were barns that could be converted. Overall the council supported the application.*
 - 20/2282/FUL – Mr. S. Goldring, Woodcroft Copse, Weston -** Construction of storage shed for tools and equipment, animal feeds and fuels used in connection with woodland and smallholding activities – **Awaiting decision.**
 - 20/2293/FUL – Mr & Mrs M. Summers, Kains Park, Awliscombe -** Proposed extension and conversion of existing outbuilding to form studio/games room. Awaiting decision

7. **Parishioners Questions:** Bernie Little also raised the issue at Cot Green and wanted to know why this is not a Parish Council issue? The Chairman reiterated the fact that this was a matter to be sorted out with the landowners (this is the problem at the moment as this cannot be confirmed and they are of the opinion that this might belong to the Parish Council) but the only thing that might be the parish council responsibility is the strip of land which we have agreed to be downgraded and until the time that this has happened we felt that we didn't need to be involved in a three way dispute between families and neighbours. This problem had taken up a lot of time in this meeting and the issue has not been resolved so to answer the question we need to get a clearer picture of the problem and it was suggested that 1 or 2 councillors and the clerk would do some research. Cllr Key suggested that maybe a socially distanced meeting could be had on site with Phil Morgan and in the mean time it was suggested that Phil should be contacted to put a 'hold' on the downgrading of the 'highway' until ownership of the land is sought. The Clerk to contact him following this meeting.
8. **Highways:** Still issues with re-surfacing between Three Corners and Wolverstone Hill, but it looks like they could be re-surfacing from Buckerell Cross to Three Corners. Cherry Bridge has been damaged. Clerk to check if this has been reported for the weight limit.
9. **To look at and update the Asset register:** The Clerk explained the Asset register. Nothing had changed but The Clerk to check with David Penwarden regarding the Defibrillator. The register would be updated.
10. **To update Council on payments and confirm cheques for this meeting.**
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|--|-----------------|
| Predicted Balance as at 30/09/20 | £7487.01 |
| Actual Balance as at 30/09/20 | £8877.01 |
| (still o/s £1390.00 cheques not presented) | |
| Clerk's wages | £ 275.00 |
| Total cheques cleared | £1419.50 |
| Bank balance: 30/11/20 | £7182.01 |
- Cheques payable at this meeting:**
 No payments for this meeting.
11. **To update Budget and apply for Precept:** The Clerk had already sent a copy of the cash book for last financial year and to date along with the budget. This was discussed and due to the pandemic and not being able to plan anything it was agreed that the budget should be left the same. It was also agreed that because of this and there is a balance in the bank account the Precept should be reduced for the coming year from £5,000.00 to £4,000.00. This was proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr Furnival.
12. **Date of the next meeting:** Monday 25th January 2021.
13. **Any other Business.** The Chairman said that there was plenty of sand and sandbags and grit for the cold weather. Cllr Wright said that he would speak to John Hamblin about the noticeboard outside the Vicarage as it has been leaking water. As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed.

Signed:..... Dated:.....