

AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extra Parish Council Meeting of Akeley Parish Council held VIRTUALLY on Monday 12 October 2020 at 7.30pm

Pursuant to the 1960 Public Bodies Act (amended), the Chairman advises that the participants & proceedings of this meeting may be reported upon (filmed, recorded, photographed, blogged, tweeted or streamed) but verbal reporting may not take place whilst in session. Non-participating attendees not wishing to be subject to such media should indicate this by sitting to one side.

Present: Cllrs John Hockley, Cara George, Gerry Millard, Terry Cavender, Debbie Coxall, Sherri Holland

Clerk: Ruth Millard

Members of the public; J Tibbetts, A Hawker, A Sayer, J Norman, A Glover

Cllr John Hockley chaired the meeting due to Cllr McCall sending her apologies.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (UNDER ADJOURNMENT); for members of the public to bring issues to the Council's attention. Any issues not on the agenda cannot be discussed but will be noted. Issues relating to the agenda will be taken into consideration when the item is discussed in the meeting

Comments were made by those attending, one regarding the website would be discussed when the meeting got to the item on the agenda.

73/20 APOLOGIES; receive from Cllr Caz McCall, members **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies.

74/20 MEMBERS INTERESTS; Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Akeley Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

No items declared.

75/20 APPROVAL OF MINUTES; Members **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes from a general Meeting held virtually on the 14 September 2020, the chairman would sign and return the signed minutes to the Clerk.

76/20 FINANCES;

- a. To receive the financial statement: to 31 August 2020
- b. Members noted the invoices to be paid in October 2020.

Financial Statement to 30 August 2020

Account Balance		
Nationwide Building Society	31 December 2019 including interest of £5.54	£10,218.25
Lloyds....5668	30 September 2020 – Statement	£13653.53
		£23,871.78

October 2020 Online/ DD payments

BALC, Cllr Training for Town & Parish Councils x 2 tickets	LGA 1972, s175	BP 79	83.10
Phillips & Sons Buckingham Ltd, inv.45840	LGA 1972, s137	BP 80	24.42
Aylesbury Mains Ltd, inv.20002	LGA 1972, Sched 14 para 34	BP 81	168.24
A Gibbs, Various recreational Field. Inv.58	LG(miscprov)A 1976, s19	BP 82	148.00

ER Millard - reimbursement for Zoom Standard Pro Ann	LGA 1972, s111	BP 83	143.88
ER Millard, July, Aug, Sept Salary 2020	LGA 1092, s112	BP 84	1068.33
SWALEC, street lighting August account	LGA 1972, Sched 14 para 34	DD	89.60
ER Millard, Reimbursement for Football net £23.98 & Basket ball nets £7.99 & Ducks Back Shed & Fence Treatment - £28	LG(misc prov)A 1976, s19 Small Holdings Allotments Act 1906 ss23, 26,& 42	BP 85	59.97
Scrubs up Nicely, invoice SUNINV 13137	LG(miscprov)A 1976, s19	BP 86	300.00

77/20 ENVIRONMENT;

a. Recreational Field;

- i. Exercise equipment; DC reported that she had received 8 favourable comments regarding the Parish Council providing outdoor exercise equipment on the recreational field. Members **RESOLVED** to put this item in abeyance until more residents can be shown to be interested.
- ii. The condition of the Shed; The Clerk reported that A Gibbs had repainted the Shed and she had received his invoice. JH motioned a thank you to him and the members agreed.
- iii. The wildflower meadow; SH reported that the meadow had been cut. JH noted that next year the Parish Council would note the advice from the contractor regarding the correct time for the last cut, in conjunction with other advice it received.
- iv. Football net, update. GM reported that there weren't any pegs in the ground to attached the net to. The Clerk would put in an order to purchase the correct amount and the net would be hung. **Action:** JH said that he would advise the grass contractor not to cut close to the edge of the net, when he cut the field.

b. Play park;

- i. Playground re-opening; SH confirmed that the park re-opened on Saturday. There are still items from the annual inspection which need to be addressed.
 - The rounding off of the bottom edge to the side of the steps to the slide, has a temporary solution which the Cllrs who opened the park, will monitor. The members discussed who in the village could be approached to rectify the area. TC proposed a £200 budget to bring the steps in line with the Rospa report. Members agreed and **RESOLVED** that SH would arrange a meeting at the play equipment, between a carpenter, the Clerk and herself, to discuss what was needed.
 - Wording for the replacement playground signs for the gates was confirmed. **Action;** the Clerk will get a quote for the signs and circulate to the members.
 - The trip hazard through the gate has been rectified.
 - SH proposed that the flooring under the flat swings should be replaced. Members discussed the proposal including obtaining a grant for the replacement. Members **RESOLVED** to monitor the situation, and replace the soil that had been washed out when the area had been recently cleaned.

TC asked for a list of the volunteers involved in rectifying the park area, to be forwarded to the Clerk to put with the Insurance documents.

c. Scout Field; no reports or updates, this item to be left on the agenda.

d. Grass Cutting; no reports or issues, members were pleased with all the work that has been completed.

e. Roads and traffic; To discuss;

- i. A resident's concern regarding the speeding out from the village along the A413 and also along Leckhampstead Road. TC reported that he had attended the subcommittee of the Community Boards, that dealt with roads and traffic. He had raised this issue; it was reported to the meeting, by the Police Crime Commissioner, that speeding on rural roads is not a priority at this time. JH said that if members thought that residents would like to participate in the Speed Watch Sentinel program the Parish Council could investigate the latest information for setting it up. 1 resident said to the Chairman that he would be willing

to volunteer his time for training with the sentinel equipment. **Action;** Members agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the officer in Winslow to ascertain what was needed to restart a sentinel program in the village.

- ii. The resident also had concerns about the amount of litter in the verges going out of the village. TC suggested that if anyone sees someone throwing litter out of a passing car, the licence plate should be noted and reported to the police.
 - iii. Hedge bordering Leckhampstead Road; has been cut.
 - iv. TC wanted to draw the members attention to the amount of drains and road gullies in Akeley that needed to be cleared and needed reporting on 'fixmystreet'. JH agreed and said that out of the 81 road gullies in Akeley, 1 has been tagged by TFB as needing to be cleared. 7 others are currently full of water or soil. **Action;** JEH said he will contact 'fixmystreet' and report them.
 - v. TC said that at the Community Board meeting that he had attended there had been mention of extending the cycleway from Buckingham through Maids Moreton to Akeley. He said that he would support such action and the Members agreed with him.
- f. Allotments;**
- i. CG reported that out of the 3 applicants for an allotment 2 of them had withdrawn due to their circumstances changing. The applicant remaining was involved with the Innovations Group, a charity that helped children. TC proposed that they should be allowed an allotment free of charge for the rest of this year and 2021. **Action;** Members agreed and **RESOLVED** that CG could contact the applicant to tell them of the Parish Council's decision.
 - ii. The Allotments shed; members discussed the Risk Assessment which CG had circulated for volunteer work painting & re-felting the Allotment shed. She had noted the Clerk's request that all rubbish, the old felt etc, should be removed from site. TC adding the wearing of gloves when handling the felt. CG would amend the Risk Assessment and circulate to the members and give the volunteer a copy. The members **RESOLVED** that the volunteer could proceed with the work.
- g. Street lighting;**
- Akeley Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree to apply to DCLG for borrowing approval of the Salix loan of £4760 to replace the street lighting.
- The Clerk reported that she had received guidance from BALC to complete the report; which would be sent with the Council's resolution for borrowing approval for a loan to replace the street lights in the village to LED.
- The Budget for 21/22 showing street light savings & loan repayments she would circulate to members when she had completed it.
- h. Bus shelter repair; no update. Action;** JH would speak to A Gibbs to ascertain what was needed to repair the bus shelter.
- i. Dog Bin, SH** proposed the provision of a dog bin in the Manor Road area. SH said that she had posted on facebook asking residents if there was a need for one and had positive replies. A resident attending the meeting offered to survey the residents in the area to ascertain a suitable area where a dog bin could be situated.
- j. Broadband;** residents query regarding an update on the provision of super-fast Broadband in Manor Road. TC explained that he was waiting for a list of the residents in both the blocks of flats, who didn't mind their details being shared. He needed their name, land line phone number, address and consent before he could proceed with acquiring the vouchers for each of them to enable the grant procedure for the Broadband to take place.

78/20 ADMINISTRATION;

- a. Parish Council email addresses for Councillors; DC had offered to organise council email addresses for the Cllrs. TC explained that on the web domain, one must access the C panel to add web emails. **Action:** DC to investigate and report back to the members at the next meeting.

- b. Community Emergency Planning; CG reported that last year she had constructed an article to go in the Akeley News, she will circulate the article for members comments and if agreed it could go in the December addition of the Akeley News.
- c. Website; in answer to the resident's concerns in the open forum that the website was not working as the sub folders could not be accessed, the Clerk explained that she had been requested on site to upgrade the theme program and when she had finished working on the site, she found that the sub folders could not be accessed. She had accessed the help pages and forum and found that it did seem to be a problem with quite a few administrators, but had not had the time or the knowledge to correct the situation. She could bring all the Council pages to the foreground.

Members discussed the merits of purchasing a new website. TC said that his strong recommendation would be not to throwaway the Zen hosting or the .gov domain name. DC said that there are issues with the website not being WCAG 2.1 accessibility compliant. It had become law that all Local Authority websites should be compliant or a the very least have an accessibility statement on the website explaining what the Parish Council is doing to improve the situation. In requesting information about this process, she had been sent 2 quotes based on changing the hosting service and having a new website built. GM proposed asking Cloudy IT a local company in Buckingham for advice. Members agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contacts Cloudy IT for advice and a 3rd quote similar to the 2 already received.

- d. Communication with residents and within the parish council. Time frame for response to emails and requests for information. Addition of automatic reply to parish clerk emails to inform working hours and likely time for response. SH had requested this item on the agenda. GM explained that he had researched how to proceed with an automatic response, an automatic reply would have to be arranged to sit on Horde (the web mail), otherwise the Clerk's computer would need to be on 24/7. A Councillor asked if it was possible to add a signature to the Clerk's emails stating when a reply could be expected from the Clerk, she felt that within a week was acceptable.

79/20 CORRESPONDENCE; To note and discuss;

Resident's email regarding finding a permanent position for the 'Rock Snake'. SH reported that the rock snake had found a home at the Bull & Butcher.

Members noted the email from Buckinghamshire Council Cllr Warren Whyte - Call in process for Members and Parish Council.

80/20 PLANNING;

a. 20/02433/APP / Land adjacent to Leckhampstead Road Akeley Buckinghamshire / Erection of five detached dwellings, and associated garaging, parking and amenity space, served off two new private drives, a replacement access for existing stabling/paddocks and the widening of Leckhampstead road to also incorporate a new footpath (revised re-submission of 18/03471/APP – **Awaiting Decision**

b. 20/02764/APP / Pottery Farm Chapel Lane Akeley Buckinghamshire MK18 5HU / Existing agricultural building will be demolished. On the same site a new agricultural building will be constructed to be used for general purpose agricultural storage – **Awaiting Decision**

c.

81/20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING; 9 November 2020 at 7.30pm - Date to be confirmed

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's signature & date.....