

## **Minutes of the MS Teams Electronic Meeting Held at 6pm on Thursday 20th July 2020**

*All meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise*

*Nigel Ashton, our Ward Cllr attends when possible; Colin Medus, our NSC Liaison Officer, attends every other month*

*There is a vacancy for another Councillor - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved*

**Present:** Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr Nigel Ashton, Colin Medus (NSC) Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 0

**044/20 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Nigel Wilyman

**045/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**046/20 LAST MEETING MINUTES** (May 21st) were agreed, and **will be signed electronically by the Chair.**

**047/20 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE:** none

**048/20 PLANNING -** *GDPR does not permit full details to be shown, visit the NSC website for details that are available*

**New: 20/P/1464/TRCA:** Tree Fell - 2 Manor Cottages. **No objections.**

**No Prior Approval Needed: 20/P/0966/HHPA:** Rivendell replacement conservatory. **20/P/0986/LDP:** 1 Brighton Cottages; outbuilding alterations.

**Enforcement:** 1 case resolved, a new one currently before NSC. Members discussed this new case which arose out of complaints made. There may be some mitigating issues and the possibility of a temporary permission. **Cllr Ashton undertook to investigate.**

**049/20 PARISH MATTERS**

**Shoot:** Beaters enter properties to pick up birds. Estate has a right to do so on tenancies and on property it has sold (?). Cllr Cannell has trawled through his deeds and found nothing that refers to this issue, either on transfer to his family, or during the very long period of Estate ownership. It may well have become settled practice over many years, as so much of rural practice has in our nation's estate-base rural history. Members felt such an issue would need to be resolved between property owners/tenant and the shoot, rather than via the Council.

**Golf Club Pond:** Awaiting a response re flood-security lower down Walton Brook. **Clerk to chase.**

**Cliff Path:** Cllr Dickinson pointed to an NSC post saying that the previously minuted expectation of national funding for the SW Coast Path improvements to our section of the Cliff Path is now in place. Colin Medus confirmed that this was moving towards reality, as such hurdles as routes around the dock areas are resolved. The National Coastal Path is a vision that embraces the enthusiasms of both walkers and cyclists. The issue of accommodating the expectations of both groups will involve diversions for cyclists over sections that are too narrow to accommodate both. On this basis, it is anticipated (but not promised) that the Portishead to Clevedon section of the proposed route is likely to be pedestrian only. **Clerk to liaise with the interested resident who brought the issue of cliff path/cyclists/highway issues to the fore.**

**7.5 Ton Highway Limits:** Colin Medus explained that procedural processes have started, indicating that a 7.5 Ton weight restriction should be in place by the end of 2020. Various incidents of late have exposed the problem of 'appropriate' traffic use along Walton Street/the Coast Road. Cllr Ralston has lodged, in the Council's Incident Log, incidents relating to huge lorries getting stuck whilst trying to negotiate this narrow and twisting country lane.

**M5 Issues:** Today, due to particularly sad circumstances on the M5 motorway, an unplanned closure of a section of the motorway had to be put in place, resulting in gridlock for the entirety of non-motorway highways between Gordano and Weston-Super Mare - a narrow system of roads confined by the Bristol Channel on one side, and ranges of hills on the other side. This all too common unplanned motorway shutdown does not benefit from the formally designated diversion notices associated with a planned closure. An unplanned motorway closure = Emergency... Divert off at next exit... Sat Nav... Chaos. Locals, people engaging peaceably in their normal lives, have become all too used to this, but find it hard to be stoical about it. Colin Medus reported that, whilst a system of switchable motorway signs could be developed by Highways England, their cost of installation and upkeep, and the necessary protocols to be established between themselves and other agencies such as the police, to ensure that they were effective at all locations where they might be deemed as appropriate, prevents the system being progressed as a viable option.

**Walton Common:** The Common has a single right-of-way across it and many changing 'unofficial' walking paths. Issues in this area are a matter of long historical record within the parish, that were presumed to have been resolved some years ago. As this is private land, the matter is with the landowners, their lessees and estate managers for whatever further clarification may be needed.

*Colin Medus left the meeting*

#### 050/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**Cllr Dickinson:** During lock down, painting, and work on the Village Hall floor have been done. Meetings are being held during August to see how and when it will be appropriate to re-open the Hall.

**Cllr Ralston:** i) The WhatsApp group report that litter picking forays have been conducted in various parts of the parish recently, and anti litter posters erected in the hope some deterrent effect. After years of HSE inspired restrictions as to who can do what, local initiative in these grey areas of community activity can only be commended. ii) On the path beside Springhead leading the the public footpath steps, Walton Brook is culverted: some of the culvert work has collapsed. *Mike will supply a photo to the Clerk, who will alert NSC/The Miles Estate about the need for repairs.*

#### 051/20 FINANCE

**2020-21 Accounts:** these were reviewed and noted.

**Cheques:** 793... no cheques due for signature

#### 052/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As usual, there will be no meeting in August.

The next meeting will be on Monday September 14th. It will either be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, or, if regulations continue to require it, via Microsoft Teams, probably at 6pm. Details will be posted on the Parish Council website at [www.waltoningordanopc.org.uk](http://www.waltoningordanopc.org.uk)

**The meeting closed at 7pm**