

HUCCLECOTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM

Present Councillor Pugh (In the Chair)
 Councillor Stevens
 Councillor Bentley
 Councillor Mrs Bentley
 Councillor Mrs Blackwell
 Councillor Mrs Heyden
 Councillor Edge
 Councillor Rammohan

In attendance Councillor Robert Vines (County)

Before the meeting started a short presentation was given by Emma Croft, Social Prescriber for Hucclecote and Churchdown surgeries. Emma explained her role and how she engages with various local community groups to gain support for patients. Thanks were expressed to volunteers who have signed up to marshal at the vaccine clinics in Churchdown, a good response was received. Members thanked Emma for her work in supporting residents at this difficult time and they offered to help where possible.

21/001 ACCEPTED APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

21/002 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY AND THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman wished everyone a very happy New Year. Condolences were expressed to the family of Mrs Anne Wyker-Dyson who sadly passed away shortly before Christmas; she served on the parish council for 30 years and was Chairman 1977-78.

21/003 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

There were no questions raised.

21/004 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th December 2020 were approved and will be signed by the Chairman retrospectively at the next face to face meeting.

21/005 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillors met with representatives of Ecclesiastical Insurance at their new premises on the Gloucester Business Park, where they hope to move in by February 2021; they are committed to helping out with volunteer projects and members are hopeful they will support the cost of new benches along the Wotton Brook as they will be available for staff and residents. ACTION: T/S will discuss with Ecclesiastical and provide details of suitable benches.

21/006 BOROUGH / COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Robert Vines – Council business continues to be conducted via zoom meetings. The Council will set its budget next month and there is a good chance it will increase. Councillor Vines will stay for agenda item 9 (d) to seek clarity on the proposal for a new doctor’s surgery at the Whittle Square.

Councillor Mrs Blackwell – Borough staff continue to work from home and meetings held via zoom. The borough finances are very tight and members are involved heavily with setting the budget. The waste collection service is working well and new stickers will be delivered shortly, residents will be encouraged to receive their council tax bills by electronic methods rather than paper.

21/007 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Blackwell declared that as a member of the Tewkesbury Borough Council planning committee she would not participate in any discussions relating to planning matters.

21/008 COVID 19

Members and volunteers continue to support residents throughout the lockdown; some requests for support had come through from the local surgery.

A request was received from the North & South Gloucestershire Primary Care Network for volunteers to come forward and help marshal at the vaccine clinics in Churchdown.

21/009 PLANNING

a) New Applications

No new applications received.

b) Decisions

- i. 20/00932/APP – Plot 1420, Gloucester Business Park. Construction of 92 additional surface level car parking spaces to the rear of Javelin House. Approved
- ii. 20/01047/FUL – 115 Sussex Gardens. Demolition of garage and erection of side extension and dormer windows. Permitted
- iii. 20/00654/FUL – 8 Cottonwood Grove. Erection of a conservatory. Permitted

c) Enforcement report

No updates were received from the enforcement officer.

d) New doctors surgery

Members were extremely disappointed and frustrated that the proposal to build a new super surgery for Hucclecote and Brockworth at the Whittle Square had been withdrawn by the developer. The financial issues between the county council and borough council with regards to S106 and CIL contributions had contributed to the developer’s decision.

Unfortunately, although pre-app planning advice had been sought by the surgeries it appears nothing had been agreed on paper and a surgery was not included in the full planning application for the site (18/01239/FUL), which received approval in December.

Possible other local sites have been identified and these will be looked at by the surgery, any alternative site for a super-surgery will need to be accessible for residents of Coopers Edge, Brockworth and Hucclecote.

The county councillor and borough councillor were strongly urged to take the lead and meet with the head of planning at Tewkesbury Borough Council as soon as possible to explore if it was still possible to creatively 'enable' a plot for the surgeries on the Edenstone site – as this is by far the best option/location.

Councillor Stevens was thanked for his work.

21/010 PINEHOLT VILLAGE HALL

a) Clerk's report

All bookings at the village hall have been cancelled during lockdown.

Allcoopers undertook the annual inspection of the fire and intruder alarm systems and the internal emergency lights; some faults were found with the lighting and a quote for their repair or replacement will follow. The faulty CCTV camera was replaced and the system is now in good working order.

Further subsidence along the banks of the Wotton Brook had been reported to the borough council, they have inspected the areas and plan to re grade the bank when it gets drier; the flood risk remains low.

b) Kitchen refurbishment

Following a short discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept quotations from Howdens (Tewkesbury) to supply the kitchen and from PJE Carpentry for the installation.

ACTION: A/P, B/B, Clerk

21/011 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) Outstanding issues

New finger signs will be erected shortly on Lobleys Drive directing people to the village hall and council offices.

The Chairman attended a recent meeting with Highways England (HE) regarding the M5 noise issue. He briefed members on the matters discussed including funding of improved sound barriers, and the tranquillity statement which should be observed in the Upton St Leonards areas adjacent to the M5 which are in the Cotswold AONB.

HE was challenged because on the heat maps produced by DEFRA in their 2017 report which indicated Hucclecote and Upton as high noise areas, that status had now been withdrawn.

Members agreed that the local MP, Mr Laurence Robertson, should be contacted and reminded of the issues affecting local residents. ACTION: A/P

Councillor Mrs Bentley raised concern about the height of railings on Lobleys Drive M5 bridge, the Chairman confirmed they are of standard height but he would mention it again at the next meeting with Highways England.

21/012 PLAY AREA

a) Inspection report

The quarterly inspection had been undertaken and minor matters noted. The Clerk will obtain quotes for replacing some of rotten perimeter fence posts. ACTION: Clerk

21/013 FINANCE

a) Accounts for Payment

| | Chq | Net | VAT | Gross |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| i. Greenfields Garden Services – Play area repairs | | 765.00 | 153.00 | 918.00 |
| ii. Netwise – Domain name charges | | 66.67 | 13.33 | 80.00 |
| iii. PHS Compliance – PAT testing | | 94.00 | 18.80 | 112.80 |
| iv. Intocleaning – Hall Cleaning (Dec) | | 98.62 | 19.72 | 118.34 |
| v. Payestaff – Payroll fees | | 79.29 | 15.86 | 95.15 |
| vi. KB Handyman – Decorating costs | | 734.00 | 0.00 | 734.00 |
| vii. Zoom – Monthly charge | | 11.99 | 2.40 | 14.39 |
| viii. Supanet – Broadband | DD | 11.66 | 2.33 | 13.99 |
| ix. British Gas – Service contract | DD | 26.58 | 5.31 | 32.08 |
| x. SWALEC – Gas supply | DD | 63.25 | 4.75 | 68.00 |
| xi. SWALEC – Electricity supply | DD | 71.05 | 16.95 | 88.00 |

Payment of the accounts was proposed by Councillor Pugh and seconded by Councillor Mrs Blackwell.

The Clerk advised that the SWALEC gas account was in credit and she would therefore request a refund; the electric account was on track.

b) Budget 2021/22

Members had before them a budget report for 2021/22, prepared by the Clerk. The budget included money towards outdoor fitness equipment, repairs at the village hall and future green initiatives. Members were mindful of the difficult financial times some residents are facing at the moment and were keen to minimise any increase.

It was proposed by Councillor Edge, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bentley to accept the proposed budget for 2021/22; all members voted in favour. The budget will be published on the website and monitored throughout the year.

c) Precept 2021/22

Members noted that for 2021/22 the tax base rate for a Band D property had been reduced due to more residents claiming council tax benefits.

Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and resolved to request a precept of £56852, an increase of £302; all members voted in favour of the proposal. Overall a Band D property will see an 82p increase on their 2021/22 council tax demands.

21/014 MISC

a) Website upgrade

Details were received from Netwise UK, and following discussion it was agreed to request further information regarding the migration of current documents and galleries.