

**HUCCLECOTE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021  
VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM**

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

**In attendance** Councillor Robert Vines (County)

**21/015 ACCEPTED APOLOGIES**

- i. Councillor Mrs Blackwell
- ii. Councillor Paul Smith (Borough)

**21/016 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY AND THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for continuing to work hard throughout the current lockdown period; thanks were also expressed to Council staff.

**21/017 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR STEVE MORGAN**

The vacancy was noted and has been duly advertised.

**20/018 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

There were no questions raised.

**21/019 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved and will be signed by the Chairman retrospectively at the next face to face meeting.

**21/020 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**21/021 BOROUGH / COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor Robert Vines – The County Council will meet on 17<sup>th</sup> February to set the 2021/2022 budget that totals just over £480m, and is based on an overall increase of 4.75% on Council Tax (this includes 1.99% Council Tax increase plus a 2.76% Adult Social Care Levy). The proposed budget will result in a Band D home Council Tax increase of £63.90 per annum. Members questioned Councillor Vines on the main issues of the council, he explained that some initiatives such as improved broadband have been deferred for the time being but not forgotten – the full county council budget/strategy report will be sent to members. ACTION CLERK

Councillor Mrs Blackwell – A written report was noted, the budget requirement will be going to full Council at Tewkesbury Borough on the 23rd February. If approved, it will result in an increase of £5 per each Band D Property.

**21/022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**21/023 COVID 19**

Nothing to report at the moment, members continue to support the community and await road map guidance from Government.

**21/024 PLANNING**

**a) New Applications**

- i. 21/00090/FUL – 15 West End Lane. Erection of a single storey front extension and internal alterations to convert garage. Plans were circulated to members before the meeting. Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and resolved not to object to the application.
- ii. 21/00148/TPO – 9 James Way, T/TR/233 and TPO 275 (T37). Lift crown to approximately 7.5 m above ground level. Thin lower crown by removing duplicate of crossing branches. Remove Mistletoe from lower crown. Remove epicormics growth to 7.5m. Sever and strip ivy. Plans were circulated to members before the meeting. Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and resolved not to object to the application.

**b) Decisions**

There were no decisions received.

**c) Enforcement report**

An update report was received from the enforcement officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council; members were not satisfied with the progress and the delay in enforcement action. Following discussion members agreed a letter should be sent to the chief executive of the borough council expressing concern and frustration and requesting immediate action on both cases within the parish. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to take this action and, if necessary, escalate to The Secretary of State.

**d) New doctor's surgery for Hucclecote and Brockworth**

Following the withdrawal of the Whittle Square site, the two local surgeries that were proposing to form a joint super surgery have now made the decision to look for new sites separately. A number of alternative sites for Hucclecote have been identified and the surgery will look at them and identify the ones that best suit their requirements. Depending on the location of a site, it will require support from either Gloucester City Council or Tewkesbury Borough Council and some creative planning to help facilitate a new surgery.

Members discussed how they could further support the surgery, by facilitating a petition or local demonstration. A campaign action plan will be drawn up for approval at the next meeting.

ACTION T/S, S/R

**21/025 PINEHOLT VILLAGE HALL**

**a) Clerk's report**

The HSE undertook a spot check to ensure employer COVID rules and regulations are being followed with regards to employee safety. They were satisfied with their findings and no further action was required.

At the March meeting council policies will be reviewed and updated. From 7<sup>th</sup> May the council will resume face to face meetings unless the legislation to allow virtual meetings is extended by Government.

A quotation was received to install a hearing loop system in the hall; it was agreed to revisit this later in the year when the hall is in full use again.

**b) Emergency lighting repairs**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept the quotation from Securitas to repair faulty emergency lights in the village hall.

**c) Kitchen refurbishment**

The Clerk gave an update on the kitchen refurbishment; work is due to start early March.

**21/026 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

**a) Outstanding issues**

Prior to the adoption of roads on Coopers Edge, remedial works have commenced to finish off roads and footpaths.

Following a letter to the local MP, Mr Laurence Robertson, reminding him of the M5 noise issues he has agreed to contact the Stroud MP, Siobhan Baille and to work together to pressure Highways England for some further action.

The Clerk updated members on the Traffic Regulation Orders for Cranham Gate and Coopers Edge, a new Manager at Gloucestershire Highways has taken over both Orders and will provide updates shortly.

**21/027 PLAY AREA**

**a) Inspection report**

The monthly inspection had been undertaken and minor matters noted.

The rotten fence posts will be replaced by Cllrs Stevens and Bentley, some concerns were raised regarding insurance therefore the Clerk will seek clarification from the council's insurers.

**ACTION CLERK**

**21/028 FINANCE**

**a) Accounts for Payment**

			<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
i.	Securitas Services – CCTV service contract		165.00	33.00	198.00
ii.	Securitas Services – Intruder/fire alarm service contract		236.96	47.39	284.35
iii.	Cotswold Drains – Gulley cleaning		180.00	36.00	216.00
iv.	Friend of Churchdown Hill – Grant 20/21		235.00	0.00	235.00
v.	Glasdon UK Ltd – Refuse bags		38.80	7.76	46.56
vi.	Intocleaning – Cleaning and materials		27.24	5.45	32.69
vii.	Zoom – Monthly charge		11.99	2.40	14.39
viii.	KB Handyman – Plumbing repairs		15.00	0.00	15.00
ix.	Supanet – Broadband	DD	11.66	2.33	13.99
x.	PHS – Village hall hygiene services	DD	62.20	12.44	74.64
xi.	British Gas – Service contract	DD	26.58	5.31	31.89
xii.	BT - Telephones	DD	202.24	40.44	242.68
xiii.	SWALEC – Gas supply	DD	68.00	0.00	66.00
xiv.	SWALEC – Electricity supply	DD	88.00	0.00	88.00
xv.	Water plus – Water supply	DD	63.20	0.00	63.20

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

**b) Financial Risk Assessment review**

The Clerk reviewed and updated the Financial Risk Assessment report and this was presented to Council. Members requested an additional point about COVID and it was then approved.

**c) Appointment of Internal Auditor**

It was agreed that Mr Iain Selkirk F.C.A. be appointed Internal Auditor for the ensuing year. The Clerk reviewed the system of internal audit and was satisfied that Mr Selkirk is acting totally independently and is competent; due to COVID restrictions he will conduct his audit remotely as in 2020.

**21/029 MISC**

**a) GAPTC Newsletter and training courses**

Details were noted.

**b) Website upgrade**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept the upgrade costs from Netwise UK; members will firstly review and update the current site content.

**c) New benches and litter bins**

Ecclesiastical Insurance has agreed to fund the new benches and litter bins along the Wotton Brook, these would be available for staff and residents to enjoy; prices for the supply and installation have been sought. Some concerns have been raised by residents of Arlington Road, therefore it was agreed to fully consult residents when the locations were decided.