

## TICKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00 p.m. by video/telephone conference.

Due to Coronavirus restrictions the Council was unable to meet face-to-face.

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### ACTION

PRESENT: Cllr John Banks in the Chair, Cllrs Andrew Hirst, Ann Loader, Rachel Maby, Mike Perrott, Dan Sewell, Pam Trenchard and Steve Williams.

In attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (ward councillor) and the Clerk.

Note: Cllr Trenchard was unable to take part in discussion due to technical difficulties.

128/20 APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cllrs David Franks and Bruce Ralfs.

129/20 CHARMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman reminded councillors to mute their microphones when not speaking and to raise their hands to indicate wishing to speak.

130/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No councillors declared a personal interest in any agenda item.

131/20 MINUTES of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020, copies of which had been circulated, were approved and would be signed by the chairman retrospectively.

132/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising other than those on the agenda.

133/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had produced and circulated the Open Action Plan as agreed at the last meeting.

134/20 SOURCES OF INCOME AND LEVEL OF RESERVES

Cllr Sewell had provided a paper detailing the options if charging for parking at the village hall were pursued. Cllr Sewell said that charging would need to be managed considerately and would target casual users rather than village hall groups. It would provide income for the Parish Council which could be used for the benefit of the village. There were options for a 'first period free' and for regular users to be given passes.

A question arose as to whether this would change the status of the car park, therefore attracting business rates and/or the need to register for VAT under the particular regulations for parish councils. Cllr Ashton offered to make enquiries.

Cllr Loader reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had been concerned at the proposal, particularly as they believed that they owned and managed both the hall and the car park, albeit that the Parish Council maintained the car park. This was strongly disputed by the Chairman as the hall is held by the Council as Custodian Trustee. It had been agreed some four years ago, when major expenditure was required, that the Council would maintain the car park.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that in order to move this item forward the questions of ownership, management and maintenance needed to be resolved and the concerns of the hall management committee discussed with them. To this end a meeting of representatives of the Council and Management Committee would be arranged within the next month.

NA

Clerk

135/20 HIGHWAYS

(a) Traffic speeds and signage: Cllr Sewell welcomed the new school signage painted on the road. He said that the new Head Teacher was keen to encourage road safety, with all children being encouraged to wear high visibility jackets. The amount of water on the road surface was a continuing problem for children and parents walking to school, both near the school and throughout the village along the B3130. Cllr Ashton agreed to raise this with NSC officers.

NA

(b) B3130 Flooding: The drain cleansing and CCTV inspection had not been completed and was awaiting the further availability of the contractors. The Clerk would continue to monitor.

(c) Incidents: There were no known incidents.

136/20 FOOTPATHS

(a) General matters: Cllr Perrott reported as follows:

Walks booklet: A proposal for consideration was being prepared. The booklet could be a potential money-earner for the Council.

MP

Footpath LA16/1: (Old Lane from Tickenham Hill) Improvements to the stiles to make them more user-friendly had been requested.

Footpath LA16/28: (south of Baye Cottage) The clearance work had now been completed.

Footpath LA16/26: (Cadbury Court Farm) Cllr Perrott would follow up the issues regarding the electric fence and the missing sign.

MP

Bench on path above Barrow Court:

MP

It had been reported that the bench on the hill leading to Cadbury Camp was in need of repair. In addition, Cllr Perrott reported that the vertical support of the bench above Barrow Court was also in need of repair. Cllr Perrott would prepare a proposal regarding these repairs for consideration.

137/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) New Applications: No new applications had been received.

(b) Updates:

20/P/1818/MMA: Bourne Wood, Tickenham Hill: Alterations to garage; access walkway to garage from dwelling. Approved.

(c) Enforcement:

The Enforcement Officer had noticed cars parked at 3 Jacklands Cottages in contravention of the planning decision and would report the offence to her manager.

(d) Government White Paper: Planning for the Future: Cllr Banks had circulated a schedule of the twenty-six questions posed in the consultation document, together with possible responses. The document was approved as the Council's response to the consultation.

JB/Clerk

138/20 SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW

Cllr Banks reminded Council of the importance of this review and suggested that further consideration would be prudent. Councillors were asked to submit their comments/suggestions for further consideration within the next week.

139/20 FINANCES

(a) Payments

Clerk

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary (September)	£283.47
Clerk's expenses (September)	£8.30
HMRC (September)	£70.80

NSC (dog bin)	£14.40
Ian Trenchard (car park tidying)	£110.00
David Ellison (reimbursement re Nesbit dupl. invoice)	£143.95

(b) National Salary Award for Clerks

Following email consultation by the chairman, councillors had agreed that the Clerk's salary be increased by 0.75% to bring it into line with the JNC national pay award which was back-dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

Clerk

140/20 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Following attendance at the North Somerset Council Climate Emergency seminar, Cllr Banks had circulated a draft response to NSC's questionnaire, which he hoped would form the basis of the Parish Council's Climate and Nature Policy. It was agreed that the response be approved as the basis of the Council's policy.

141/20 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Sewell had attended a webinar on Effective Communications which promoted various methods of communicating with village communities, the most effective of which was deemed to be parish websites. Discussion took place around the methods that the Council used now and the effectiveness of the existing website, which was part of the Tickenham Village site. Cllr Sewell had obtained three quotations for setting up a new website - £950; £850 and £200. After discussion it was agreed that councillors would consider the possibility of a new website and ideas would be reviewed at the next meeting.

All

142/20 VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Cllr Trenchard had circulated a report on the Hall Management Committee meeting. The Committee was concerned that the Parish Council was considering charging for car parking, especially as they considered that the car park was managed by the Hall Committee but maintained by the Council. Min. 134/20 above also refers. Arising from the report, the Council agreed to contribute £50 towards the cost of the Christmas Tree in the front car park.

Clerk

143/20 VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

The Clerk was awaiting a quotation for weedkilling around the perimeter of the car park, which had already been authorised at a cost not expected to exceed £100.

144/20 VILLAGE FIELD REPORT

Cllr Banks reported that Avril's Fencing had very generously donated the sleepers which would form the surround to the boules pitches. The new oak tree would be planted on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December with 40 school children present and four adults. Much would depend on Covid restrictions at the time. The existing ash tree would remain in situ for as long as possible. "Wilding" the bank to the sports area was being considered.

145/20 NOTICE BOARDS

Cllr Hirst asked about use of the village notice boards and whether they could be used to better effect to communicate with residents. It was agreed that more use could be made of the boards and that as and when appropriate Parish Council information would be posted on the boards.

Clerk

146/20 DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

2020: Second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.00 p.m.  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup>