

TICKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7.00 p.m. by video/telephone conference.

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

ACTION

PRESENT: Cllr John Banks in the Chair, Cllrs David Franks, 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 Bruce Ralfs was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties.

147/20 APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Hirst.

148/20 CHARMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman had previously circulated information regarding the North Somerset Together scheme and the Parish Council's own volunteer scheme which continued to offer assistance to vulnerable residents during the coronavirus lockdown. Noted.

Tickenham Church was holding a Christmas Tree Festival for village groups and business. It was decided that the Parish Council would not take part.

It was agreed that item no. 15 on the agenda (Website and Communications) should be moved up the agenda and discussed after item 7.

149/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No councillors declared a personal interest in any agenda item.

150/20 MINUTES of the meeting held on 8th October 2020, copies of which had been circulated, were approved and would be signed by the chairman retrospectively.

151/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

152/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report, which had been previously circulated, was noted. It was agreed that Council elections in 2021 should be widely publicised to encourage new councillors.

153/20 SOURCES OF INCOME AND LEVEL OF RESERVES

Following the amicable meeting with Village Hall Management Committee representatives, Cllr Sewell had provided a paper detailing the costs and procedures if charging for parking at the village hall were pursued. It had been agreed that such a paper would be shared with the VHMC and the Village Field Committee. Cllr Sewell said that there seemed to be much feeling in the village about the proposal but he was sad to note that there seemed to be little interest in traffic issues and the dangers of walking to school. There had been no other suggestions about how Council income might be increased for the benefit of the village. Cllr Franks believed it was important to obtain the views of all the VHMC members as they represented the groups and organisations that used the village hall.

After discussion, during which views were expressed for and against the proposal, it was agreed that the paper as presented be forwarded to the Village Hall Management Committee and the Village Field Committee for their comments. This would enable the discussion to move forward and a final decision to be made.

Clerk

In answer to a question, Cllr Ashton said that his officers had advised that it was unlikely that charging for car parking would attract business rates. The Clerk said that she had researched the question of VAT registration but the HMRC Guidance Note was contradictory: a response direct from HMRC was awaited.

154/20 WEBSITE

The Chairman proposed and it was unanimously agreed that a new website be set up and that the quotation in the sum of £200 obtained by Cllr Sewell (being the lowest of three quotations) be accepted.

The Chairman had circulated a draft website policy: with an amendment to point 3.3 regarding confidential information, the policy was approved. It was agreed that the Clerk would have management access to the website and that Cllr Sewell would be the Webmaster. Cllrs Banks and Sewell would discuss further details and report to the next meeting.

JB/DS

155/20 HIGHWAYS

(a) B3130 drainage: The Clerk reported that NSC had responded that the drainage problem was extensive and surveys would be completed this year to allow design work to commence with a view to including remedial works in a future funding programme. All competing works would need to be considered and it was not certain that the Clevedon Road would be included in the 2021/22 programme.

Cllr Trenchard spoke strongly about the extremely poor state of the road surface, most likely caused by the many HGVs using the road, and the unacceptable noise levels due to rumbling over the broken surface. Due to coronavirus restrictions it had not been possible to activate SpeedWatch. Cllr Trenchard was asked to send photographs of the broken road surface to the Clerk for submission to North Somerset Council with a suitably strong letter requesting urgent attention.

PT/Clerk

(b) 20mph Limit: The Clerk had been advised that the new 20mph policy was not yet finalised but should be ready in the next couple of months.

(c) 131 Clevedon Road: A new hard paved drive had been laid at this property with no apparent drainage. The Clerk would report to NSC.

Clerk

(d) Wide Grass Verge: Following a complaint from a resident, the Clerk had reported to NSC the numerous vehicles parked on the verge, damaging the surface and edges and depositing mud on the inner pavement. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of 131 and 135 Clevedon Road where building works were being carried out.

Clerk

(e) Incidents: There were no known accidents but the following were reported: An articulated lorry had been seen overtaking a cyclist on a blind bend. Towans lorries were reported to be travelling at speed through the recommended 20mph section near the school. Cllr Sewell would take photographs of the lorries and forward to the Clerk to accompany a strong letter of complaint to the company.

DS/Clerk

156/20 FOOTPATHS

(a) Maintenance:

Cllr Perrott reported as follows:

LA16/1: (Old Lane to Tickenham Hill): The landowner had indicated that he did not want the gates changed or any improvements to the stiles to make them more accessible. It appeared that nothing more could be done.

LA16/26: (Cadbury Court Farm): A visit would be made shortly to check on signage and the electric fence.

MP

Footpath between Old Lane and the golf course: Although this was not a formal right of way, footpath signs had appeared at the access. It was agreed that no action should be taken.

(b) Footpath map: Cllr Perrott had received an excellent footpath map from NSC: this would be placed on the Council website.

MP

Tickenham walks booklet: This would be removed from the agenda until there was further information to report.

Clerk

Benches on path above Barrow Court: Cllr Perrot had circulated a full report. It was agreed that the seats would be treated in the spring and consideration would be given to including a sum for replacements in the 2021/22 budget.

Clerk

157/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) New Applications:

Clerk

20/P/2610/HHPA: Bali Hi, Tickenham Hill: Single storey rear extension. No objections were raised. It was noted that the plans were incorrect as they showed an existing extension rather than a proposed extension.

20/P/2538/HED: Field opposite The Star Inn: Removal of 10m hedgerow. A new hedge would be planted following completion of works. No objections were raised.

(b) Golden Acres former nursery: The response already submitted was noted.

(c) Up-dates: The Clerk reported that the following had been approved:

20/P/1786/FUL: 141 Clevedon Road: Extensions;

20/P/1113/FUL: Diamond Cottage: extensions;

20/P/1885.TPO: Chummock Wood: work to oak tree.

(d) Enforcement: The illegal parking at 3 Jacklands Cottages was being monitored.

158/20 SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW

Cllr Banks had circulated the plans for final comments. Further correspondence had been sent to some of the consultees who had outstanding queries/points about the Settlement Boundary. Minor amendments suggested by councillors would be made and it was agreed that the proposals be forward to NSC for consideration.

159/20 NORTH SOMERSET LOCAL PLAN 2038: SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

Cllr Banks had circulated a draft response. Cllr Franks said that he would like to defer a final decision until the next meeting when more might be known about the relationship between NSC and the West of England Combined Authorities. Cllr Ashton said that although NSC was not officially part of WECA there was co-operation in many areas between all four authorities. However, negotiations for NSC to join WECA had stalled following an objection from the mayor of Bristol. Even if NSC did join, Government funding was not guaranteed. Councillor Banks pointed out that the consultation under this item was being run by North Somerset Council and that the West of England Combined Authorities was not party to the consultation.

It was agreed that further discussion be deferred to the next meeting.

160/20 FINANCES

(a) Payments

Clerk

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary (October)	£299.07
Clerk's expenses (October)	£8.30
HMRC (October)	£74.80
NSC (dog bin)	£14.40
Ian Trenchard (car park tidying)	£100.00
Tickenham Village Hall (Christmas tree)	£50.00

(b) Banking

It was resolved that the following be appointed as signatories to the Council's accounts nos. 02807815 (Current Account) and 00336866 (Business Reserve Account): Cllrs John Banks, Mike Perrott, David Franks and Bruce Ralfs.

The Clerk and Cllr Banks would have access to the online account.

Discussion ensued as to whether all councillors should be able to view the bank statements. It was agreed that this could be considered in the future if deemed necessary.

Clerk

161/20 CLIMATE AND NATURE POLICY

It was agreed that Cllrs Banks and Sewell would consider how the policy might be implemented and prepare a paper for consideration.

JB/DS

162/20 VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Cllr Trenchard said that the Committee had not met since the joint meeting of representatives but the next meeting would be held on 16th December.

163/20 VILLAGE FIELD REPORT

Cllr Banks reported that the edging to the boules courts had been completed and a picnic table and seat had been provided on the lower field. The new oak tree would be planted on 4th December 2020 and, subject to coronavirus restrictions at the time, all were welcome to attend.

164/20 DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

2020: 10th December commencing at 7.00 p.m.

2021: Second Thursday of each month commencing at 7.00 p.m.