



Minutes of the Virtual 'Meeting' 7th September 2020, 7.30 pm

This meeting was held by consultation over a conference call with the councillors. The government legislation to reduce the spread of Covid 19 does not allow a normal meeting to take place. Security concerns had been raised over the use of some visual conferencing applications.

Present via phone:

Cllr Wilson
Cllr Bunker
Cllr Hawkins
Cllr Goss
Cllr Wells

Clerk - Viv Hartley

2 members of the public was present – Ann North, Secretary to the Progress Group, and Cllr Clarke, SNC. The public had been given the opportunity to access the call from instructions on the agenda.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS:

In the last item on the agenda of meeting residents were invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the Chairman of the meeting and may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllrs Field, Gardner.**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – To receive declarations made under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. (Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a pecuniary interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business).
None was declared.**

3. **RESOLUTION TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS DATED 3rd August 2020.**
 These had been circulated, were amended, and signed as a correct record. **Clerk** to post on website.
4. **CLERK'S REPORT**
 - water costs going up from £54.50 to £65.00 per month
 - Employment of Clerk not on agenda as amended detailed job description still to be circulated to councillors before final document can be produced.(The Clerk had had a telephone meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to discuss). Appraisal policy will also be circulated.
 - Handy man – Councillors to produce a list of names of people who might be willing to undertake the work. Clerk pointed out that Public Liability Insurance must be verified before work for the Council can be carried out.
5. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS –**
 Cllr Clarke had sent a report to the Clerk today which was circulated to the meeting.
Station Road development – consultation concludes on 4.10.20.
Northampton Road development – awaiting to hear from Case Officer.
6. **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FROM TINA CHARTERESS, NCALC**
 The Clerk has circulated information on the types of committee, sub committee or working groups as requested by Council.
 No response yet to the Chairman further to his email to the auditor. Clerk has also left messages.
 A discussion took place which Ann North joined as Secretary of the Progress Group. The Progress Group is to seek advice from Elaine O'Leary from ACRE very soon. Terms of Reference still to be agreed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that PC should collate feedback from the Auditor, Clerk and Councillors regarding any issues and resolution, and send this to Ann North.
7. **REPAIRS TO PLAY AREA – Update on latest position** – the Chairman reported that he has updated the supplier who will get back to him with a date for the work to be carried out. He has chosen green for the colour of the safety matting under the swings.
 A grant application has been submitted to Grand Union Housing Group for £500 which would help to fund the repairs.
8. **RABBITS ON PLAYING FIELD**– email Gary Edwards. Council to resolve whether it wishes to help fund fence to deter them.
 It was agreed that fencing would not solve the problem.

Cllr Hawkins suggested requesting a local resident who might be able to deal with the issue. **Clerk** to put Gary Edwards in touch with the local resident.

9. RAIL FREIGHT TERMINALS –

- **Rail Central** – no update
- **Northampton Gateway** – no further update

9a) CHAPEL LANE – no further update.

10. PLANNING –

Sun, Moon and Stars – Clerk has written to Planning Officer to ask what permission has been granted regarding the change in cladding materials further to the last planning application. No response received.

Planning Register at 30.8.20 –

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Received</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Sta</u>
<u>S/2020/1295/FUL</u>	Threeways 1 Courteenhall Road Blisworth NN7 3DD	Replace rear conservatory with single storey rear extension, internal alterations to existing utility (into new bathroom adjacent to home office). existing kitchen to be new utility- kitchen relocated	05/08/2020	4 - De
<u>S/2020/1296/LBC</u>	Threeways 1 Courteenhall Road Blisworth NN7 3DD	Listed building consent to replace rear conservatory with single storey rear extension, internal alterations to existing utility (into new bathroom adjacent to home office). existing kitchen to be new utility- kitchen relocated	05/08/2020	4 - De

No objections from the Parish Council, **Clerk** to submit comment to SNC by 8.9.20

11. FOOTPATHS (Rights of Way) – Reports of any problems – none to report

12. LIGHTING –

Lights reported/to report: none

13. STREET LIGHTING IMPROVMENTS

- Responses have been circulated from three companies – one is doing a survey of the lighting this week. Council may be able to start the tendering process soon. The Council decided it may not to apply for Community Funding from SNC (Gayton PC application was unsuccessful). Cllr Bunker will liaise with Peter Worth from SNC Community Funding, to find out if this is worth pursuing. Council will also look into using Salix Finance - <https://ukenergylighting.co.uk/salix-finance/>. Clerk had circulated information.
- Community Infrastructure Levy funds from Sun, Moon and Stars current development might be a possibility – balance still to be retrieved. Cllr Clarke agreed to speak to Jim Newton and Dawn Hemmings.

Signed-----

Date-----

- Clerk has circulated (with consent of Gayton PC Chair) the Statement of Requirement which Gayton PC produced prior to asking for quotes for their project.

Billing Arrangements for energy supplies:

- Confirmation received that High Street is not included in inventory.
- Clerk has sent latest inventory to Western Power for confirmation that the parish has 68 lights not including Lady Field. WP have 102 lights listed and require proof of disconnections before quantity can be adjusted for billing purposes.
- Western Power have told Cllr Bunker that they will clarify the position with NCC and have asked the Council to clarify the name of the Shared Ownership company at Ladyfield. **Clerk** to contact Grand Union Homes to find out if they are responsible for the Ladyfield Lights.

14. CLOSED CEMETERY –

- Council to address the issue of the collapsing **wall** into garden of a High Street property further to site meeting with resident, Cllrs Gardner and Billing and Clerk on 4.8.20. Quotes (if available) for repair to be discussed at next meeting.
- Council to decide actual work required on **trees** before quotes can be obtained. Decision as to what extent of work is required. (stems and epicormic growth). **Clerk** to contact S Billing and arrange a meeting with tree surgeons.

15. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

- Updates from Richard Akers circulated

16. HIGHWAYS

- Clerk to receive any issues which should be reported.
- Dog bin in Stoke Road – ordered from Marcus young Landscapes who will also install it (to arrive w/c 7.9.20)
- Pavement overgrown on approach to A43 - reported – ref 2230810, to be cut in next 6 months.
- Chapel Lane – Fix my street report on request for 30 mph signs on either side of road - NCC not permitted to provide them.
- Pond Bank - Response from Helen Howard to Clerk request for Children Slow sign - *meant to be for roads outside schools.*
- Air Ambulance Clothes box – Resident concern about bags being left adjacent to it.(on private land). Advice given to resident that if bags are placed adjacent to bin phone number on box.

17. PC TO DISCUSS PARKING ISSUES IN PONDBANK AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO RESOLVE THEM.

Concern was raised about the lack of visibility for drivers exiting Pond Bank. Highways (Helen Howard) suggested that yellow lines on the corners of Pond Bank may help the situation.

Concern about parking on pavement towards Candle bridge. An option might be to paint yellow lines on the corner. This item will be deferred to next meeting.

18. **SPEEDING ISSUES** – Response from Helen Howard walk about has been circulated and is appended to these minutes. A discussion took place - posts could be erected in different locations so that the VAS device could be moved around. **Clerk** to Contact Steve Barber - enquire about the data boxes and optimum location for, and costs of the posts. Council then to consider purchase of another VAS device.
19. **GRASS CUTTING – PC to decide what it requires in Courteenhall Road.**

Clerk had met with the grass contractor to discuss Courteenhall Road issues. She felt it is unsafe to cut opposite the offices adjacent to the 30 mph sign and due to the speed of traffic it would not satisfy her risk assessment.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk email the contractor about the 4 items below and ask for a response in writing explaining how these issues could be resolved.

- i. The top of Courteenhall Road opposite the offices and within the 30 mph zone. The council agreed to request to have sight of the Risk assessment.
- ii. 39 Courteenhall Road – The Council to ask that the grass is cut up to the hedge of this property once the shrubs have been removed, which the resident has confirmed will happen. The Council was aware that this could result in further requests to cut grass in front of houses but as it is within the 30 mph zone felt it was part of the remit of the contractor.
- iii. Stoke Road – adjacent to the Allotments field – to request that the grass which is growing over the path is cut at least from the road side.
- iv. Stoke Road – the Stoneworks entrance – to request this area is cut as it is in the 30 mph zone and again part of the remit in the cutting contract.

Clerk also to point out that no strimming has taken place in High Street on the bank below the Old Rectory.

20. **HIGH STREET PLANTERS** – PC agreed on removal and security fixing of 2 new planters by Bartleys for £45. **Clerk** to inform Paulette Kennedy.

21. **COMMUNICATIONS (not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda)**

IN:

- i. NCALC Updates and Covid 19 bulletins circulated
- ii. SOFEA - Thank you for your support for the Emergency Community Larders
- iii. Emails from resident regarding recycling clothes bin at the Oak (on private land)
- iv. Mr Hennesy – Results from Towcester Road VAS device 13.55 until 15.46 on Friday 21 Aug – **Clerk** to request that PC could receive data
- v. SNC – requesting details of any events and gatherings, indoors or outside, that might exceed 50 people, either that PC is organising or any in this area.
- vi. NCALC - Invitation to the Northants CALC 73rd AGM - 3 October 2020
- vii. NCALC - LGR Event For Parish & Town Councils
- viii. NCALC – D. Moody, Parish Councils as applicants for planning permission.
- ix. Further request to farmer to cut hedge in Stoke Road near Tunnel car park to improve visual splay – **Clerk** to phone to request.

OUT:

- i) "Blisworth post windmill" enquiry sent to Heritage Society
- ii) Resident – copy of Wicksteed Inspection to Play area

22. **PARISH COUNCIL TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM FOOTBALL CLUB'S PLAN FOR SUPPORT IN THE EXPLORATION OF A NEW CLUBHOUSE FACILITY** - possibly applying for planning permission through the Parish Council. Cllr Bunker to report on discussions with Matthew Goude.

There had been various items of correspondence between Matt Goude, Danny Moody from NCLALC and Cllr Bunker.

Cllr Bunker reported that applying as a Sports Club did not prove to be an option. Consultation had been put in Round and About with a request for feedback by end of September. Comments had been received re parking issues. PC needs to consider whether it supports the application. Consideration of Scouts and residents should be taken into account.

This item to go on next agenda.

23.

- i) **Payments – approved:**

Name	Details	Amount £	VAT	Total	Chq
National Allotment Soc	Annual sub	55.00	11.00	66.00	926
Shire Lumsden Ltd	R and A	125.00		125.00	927
V Hartley	Salary for August	657.50	-	657.50	928
HMRC	Tax for above	10.40	-	10.40	929
N and P-	Invoice Grass	1085.00 (inc £5 for chq)	216.00	1301.00	930
AG Sign and Display	Play area signs	180.00		180.00	931
SLCC	Annual membership (50%)	90.00		90.00	932
A North	R and A prodn- inv 5	62.00		62.00	933

- **Monthly Standing orders for Wifi - £8.00, direct debit for Website - £10.52 and Anglian Water £54.50**

ii) **Other financial items for report:**

- Mandate alteration completed.
- Clerk has received VAT return for the Council for the year end 31.3.20. - £3,208.48.
 - Internal control update – Cllr Bunker – for correction at next meeting: retrospective approval to payment from May 2019 by £24.52, Cheque 762 to NCALC (the correct figure was actually paid)
 - retrospective approval to Standing orders and DDs from earlier in 2020.
 - inconsistency between procurement limit in Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

- Bank Reconciliations:

Current Bank Balance at 24.8.20 - £ 52369.26
Less payments (above) (£2564.92)
Plus receipts 3208.46
Actual balance **£53012.80**

- **Deposit Account** Balance at 5.5.20 £5117.34
Plus interest for May 0.81
June 0.04
July 0.04
Actual Balance at 31.7.20 **£5118.23**

Signed-----

Date-----

- Update on On line banking – Council agreed it wanted to stipulate 2 signatory control of payments. Agreed that **Clerk** move the account to Lloyds, as Nat West cannot accommodate this.

24. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS COMMENTS

Cllr Hawkins – made a request for an allotment for school. She will check that they want one and Clerk will liaise with Cllr Billing.

25. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS – October 5th 2020

26. PUBLIC SESSION

A North – path by allotment being encroached by plants from field.
Clerk to Request to N and P to cut – see item 19.

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm

Signed Date

20mph speed limits

We had a really good chat about 20mph limits and this is a summary of our current position.

Any request for a change of speed limit would be referred to our Speed Limit Review Panel for consideration – this includes various officers from the Road Safety and Traffic Engineering Teams, and a representative from the Police’s Safer Roads Team who has delegated authority from the Chief Constable with regard to agreeing changes to speed limits.

The Panel is keen that any new 20mph restrictions should be self-enforcing, in order to deliver the expected benefits to residents. Reports of regular excessive speeds indicate that you feel people are not adhering to the current 30mph limit, and simply introducing a lower limit will not change the behaviour of those drivers – therefore it may offer a false sense of security to residents and we would not wish to do that. We would be wary of introducing a 20mph limit which is not self-enforcing, and there is no funding for traffic calming at this time.

Simply lowering a speed limit may seem like the easy solution to a speeding problem, however speed limits are an emotive issue, divide opinion and cannot always meet the expectations of local communities.

We receive regular submissions for 20mph speed limits where there is no realistic prospect of compliance and which are usually based upon the mistaken notion that a pair of terminal signs, without associated influences, stimuli or physical calming infrastructure will be enough to ensure that motorists observe the posted speed limit. This often results in a community expectation for the local authority to retrospectively install physical calming measures or the police to carry out enforcement activity. Northamptonshire Police does not routinely enforce 20mph limits and hold the view that they should be self-enforcing.

Where requests to reduce existing restrictions are concerned, 20mph limits covering a wider area tend to be contentious, and also more expensive as they generally require physical traffic calming measures in the form of speed humps, raised platforms or chicanes in order to gain compliance. In sections where vehicles are already travelling close to 20mph due to the self-enforcing nature of the road geometry, we take the view that there would seem little point in imposing such a limit under those conditions. To do so would only increase roadside signage clutter and road markings which can often have a detrimental aesthetic and visual impact on a village environment.

The evidence supporting 20 mph signed only schemes is inconclusive in terms of the benefits delivered particularly in relation to the primary objectives of reduced speeds and casualties. The most comprehensive and wide ranging study into the effectiveness of 20 mph speed limits was published by the Department for Transport in November 2018. It assesses the outcomes of introducing 20 mph speed limit schemes (i.e. reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph) in residential areas, village environments and town centres. This research is indeterminate and provides no clear insight for local authorities into the value or positive changes created by a 20mph scheme. In taking a pragmatic view we therefore remain cautious in terms of implementing 20mph speed restrictions. We have relatively few 20 mph limits in the county and those currently in place

Signed-----

Date-----

were mainly implemented prior to the formation of our Speed Limit Review Panel in 2014. The majority of those that are currently accepted are generally within new developments around the county where road design and associated infrastructure will clearly achieve a self-enforcing outcome

Ultimately I can take a request to the speed limit panel on your behalf, however given the information above we will require extensive evidence to support a reduction.

Should you wish the speed limit panel to consider your request for a 20mph limit please send me an email outlining the extents of the 20 limit you would like, and the reasons why you think it is needed. I will then forward this over to the chair of the group for inclusion at a future panel meeting.

Mobile VAS sign and Posts.

One of the most positive discussions was around the use of mobile VAS signs. Councillors felt there would be some merit in purchasing another mobile sign with two or three new posts at new locations to be able to move the sign around the village to key areas of concern, these being:

- Courteenhall Road just before or after the Connegar Leys junction
- Stoke Road just before the access to the canal car park.

Should the Parish Council want to move forward with this suggestion the my colleague Steve Barber can work with you on the purchase of the sign and posts. He can also arrange for speed monitoring of roads of concern. His email address is sbarber2@kierwsp.co.uk

Sign – Pond Bank

We would not consider the installation of a Child warning sign at the entrance to pond bank. Ultimately children should not be playing within the public highway. We try to keep the use of warning signs to a minimum so they do not become overused and thus reduce their effectiveness. We generally only consider such signs in the vicinity of formal play areas or schools etc.

Direction Sign

We spoke about the problems with large vehicles following the through route up the Stoke Road when travelling from the A43 heading for Northampton. I agreed to add a request for a small direction sign to 'Northampton' somewhere in the vicinity of the High St / Stoke Rd junction. This may have to be outside number one so that it is clearly visible to oncoming motorists. However, there may be issues with sighting a sign at this location given the listed building status. We will carry out a thorough investigation prior to any works, which will not be this financial year.

Yellow Lines

We spoke about the restricted visibility of motorists turning out of Pond Bank when vehicles are parked on the road up to the canal bridge. Waiting restrictions (yellow lines) could be considered around the junction to keep the key area clear. If the Parish Council decided they wanted to go down this route you can apply direct on line via this link

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/parking/Pages/request-for-new-parking-restrictions.aspx>

Signed-----

Date-----