

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WATER  
ORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 AT 7.30 PM IN THE PAVILLION**

**In the chair:** Cllr. Coldrick

**Present:** Cllrs. Chown, Robinson, Lee, N Bevan, O’Meara, Kelley, Triplett

**In attendance:**

Daphne Robinson – Clerk

C C & B C Dave Reilly, B C Judy Macdonald, 11 members of the public

**Public Forum**

Mr John Warren gave an update on HS2. As the government had announced a review on the HS2 project there wasn’t much to report as work had effectively been suspended until December. Gas work was continuing into 2020 and electrical work was also carrying on with work on new towers.

It was reported by a resident that training with 3 volunteers for the Speedwatch project had taken place but it was emphasised that the police would prefer a total of 6 volunteers. This initiative had been supported by the parish council. The police would come and do a survey to decide where the speedwatch should be carried out.

Cllr Macdonald thanked the council for fully supporting and funding the new Christmas lights. The Water Orton Action Group were continuing to work towards refurbishing the car park, station and surrounding area. They are looking for quotes on various works so they could apply for funding. The idea to be adopters of the station building was being considered but was very much a work in progress as discussions needed to take place with Network Rail.

A resident raised her concerns regarding the continuing parking of cars on the pavement opposite the shops and on double yellow lines. She suggested that more railings should be installed to try and stop drivers from parking illegally. It was noted that the police do not see illegal parking as a priority.

A resident raised the need for repairs on Plank Lane and the various paint work on the road at the new school entrance looked a disgrace. Cllr Reilly advised that this was due to the road being resurfaced and marked out before it was realised that broadband had not been installed in the school. This meant that the road had to be marked out for the work to be carried out to install broadband. He advised that all the markings would be rectified.

**128. Chairman’s remarks**

Cllr Coldrick advised those present that Cllr Kelley had offered her resignation and would be standing down as a parish councillor at the end of August. The chairman thanked Cllr Kelley for all her hard work and the hours she spent sorting out council business during the absence of a clerk. He said she would be greatly missed and a loss to the council. Cllr Chown agreed with the chair’s sentiments.

**129. There were no apologies**

**130. Declaration of interests and requests for dispensation:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**131. To appoint a Vice Chairman**

Cllr Triplett proposed Cllr Lee but Cllr Lee said she did not feel ready to take on the position at this time. It was then proposed that Cllr Robinson be appointed as vice chairman. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) that Cllr Robinson be appointed vice chairman.

**132. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr O’Meara and **Resolved** (unanimously) That the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 be approved.

**133. Matters arising from the minutes**

Minute ref 123 – Installation of noticeboard. Cllr Lee advised that her husband had offered to install the new noticeboard.

**134. To receive reports from County Council and Borough Councillors.**

Cllr Reilly acknowledged the parking issue previously raised during the public forum. He agreed that it was a major issue for the village and a dangerous one. He explained that Warwickshire County Council (responsible for highways) can do civil enforcement but Legislation is required to transfer authority from the police to the county council. This needs to be passed by central government and with the Brexit issue it was unlikely there would be any parliamentary space until the end of 2019 for this to be discussed.

Cllr Reilly advised that the footpath near to the entrance to the school seemed dangerous but had been passed as safe. There are earmarked reserves to relocate the footpath to a safer location. He said that the school would be open at the start of the new term. He had visited the school and said the facilities are excellent. The old school site would be handed back to WCC and secured. Cllr Reilly advised he had asked for the car park to be retained so that it could be used for new school parking for the time being. He said that the original Victorian school building would be retained, the running cost of this part of the building was £13500 pa. The site has also been earmarked for Planning permission for 47 dwellings. Concern was raised with Cllr Reilly regarding the traffic at school run times on Plank Lane, he advised that this would be monitored once the school was fully operational and that traffic calming may need to be considered if required.

**135. To receive an update on the drainage and pavilion car park and agree the posting of the tender of the government website.**

Cllr Robinson reported that the drainage work had been carried out. The cause of the blockage was due to a broken pipe having been damaged when the fencing around the compound had been erected. A ‘Y’ junction had been replaced and the inspection chambers had been replaced and re sited. The manhole covers had been replaced with more substantial, stronger covers. All the drains had been tested and checked where the flow goes which is through the garden of the bungalow on Coleshill Road and joins the sewer on Coleshill Road. The information submitted by Severn Trent

had been sketchy. Cllr Robinson advised that the design plan for the car park was complete and that the site plan for the proposed resurfacing work was in the process of being drawn up. Previous quotes had included replacing the concrete bollards with metal ones however Cllr Robinson suggested that the bollards be removed altogether and replaced with a fence, the same as the one round the Green but perhaps slightly higher. Councillors thought this was a good idea but it was agreed that this would not be done at the same time as the resurfacing work. It was agreed that the Tender would be posted onto the government website and the closing date for quotations would be Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**136. To approve the GDPR**

Cllr O'Meara had prepared the GDPR guidelines which had been distributed to all Councillors. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Robinson, **Seconded** by Cllr Kelley and **Resolved** (unanimously) to approve the GDPR guidelines.

**137. To consider funding for the website model**

Cllr. Bevan informed members that there are regulations regarding council websites which are required to be accessible to a wider range of disabled users and for it to be made more user friendly for all users. The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) defines how to comply with these regulations. This would need to be in place by 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Cllr Bevan advised that there would be costs involved but said it would be only a few hundred. Councillors agreed that this was a requirement which needed to be put into place and for Cllr. Bevan to arrange and report back at the next meeting.

**138. To consider and approve the Grant Application Policy and Grant Application Form.**

Copies of the policy and application form had been circulated to members. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr Lee and **Resolved** (unanimously) to approve the Grant Application Policy and Grant Application Form.

**139. To receive a report on playground equipment**

Cllr Chown advised that there was nothing to report.

**140. To receive an update on the registration of the Playing Filed site with the Land Registry.**

The clerk reported that the solicitors had requested two documents to be able to continue with the registration of the Playing Field. These documents are the Conveyance dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 1898 and Deeds of Appointment dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 1930. She advised that she had found an abstract document for the Conveyance but still needed to find the Deed of Appointment. She would report back at the next meeting.

**141. To agree that Cllr Lee be appointed as a member of the HR Committee**

Cllr Lee had requested to be appointed to the HR Committee. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Kelley and **Seconded** by Cllr O'Meara and **Resolved** (unanimously) that Cllr Lee be appointed a member of the HR Committee.

**142. To consider setting up a working group to review the Village Design Statement**

Cllr Bevan advised that he had attended a course which covered the advantages of

having a Neighbourhood Plan. He acknowledged the Village Design Statement had been published several years ago but that this was not a legal document that could be used by the community for future development. He explained that the Neighbourhood Plan can set planning policies that forms part of the development plan used to determine planning applications. He said that it was a project which would take between 2 – 3 years to develop and did carry a substantial cost, although grants for such a project were available. He believed that this was a worthwhile document to help the community to have a legal say on future developments within the village. Councillors agreed that this was long overdue. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr Lee and **Resolved** to set up a working group to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. The clerk was asked to advertise for volunteers.

**143. To consider requesting a meeting with representatives from HS2 to discuss the design of the proposed bridge over the M42.**

Cllr Bevan explained that he believed the council should hold a dedicated meeting with Representatives, to engage with HS2. The point was raised that there was unlikely to be any information available with the suspension of work due to the government review. Cllr Bevan acknowledged this but believed that keeping lines of communication open could mean that HS2 would keep the council more informed as and when work restarted. It was suggested that it would be helpful to invite Erica Levy from NWBC planning to the meeting. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the relevant parties to arrange a meeting.

**144. Financial Matters –**

**To approve automated payments and future payments to be made.**

A full list of payments had been issued to councillors. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan. **Seconded** by Cllr Robinson and **Resolved** (unanimously) that the automated payments and future payments be approved. The chairman signed the invoices.

**To discuss the timetable for the finance committee to meet and produce a draft budget for 2020/2021**

The clerk explained that a draft budget would need to be drawn up for the council to consider the precept for the next financial year. It was agreed that the finance committee would meet in October to produce the budget for next year.

**145. Correspondence**

A letter from the Library requesting financial support from the parish council had been received. It was agreed that the clerk would issue the library with a grant application form and the finance committee would meet representatives from the library to discuss and report back to full council at the next meeting.

A request from Water Orton Brownies had been received requesting funding towards badges for their uniforms. The clerk would send an application form.

**146. Planning Applications**

Planning application for 7 Woodlands Avenue – 2 Storey hipped pitched roof extension to existing dwelling. There were no objections.

**147. Exclusion of the Public and Press – That under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, that the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. Robinson, **Seconded** by Cllr Bevan and **Resolved** to move into closed session.

Cllr Coldrick had been advised not to take part in the discussions and left the meeting.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr Triplett and **Resolved** that Cllr Robinson, as vice chairman, chair the meeting.

Cllr Kelley gave a report on the meetings which had taken place between the HR Committee and Cllr Coldrick, Nathan Smith and the clerk.

Discussion regarding the contents of the reports took place mainly considering the conduct of the clerk against Cllr Coldick after the meeting held in June. Cllr O'Meara left the meeting at 10.00pm.

After further debate it was **Proposed** by Cllr Kelley, **Seconded** by Cllr Chown that the Clerk's probation, which was due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> August, be extended for a further month. The vote was 3 in favour and 3 against. The chairman used his casting vote against the proposal. The result, 3 in favour of an extension to the probation and 4 against, therefore the motion was **not carried**.

Councillors who voted for the probation asked for it to be put on record that there would be no further outbursts from the clerk.