

ELMLEY CASTLE, BRICKLEHAMPTON & NETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

From the meeting of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & Netherton Parish Council.
Held remotely on **Thursday 7th MAY 2020** 19:00 hours.
Meeting was audio recorded and conducted on video conference platform Zoom.
It was fully accessible to the Public and Press.

PRESENT: Cllr James Hickman (Chairman), Cllr Jerry Strong (Vice Chair), Cllr James Maude, Cllr Jane Martin, Cllr Dave Thompson, Cllr Andy George, Cllr Chris Ballard, Cllr Jim Douglas, Cllr Adrian Parker, County Cllr Adrian Hardman, District Cllr Tony Rowley, Andy Robinson (Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Mike Taite, Cllr Malcolm Meikle, Safer Neighbourhoods Team.
2. **OPEN FORUM:** No members of the public were present.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST REMINDERS**
4. **DISPENSATIONS**
 - Cllr Strong 1 year from 5 March 2020 Queens Public House (discussion but no voting rights)
 - Cllr Hickman 1 year from 6 June 2019 Queens Public House (discussion but no voting rights)
 - Cllr Parker 1 year from 6 June 2019 Queens Public House (discussion but no voting rights)
 - Cllr Parker 1 year from 6 June 2019 Neighbourhood Watch (discussion and allowed to vote)
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from the meeting 5th March 2020.
Cllr Hickman proposed to approve the minutes, seconded by Cllr Strong, all voted in favour. They will be duly signed by the Chairman following the Covid-19 lockdown.
6. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** - Cllr Rowley gave a verbal update, including:
 - Explanation that he is now the District Cllr following Cllr Mackisons disqualification due to absence and will continue to cover the Parish.
 - Explanation that Wychavon has recently announced the appointment of a new Chief executive, Vic Allison following the retirement of Jack Hegarty. Vic Allison is joint Chief Executive with Wychavon and Malvern Hills.
 - Further updates on staffing at Wychavon during the Covid-19 outbreak.
7. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** - Cllr Hardman gave a verbal update including:
 - Updates on the impact of Covid-19 within the County. Cllr Hardman reported there were currently 6 persons in intensive care and 56 Worcester acute cases. 43 care homes currently have cases of Coronavirus, down from 64.
 - An update on PPE within the County was given.
 - It was advised that the re-starting of Highways operations including surface dressing was imminent.
8. **FINANCES TO 30th APRIL 2020**
The current bank balances and a list of income and expenditure was presented to the council. Cllr Hickman proposed to approve these statements, it was seconded by Cllr Martin and all voted in favour.
9. **DECISIONS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS (APPROVED DELEGATION SCHEME):**
 - (I) It was noted that it had been formally approved by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to approve the publication of the Spring Edition of the Village News (not Winter as printed on the Agenda).
 - (II) It was noted that it had been approved by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to apply for a Grant offered by West Mercia Police & Crime commissioner for the purchase of PPE for use by volunteers in our community helping those affected by Covid-19. £212.16 was applied for and granted.

10. PLANNING:

- (I) 20/00470/HP Woodmans Cottage, Hill Lane. Application for a conversion of Garage to annexe. No objections submitted 15/3/20 - All noted.
- (II) 20/00355/HP 11 Millend. Application for first floor side extension. No objection submitted 06/05/20 - All noted.
- (III) 20/00825/HP associated reference 20/00826/LB The Cloisters, Main Street. Application to construct covered and enclosed link from house to annexe. Decision pending - All noted.

11. PAYROLL:

Cllr Hickman proposed that the Parish Council use PATA as an external payroll agent at a cost of £7.75 / month + £20.00 set up fee to deal with all Tax and Payroll matters. Cllr Thompson seconded and all voted in favour.

12. PURCHASE OF LAPTOP COMPUTER:

Cllr Hickman proposed that the Parish Council spend up to £400.00 from PC reserves to help purchase a Laptop computer for use by the Clerk for Parish Council business. This computer will be shared with Ashton Under Hill Parish Council - where Andy Robinson is also the Clerk. Ashton Under Hill PC will also contribute 50% of the purchase cost. Cllr George seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.

13. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE:

Cllr Hickman proposed to renew the PC Insurance with Came and Company for £391.74. Cllr Parker seconded and all voted in favour.

14. VILLAGE GATES:

- (I) Cllr Hickman proposed to approve funding for the Bricklehampton Village Gates both with or without match funding (£1161.56 or £2,323.12 respectively - including fitting costs / excluding VAT). Cllr Thompson seconded and all voted in favour.
- (II) Motion withdrawn as included in section 14(I).

15. COMMUNITY TRIGGER RESPONSE:

Deferred to later in the meeting due to Disclosable Interest.

16. BRICKLEHAMPTON ROAD MARKINGS

Cllr Parker proposed a conditional approval of £450.00 from PC reserves for 30mph road markings (3 pairs) upon confirmation of PCC match funding (which has been delayed due to Covid-19). Cllr Hardman stated he was in favour of this and supported such action. Cllr George seconded and all voted in favour. *Cllr Douglas left meeting due to internet disruption*.

17. MOVEABLE SPEED TRAFFIC SIGN:

Cllr Parker explained that the locations printed in the Village News for the New Speed sign were now incorrect as the duties of the Lengthsman had been suspended due to Covid-19. It was explained it would be back in line with published locations as soon as possible.

18. COMMUNITY SUNFLOWERS (GROW HAPPY):

Cllr Martin explained she had donated a quantity of Sunflower seeds for distribution to the Children around the Village. Cllr Martin proposed to make this an annual competition to grow the tallest sunflower. It was also proposed to agree a budget of £75.00 for the purchase of prizes for the winners. Cllr Hickman seconded and all voted in favour. *Cllr Douglas returned to the meeting*.

19. WINTERFELL:

Deferred to later in the meeting due to Disclosable Interest.

20. WASTE BINS:

Cllr Hickman proposed to seek approval from Wychavon District Council for the siting of two additional dog waste bins, one in Netherton and one at the end of Hill Lane and an additional waste bin for Netherton. Cllr Hickman made an amendment to the proposal to include a bin for Bricklehampton. It was pointed out that the exact locations could be decided by community survey but this proposal was to seek authority from WDC only at this stage. Seconded by Cllr George, all voted in favour. *Cllr Hardman left the meeting*.

19. WINTERFELL: (DISCLOSABLE INTEREST CLLR GEORGE LEFT THE MEETING)

Cllr Maude proposed to contact the owner of the land at Winterfell in Bricklehampton to investigate the possibility of purchasing the land for community use as a Forest School or similar project. It was pointed out that this proposal was to investigate the possibility only at this stage and to conduct further research. Cllr Martin seconded the motion and all voted in favour.

15. COMMUNITY TRIGGER RESPONSE: (DISCLOSABLE INTEREST CLLR MAUDE LEFT THE MEETING)

Cllr Hickman proposed to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about the handling of the Community Trigger Process in response of The Riddings. Cllr Rowley suggested that as well as taking this to the Ombudsman it should also be an item for the July Agenda to get an input from Cllr Hardman who had left the meeting. Motion seconded by Cllr Ballard, all voted in favour.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 2nd July 2020.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE FOR NOTE:

Cllr Thompson pointed out that the New Homes Bonus application had been accepted and that the work to improve the playground is due to begin at the end of May 2020. Because of this the play area would be closed off to the public whilst work is being carried out.

20:18 hours meeting concluded.