

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 December 2020 via Zoom

Present: Councillors John Anson (Chairman), John Davis, Roger Foxwell, Eric Norman, Roger Webber, Vivian White, SCC Cllr Frances Nicholson, SWaT Cllr Steven Pugsley, Parish Clerk Nic Kemp, and four members of the public

Cllr Anson opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

Due to Cllr Anson's connectivity issues, Cllr White intermittently shared Chairing the meeting.

281.1 Public Question Time: The applicant spoke on planning application 6/8/20/115 (item 281.7.1). The applicant (Cllr Webber) spoke on planning application 6/8/20/117 (item 281.7.4).

281.2 Apologies for Absence: None.

281.3 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Webber - prejudicial interest - item 7.4, personal interest - item 8.1

Cllr Norman - item 8.1 - member of finance committee

281.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Outstanding Actions:

Cllr Webber requested amendment to item 280.8.4 - "public perception of benefit". The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 17 November 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record.

281.5 Reports from District and County Councillors: Cllr Nicholson confirmed invitations were already being sent to people to receive vaccines in area. Re-Drapers Way/Snowdrop Valley, Cllr Nicholson confirmed it is not possible to extend the road closure for a year and understands the concern is due to parking/congestion at Snowdrop Valley. Highways therefore intend to place signs at either end of Drapers Way stating (final wording to be confirmed) No parking/No turning/No event. Closure of the walk would require landowner consent. Cllr Webber will speak to ENPA.

Cllr Nicholson also confirmed was planning a site visit of the Wheddon Cross Business Units with the County Councillor, which had been postponed due to lockdown.

Cllr Foxwell is in communication with Cllr for Highways re

removing Ashwell Lane from satnavs, and re blocked drains and culverts in parish. Is also awaiting response on Long Lane. Cllr Webber noted telegraph pole snapped off as hit by lorry. Parish Council to request pole be sited further back from Highway.

Cllr Pugsley reported planning applications 6/8/20/109 and 6/8/20/110LB: Edbrooke Farm would be discussed at next ENPA planning meeting due to issues raised at previous Cutcombe Parish Council meeting on 17 November (item 280.7.1). Cllr Pugsley also confirmed the next set of covid grants to local businesses have started to be paid, online planning training was provided by ENPA last week, was successful and likely to be repeated. Cllr Pugsley also noted ENPA is under pressure to rescind trail hunting license on National Park owned land. Until or unless licensee is proved to acted illegally, ENPA takes view there are no grounds to rescind the license.

Cllrs Anson and White thanked Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley who left at 8.25pm.

281.6 To consider Highways and Transport Matters including:

281.6.1 – Update on SIDS – Cllrs Webber and Foxwell have identified site for post to be located in Cutcombe and requested pole be produced. Cllr Anson reminded of need for approval of location with Highways. Cllr Foxwell to liaise with resident who is requesting 20mph speed limit and Cllr Davis re location. Clerk queried risk assessment for SIDS use. Cllr White advised Cllr Foxwell's training covered need.

281.6.2 – Other Highway and transport matters – Clerk to contact BT re broken telegraph pole.

281.7 Planning:

281.7.1 – 6/8/20/115: Thorne Farm – Proposed conversion of 2 no Principal Resience dwellings. Resubmission of refused application 6/8/20/105 – Cllr Davis raised concern over public perception and requested the following statement be minuted. "In regard the application 6/8/20/105 and resubmission 6/8/20/115, I have sought clarity on the issue, having no direct interest with the appicants or the property in question it would seem I do not have an interest. But I would still like to make my position clear. One of the aspects of the application is to allow open market value housing on rent or sale on the property. And because we

own land that in theory could be used for house building, a member of the general public may think I have a pecuniary and prejudicial interest. The open market aspect of this application is against EN Policy and I do have reservations about that. If allowed I would assume and prices would rise and it may prevent young people getting onto the housing ladder within ENP." Cllr debated whether principal residence was open market. Cllr Webber queried whether Cllr White should vote as he is ENPA (parish) member. Cllr White advised he had right to vote as Parish Councillor separately to the ENPA planning committee. Cllr Foxwell prop, Cllr Webber sec, recommending the application is called before the ENPA committee. Rejected - 2 for, 4 against. Council voted 2 in support of, 4 against application. Response to be Objection, open market dwelling is contrary to local plan. A member of the public left at 9.00pm.

281.7.2 – GDO 20/08: Existing barn off Thorne Lane, Wheddon Cross, Minehead - Prior notification for Proposed installation of 12m communications mast and associated apparatus – Cllr Foxwell prop, Cllr Davis sec, support. Unanimously agreed.

281.7.3 – 6/34/20/104 - Allercott Farm, Timberscombe, Minehead - Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of land at Allercott Pitts for motorsports use for 50 days per calendar year (Saturdays and Sundays only) – Cllr Webber advised submitting No comment to the application, and noting that Council recognise this is a legal matter but are aware that trials have been held there for over 10 years. Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Webber left the meeting at 9.05pm.

281.7.4 – 6/8/20/117 - The Croft, Wheddon Cross - Proposed replacement building (24.38m x 18.28m) for livestock and storage of agricultural machinery and fodder – Cllr White prop support as improvement to local environment. Cllr Norman raised concerns over height and visual aspect from Dunkery and believed it should go before Committee – Council need to be transparent as applicant is Councillor. Also queried what will happen to redundant buildings. Cllr Foxwell advised of screening and cladding. Cllr Foxwell prop support as Council consider though larger than existing building it would be well screened from view, although a minority view was that it would be very visible. Agreed 4 for, 1 against.

A member of the public left the meeting and Cllr Webber re-

joined the meeting at 9.20pm.

281.7.5 – Other Planning Matters – None

281.8 Finance:

281.8.1 – To receive report from Finance Committee and consider precept and budget – Cllr Webber reported and suggested leaving the precept until the end of the meeting. Budget included allowances for storage unit, and website. Finance Committee had agreed the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk would arrange advert for new Clerk.

A member of the public left the meeting at 9.25pm.

281.8.2 – To receive update on Business Unit letting – Cllr Anson has taken documents to solicitor who are awaiting update on applicant. Query on location of electric socket in unit – Cllr Anson advised one socket was agreed with applicant who will request if additional required. Cllr Foxwell queried selection of contractor for electrical and plumbing work. Clerk advised this was done in accordance with item 297.4 from extraordinary meeting held on 27 October 2020 - Cllr White prop, Cllr Davis sec, authorising decisions on all matters arising from the contract to be resolved by Cllr Anson in consultation with all Councillors via email, rather than in full meeting. Cllr Foxwell requested a Recorded vote. Agreed by majority. For – Cllrs Anson, Clarbull, Davis, Foxwell, Norman and White. Against – Cllr Webber. All Councillors were consulted by email, Cllr Anson proceeded with the selected contractor as per Councillor replies. Cllr Norman will chase door replacement.

281.8.3 – it was agreed to pay

281.8.3.1 PKF Littlejohn - £240 for external audit (Unanimously agreed)

281.8.3.2 Dan Bowley Plumbing and Heating – £936 for works carried out to Business Unit. Agreed 4 For, 2 Abstained. Cllr Webber abstained due to personal link with contractor

281.8.3.3 Mrs N Kemp - Clerks Salary £971.32 (hours worked 1 October to 11 December 2021) plus Expenses £44.17 and £134.40 reimbursement for Clerk advert in WSFP – Total £1,149.89. Plus £24.45 tax due to HMRC. Unanimously agreed.

281.9 To consider Census article and any actions required:
Deferred to later meeting due to time.

281.10 To consider process for recording meeting: Clerk recommended Council consider process of recording meetings (currently via Zoom) to ensure detail is there should Clerk become indisposed, but resolve that recordings are deleted once minutes are approved, as concerned over potential issues with GDPR. Cllr White advised no issue with GDPR. Cllr Webber prop detail on agenda that meetings are recorded and deleting once minutes are approved. Cllr Anson advised it should continue with no change.

281.11 To consider work required with website and possible working group: Clerk recommended Council form working group to address. Clerk has forwarded quotes and suggested companies (all WCAG compliant) to produce website to Cllr Webber. Clerk will forward link to neighbouring village site – set up with one of suggested companies – for information.

Cllr Anson returned to item 281.8.1.

281.8.1 – To consider precept and budget – Cllr Webber advised he proposed a 8% reduction (Council has significant reserves and Clerk has advised of need to earmark intent to spend against reserves for AGAR), and Finance Committee had proposed 4% reduction. Cllr Anson prop, Cllr Norman sec, 4% reduction in precept to £13,386.24 for 2021-22. Agreed 5 for, 1 against. Cllr Webber voted against as wanted a greater reduction. To be finally ratified in January 2021

Cllr Anson left item 281.12 to the end of the meeting for closed session.

281.13 Correspondence and meetings:

281.13.1 – Clerk's report on correspondence received and meetings attended – Clerk advised of casual vacancy notice deadline of 17 December so Council can consider co-option in January if no election is called. All other correspondence circulated by email.

281.13.2 – Councillors' reports on correspondence received and meetings attended – Cllr Davis advised of update from Exmoor Young Voices, and will circulate by email.

281.14 Items for Next Agenda: Website, co-option of Councillor, precept, any planning items, appointment of Clerk, Millennium Tree.

Council resolved moving to closed session.

The member of the public left the meeting at 10.15pm.

281.12 To consider recruitment of Clerk: Cllrs Anson and White will interview and report back to January meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Cutcombe Parish Council will be Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom. There will be an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 12 January 2021 (to ratify precept, appoint clerk and consider co-option of Councillor)

All are welcome to all meetings