**Meeting of Watchfield Parish Council**

**ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Tuesday 15th December 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Minutes**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86433852143?pwd=dVdxL0F0anZIS3NTSzFaTzZuc3pPQT09**

**Meeting ID: 864 3385 2143**

**Passcode: 096020**

Present: Cllrs Nodder (Chairman), Griffiths, Parker, Coombs, Penrose-Lyall, Valadas, C. Arnold (Clerk), District Councillors Ware

2 members of the public

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| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **122** | **To receive apologies for absence**  District Cllr S Howell, T Brock (RFO) |  |
| **123** | **To receive any declarations of personal, or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting**  None |  |
| **124** | **Coronavirus update**   1. **Volunteer effort** - requirements now for transport to Covid vaccinations at STEAM. 2. **Grants and finances –** published latest grant information 3. **Restrictions and regulations** – Tier 2 & Christmas restrictions. Outdoor gym equipment currently open 4. **Other** - None |  |
| **125** | **To take questions and comments from members of the public**  Member of the public to discuss item 132. |  |
| **126**  **127** | **To take questions and comments from members of the Council**  Cllr EW report circulated. Covid vaccinations at Steam discussed with the Vale regarding distribution of correct information to the western Vale residents. Car parking enforcement discussed with concerns and implications regarding car parking enforcers reaching out to smaller village communities. Covid marshal enforcers are in the area to ensure business are compliant with Covid regulations. States a fatal accident on the A420 involving an HGV.  Cllr JV summarises the investigation into the removal of the hedgerow and establishing if it has been adopted by OCC from the developer. To be discussed item 133.  Cllr SN notes that all benches and bin now installed. Some bulb planting complete. Paddock rental now being advertised.  Cllr JV states MUGA work will start in February 21.  Cllr CP notes football training has now stopped for the year with hopes it will continue next year.  **To agree Co-opting Mr Paul Scratchley on to Watchfield Parish Council**  Mr Scratchley introduced himself and elaborated on reasons for wishing to join the council. Interest in IT and social media for the council.  Council agree to co-opting Paul Scratchley. Cllr CP to set new email address and Clerk to send across documents for signing and clerk to inform OCC/Vale of new councillor.  Proposed: Cllr BL Seconded: Cllr CP Agreed: All | CP  CA |
| **128** | **To approve the minutes of ordinary meeting held on 17.11.20**  Agreed.  Proposed: Cllr BL Seconded: Cllr DG Abstained: Cllrs CP, SC, JV Agreed: All |  |
| **129** | **To address matters arising from the ordinary meeting held on 17.11.20**  All action points are complete, in hand or on the agenda for this meeting |  |
| **130** | **To address burial matters**  None |  |
| **131**  **132**  **133**  **134**  **135**  **136**  **137**  **138**  **139**  **140**  **141** | **To address planning matters**   1. **Update on current developments**   Removal of hedgerow adjoining Knapp’s still causing concern. OCC ownership extends to historic ditch edge. Establishing ownership, rights of easement and responsibilities for culverted pipe. Worrying evidence about protection of planting schemes and hedgerows. Proposed Council contacts environmental groups, climate change panel at Vale, MP and those with interest in biodiversity preservation. Cllr JV to establish ownership and feedback to the council. WPC thanks Cllr JV for his work on this. Clerk to pass management name and number to Cllrs JV and PS.  **To Agree/Discuss allocation of remaining agreed payment for repairs along Star Lane**  Resident discusses the ongoing issues and requests the council to further investigate the matter.  Previous payment made 11/19 agreed as a one-off good-will. Some repairs carried out by residents. Council agreed to a contribution of £391 and have paid out £178.70 so far. Therefore, propose £212.30 to be paid on production of receipts, co-operation of residents and verification of the work done. Clerk to add further investigation/discussion of the matter to the next agenda, resident to write to the council requesting WPC to discuss the matter with photos and statements from neighbors on the condition of the road. Cllr SN notes that an engineers and groundworks companies visited Star Lane in 2019 and findings were circulated.  Proposed: Cllr CP Seconded: Cllr SC Agreed: All  **To Agree/Discuss WPC registering land ownership of the hedgerow along Majors Road**  Council in dialogue re boundaries, responsibility and possible drainage implications. Unregistered land to be investigated. However, Cllr JV believes that WPC will not be able to register the land. Clerk has contacted local solicitor regarding costs.  **To Agree/Discuss applications for Tree Preservation Orders in Watchfield**  Currently there is only one Tree Preservation Order tree in Watchfield. Unfortunately, as we are not a conservation area, other trees have very little protection, irrespective of species and size. The Tree Officer was not encouraging about seeking further TPOs unless the trees were in imminent danger. Council to build on tree survey data gathered by CLP and apply for TPOs as necessary. Council agree to participate in Treezilla and i-tree projects to collect data about value of trees. Council to investigate creating an eco- team in Watchfield using social media platforms.  **To Agree/Discuss village leaf clearance, BGG £450 + VAT**  Council Agree. Cllr SN to confirm drain clearage.  Proposed: Cllr CP Seconded: Cllr DG Agreed: Al  **To Agree/Discuss parish hedge trimming and ditch clearance, BGG £575 + VAT**  Council Agree.  Proposed: Cllr SC Seconded: Cllr BL Agreed: All  **To Agree/Discuss bramble clearance on High Street edge of Recreation Ground, Parkfield £120 + VAT**  Council Agree.  Proposed: Cllr CP Seconded: Cllr DG Agreed: All  **To receive the audited AGAR and External Auditors Certificate**  No recommendations or comments. Council agree to accept audited AGAR and Auditors Certificate. Notice of completion published on website and notice boards.  Proposed: Cllr CP Seconded: Cllr DG Agreed: All  **To Agree/Discuss Budget 2021/22**  Draft budget for 2021-22, along with an explanation of precept rises and a breakdown of earmarked funds. 3% rise would keep the absolute value of the Precept about the same as the number of eligible houses in the tax base has decreased in Watchfield. Financial Risk Assessment will need to be adjusted in light of Covid experience.  Councillors to review thoroughly and Clerk to add to next agenda for agreement.  **To Agree Precept 2021/22 – Deadline 08.01.2021, extension deadline 22.01.2021**  Clerk to add to next agenda for agreement. Clerk to request extension.  **Finance to Agree** Postponed to January agenda | JV  CA  PS  CA  ALL  SN  SN  SN  TB  CA  CA  CA |
| **142**  **143** | **Finance to Note** Postponed to January agenda  **Agenda Diary**   1. **Employer PAYE –** Calculated by NetResult 2. **Registration of Members’ Interests –** Changes to Clerk 3. **Section 137 Payments** – No requests 4. **Update Planning Register** - Clerk 5. **Renew Clerk’s Office 365 Small Business Licence**   Council Agree. Clerk to organise. £9.40 pcm  Proposed: Cllr DG Seconded: Cllr CP Agreed: All | CA  CA  CA |
| **144**  **145** | **To note correspondence**   1. **“No Waiting” restriction at Shrivenham, Faringdon Road - 12 February 2021 up to and including 13 February 2021. This will operate between 20:00 and 06:00.** 2. **Allotment payments still coming in.**   **Any other business**  None  Meeting Closed: 20:35 |  |

Please be aware of the following points regarding online meetings

1. The meeting will be recorded by the clerk, this will be for the purpose of taking minutes.
2. Time for public comments (Item 125) is 3 minutes per individual. After item 125 the public will be muted and if you have a question or comment to make please raise your hand to be unmuted.
3. Threatening or foul language will not be tolerated, and you will be removed from the meeting by the clerk.

Claire Arnold

Clerk to Watchfield Parish Council 18/12/20