

**Minutes of Meeting of Ninfield Parish Council held on Thursday 18th March 2021
at 7pm using Zoom**

Cllrs Present:

Chair K Williamson (KW); S Guard (SG); P Holland (PH); K Crittall (KC); G Pharo (GP); S Collins (SC); J Cheshire (JC); P Coleshill (PC); District Cllr R Cade (RC) & County Councillor Bill Bentley (BB)

In Attendance: J Scarff (clerk) & 4 members of the public

Members of the public are encouraged to come to the meeting and there is a 10-minute opportunity for them to address the council on matters on the agenda.

2476.

KW welcomed everybody to the meeting.

To receive reports from the County and District Cllrs and any questions on these reports.

RC was invited to give a report.

RC reported that the hub is still operating, and all the up to date information can be accessed on the Wealden website.

The Govts identified Group 4, which is the 65- to 69-year-olds, 86.4% of Wealden residents have had the vaccine.

The benefits team has now paid out over £54m since the beginning of the pandemic. This includes £75,000 pounds relating to the track and trace scheme when people have been told to self-isolate. There are some new grants, some conditions are quite complicated if anyone has any questions, they should ring the benefits team.

As far as employment opportunities are concerned the hardest hit have been at the young people all initiatives available are on the WDC website. RC reported that WDC are helping people who are having difficulty in the private rented sector. There is help for people who are homeless or likely to become homeless in the way of holding deposits, the district council can act as a guarantor and have flexible incentives for landlords to take on homeless people.

KW thanked RC and asked if BB would give a report.

BB reported

From the 12th of April ESCC libraries will be open. They will be open for browsing and they will be open for self service computers will be open for people to be able to book sessions as well at that time.

From the 29th of March weddings and civil partnerships can start to take place, but only 6 people in a registry office. From the 12th of April that increases to 15.

17th of May weddings can be for 30 people and all restrictions are planned to be lifted from the 21st of June.

BB reported that he had been supporting the village with issues reported at the development site opposite the garage. The highways enforcement officer has visited them twice, she went back again today, but there was nobody there.

Everything was all locked up, so she has phoned them and told them that they are still obstructing the footpath. They have to maintain a minimum of 1m width on the footpath to allow disabled access. ESCC Highways will continue to support the village to keep the access useable.

BB reported that he will be retiring in May and not standing for re election. He has been a county councillor for 20 years and represented Ninfield residents for 16. Much has been achieved during that time and he expressed his thanks for

the support he has received.

On behalf of Ninfield Parish council KW wished BB a long and happy retirement and extended an open invitation to visit Ninfield, He would always be welcome to come along and visit during any of our events and KW thanked him for all his help, support and services.

Ian Moffat (IM) the Chair of Governors for Ninfield CEP school was asked to give a report.

IM reported that the school had staggered starts, using all 4 entrances. Classes are working in bubbles and the school are pleased with how the children have settled back in.

The school have managed to successfully bid for funding under the public sector Decarbonization Grant scheme.

This will see the old oil fired boilers replaced with air source heat pumps and point of use hot water systems. Additional loft and cavity wall insulation. Some of the solid walls inside are going to be insulated. All of this single glazed windows are being replaced with triple glazed and replacing old timber doors with triple glazed doors.

Lighting will be upgraded, battery storage installed. The net result of all of this is really good new and follows on from the Declaration of the council last month.

IM reported that the school had a vacancy for a governor.

2477. Public Questions

Ten minutes are available for the Public to express a view or ask a question on **relevant matters on the following agenda.**

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

A member of the public commented on the amount of litter on the edges of the B2204 heading to Catsfield Stream and wondered if services were reduced.

RC Biffa is still working well and are prioritising the bins. PD commented that there is more litter being ejected from car windows. KW commented that it is mostly not takeaway litter but more substantial commercial litter.

A question about the Gladwish development.

The clerk updated the meeting that enforcement had reported that they had issued several enforcement notices and they were awaiting confirmation from the inspectorate that everything is in order.

P Frostick was invited to give a report.

He report that services were back at St Mary's in line with Govt guidance but that many people were still accessing the online service. The new boiler still hasn't been fitted the old one has a temporary fix and so there is still heat.

There was nothing else to report at the moment.

SG thanked PF for all his hard work producing the online services and all the work he had done for the parishioners during the pandemic period.

2478. Apologies and reasons:

Apologies had been sent and accepted from District Cllr P Doodes

2479. Disclosure of Interests:

To receive Councillors' declaration of interest regarding matters on the agenda and consider and written requests for dispensation as a result. Councillors are reminded that changes to the register of interests should be notified to the clerk as and when they occur.

KC declared an interest in the item for the Horticultural Society as a member.

- 2480. Exclusion of the Public**
 ‘Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following agenda items of business 9i as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.’
- 2481. Minutes**
Resolved: the minutes of
 Full Council Meeting 18th February 2021
 KW proposed approval,
 SG seconded and the minutes could be signed by the Chair as a true record.
- 2482. Matters Arising from previous minutes – that are not already on the agenda.**
 KW explained that further to the PC’s offer to grant up to £3000 to the Memorial Hall for new projector equipment the clerk had received copies of quotes, 2 of which were out of date. The council is awaiting new paperwork from the Memorial Hall.
- 2483. Matters for Discussion**
- a) **To discuss details of potential starting arrangements for Muddy Boots Childcare including dates and costs.**
 Muddy Boots would like to start using the Pavilion from w/c 19th April Tue to Fri. The cllrs agreed that the charge would be £5 per hour in line with charges made by other village halls.
 The changing rooms would be locked to allow for football and cricket.
 SG arranged to show muddy boots around.
 KW proposed that subject to the risk assessment, sight of the insurance policy and a successful meeting on Friday the PC agree to Muddy Boots using the pavilion 4 days per week for the hours already notified for the fee of £5 per hour.
To hear a request that muddy Boots use the area around the containers, just off the Memorial Hall Carpark, as a foraging area.
 Resolved the area can be used for foraging.
- b) **To hear an update on the neighbourhood plan and agree any actions required.**
 There is a meeting of a sub group of the steering group to discuss the design code.
 The State of the Parish has been sent back to JC including the corrections and additions advised. The next stage is to await the results of the questionnaire which had now gone to the printer. The paper version will look the same as the online version. Online links will be sent out and shared on FB.
 JC is finalising all the character assessments had been put into one document.
 KC updated the meeting on the dark skies work and encouraged everyone to take more readings. KC proposed that the PC purchase a light meter so that the dark skies could continue to be monitored.
 All agreed
Resolved, clerk to purchase a light meter.
 KC reported that there are a number of people who have shown interest in the work on the dark skies.
 PC commented that as well as work on the dark sky designation it may be worth looking to see if there was anything that could be done about noise. Is there any possibility of getting a sound map of the village because of the way in which the land rises and falls and we're on a ridge. P Coleshill will look online and see

if there is anything available to use.

KW thanked JC for all his hard work and to everybody else who had helped.

c) **To receive reports from Parish Councillors including those requiring actions.**

JL reported that an application for funding has been submitted to Sussex Lund. We await the outcome. The clerk reported that she had also applied to ESCC for the verges to be designated wildflower areas.

GP reported that he had looked not the litter cameras that had been advertised. There is a trial in Kent. RC agreed that he would make some enquiries at WDC.

JC commented that litter was much more of a problem during the pandemic including industrial waste doming of the back of lorries.

d) **To discuss a request from Pass & Move FC to extend their residency at Sparkes Pavilion and agree any actions required.**

The clerk reported that she had heard from Pass and Move who would like to continue their residency at the pavilion and if the cllrs were happy to discuss it they would be interested in a long term rental. This would allow them to apply for grants to help improve the ground.

KC commented that the club had already shown commitment to using the rec and pavilion with the purchase of new goals. They have also shown community spirit since using the facilities.

Resolved that the residency should be continued.

The cllrs agreed that a Recreation Ground Committee would be set up with KW, KC, SG & GP. Natalie Osbourne offered to represent Muddy Boots.

e) **To hear a request from the Methodist Church to use the recreation ground and Sparkes Pavilion on 4th July for the 150-year anniversary and agree any actions required.**

Resolved that the Methodist Hall be able to use Sparkes Pavilion and the recreation ground.

f) **To consider a request for the trees along lower church path behind no.10 Smiths Close to be reduced.**

The cllrs discussed that the land still belongs to WDC at the moment and it is the wrong time of year.

Resolved that the trees would be left until the transfer of ownership.

g) **To hear a request for the Horticultural society to hold an outdoor plant sale on the patio area of Sparkes Pavilion on the morning of Sunday 25th April 2021.**

Resolved that the Horticultural Society can use the Pavilion and recreation ground.

h) **To discuss the entrance to the recreation ground (from Church Lane) and agree any actions required.**

KC raised the issue of the gate being unsecure. SG agreed that something needs to be done to secure the gate.

KC proposed that the clerk get quotes to have the post and the gate fixed.

All agreed.

i) **Finance –**

To receive the bank reconciliation to 28th February 2021

Received, noted and attached to the minutes. The face of the Lloyds Bank statement shows as balance of £79,177.42 and the Unity Trust bank statement shows a balance of £61,934.87 as at 28th February 2021.

To receive the payments schedule for approval.

SC proposed that the payments be made, PH seconded All agreed
Resolved that they Payments are approved.

To seek permission to book the internal audit for the year ending March 2021

Resolved that the clerk book the year end internal audit.

2484.

Correspondence – to note for possible inclusion on next agenda

Nothing to report

**It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday
15th April 2021 at 19:00**

**With no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed
the meeting at 20.47 pm.**

SignedDate.....