

**Minutes of Meeting of Ninfield Parish Council held on Thursday 21st January 2021
at 7pm using Zoom**

Cllrs Present:

Chair K Williamson (KW); S Guard (SG); P Holland (PH); K Crittall (KC); J Langley (JL); S Collins (SC); J Cheshire (JC); District Cllr R Cade (RC); County Cllr B Bentley (BB); District Cllr P Doodles (PD) from 19:10. G Pharo joined the meeting at 19.33

In Attendance: J Scarff (clerk) & 3 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.

2458. To receive reports from the County and District Cllrs and any questions on these reports.

RC was invited to give a report.

RC repeated advice regarding the GOVT initiatives for businesses and individuals are constantly changing. Keep an eye on the WDC website and contacts the benefits team if in doubt as they are complex. RC stated that anyone should feel free to contact him. There is a mobile testing centre in the Vicarage carpark, and vaccinations will be starting.

Biffa have been affected by the pandemic but are managing to keep up with the bin collections.

WDC staff are mainly working from home. Some dept's such as legal and planning are behind. The housing team are dealing with tenants problems due to restrictions of visiting homes. RC reported a rise in antisocial behaviour. KC thanked RC and the housing team who have been very helpful for a couple of Ninfield residents.

Cabinet decided to freeze pay awards to WDC staff, members allowances and the WDC element of the council tax for the forthcoming year.

BB was invited to give a report.

The role of Adult Social Care during the lockdown, in ES there are 300 care homes where the CC commission beds. Of these 95 care homes are currently 100% Covid residents, meaning that its more difficult to move residents from their homes into care where this is required.

P Doodles joined the meeting 19:10

Care homes have found that staff are having to self-isolate and this has meant that the CC are helping to feed residents by sending meals into homes. There are similar challenges for companies providing care in the community.

Two adult care homes in Eastbourne are helping support the local hospital by taking patients who are being discharged from hospital but still need care.

There has been a huge additional cost to councils across the county. ESCC have incurred an additional £87m in costs and have received £83m from the Govt to help with this. ES are awaiting news as to whether they will receive a further £4m or whether ES will have to fund this from their own resources.

There is a meeting next week for the Cabinet to agree the council tax recommendation to the full council, which suggests an increase of 1.99%. Due to the pandemic the awaited review of fair funding and funding for adult social care has not been undertaken by the govt and therefore ES have been told that they may increase funding as a precept for adult social care by up to 3%.

Cabinet have recommended that this is taken over two years with 1.5% each year. There will be no additional cuts to services.

BB highlighted that 21st March the new Census will take place and cllrs may be called on to try and support residents as this is the first digital census. There will be telephone support available and residents can request a paper version. BB reported on the work to give the PC delegated powers to declare Church Wood as Local Nature Reserve.

KW thanked PD and RC for their contribution and support at the planning committee south meeting regarding the Ingrams site.

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

IM reported that the school are open and have 46 children attending (approx. 30% of the school population) The school are restricting attendance to those children who have 2 parents/carers as key workers as they do not have enough space in school to safely offer the service to those families with one keyworker parent/carer (as well as vulnerable children). School received 8 Chrome books from the Govt yesterday.

From next week staff have the option to be tested twice a week.

Paul Frostick (PF) was invited to make a report on behalf of the church. There are no Sunday worships at the moment. The boiler in the Church has received a temporary repair, but the church are looking to fund a new boiler shortly. The online services are well received and have allowed people who are not able to attend services to join in and so PF is intending to continue to offer this even when the church can reopen.

2459. 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 asked if the hedges between Ridell Gardens and the Kings Arms could be trimmed back, by the bowling green as well as the hedge from the Kings Arms down to the building site.

Agreed.

Also a question regarding the closure of the footpath on the Ingrams Site. The clerk explained that she had been in touch with enforcement regarding work at the Ingrams site and was waiting to hear back.

2460. Apologies and reasons:

Apologies had been sent and accepted from cllr Gary Pharo for personal reasons but said he would try and join the meeting later if he could.

2461. 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.

None

2462. 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.'

No requirement to exclude the public.

2463. Minutes

Resolved: the minutes of

Full Council Meeting 17th December 2020

JL asked that the comment regarding the Wild Flowers on page 1 be corrected to say that 'the wild flowers are perennials v the annuals that...'

KW proposed approval,

KC seconded and the minutes could be signed by the Chair as a true record with the correction.

2464. Matters Arising from previous minutes – that are not already on the agenda.

No matters arising

2465. Matters for Discussion

a) **To hear an update on the neighbourhood plan and agree any actions required.**

JC reported on the steering group meeting the previous week. The landscape and topography assessments are now finished as well as the character assessments. JC has redrafted the questionnaire after feedback. JC acknowledged that it's a difficult time to do the questionnaire but suggested that it goes ahead in February. The vision statement has been started, the team are waiting for some suggestions from residents via social media and it will be further adjusted once the results of the questionnaire are returned. JC has received the State of the Parish report from AIRS which will need local information added to it. The building design code/framework is currently with Clare Tester. KW thanked everyone for all their hard work.

2466.

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

G Paro Joined the meeting at 19.33.

KC reported the on the latest update on the Ingrams development site. KC repeated her thanks to PD and RC and the other speakers for their reports at the planning committee south meeting. Watching the recorded meeting back it was very clear that the committee were not happy that the application had gone to the committee at that stage. There are now lots of questions from residents. Due to the complexity of the applications, including the fact they are being linked by the developers. KC is attempting to collate all the latest information into a single document. GP offered to help KC.

KC proposed that we approach the planning consultant for some guidance. The clerk also mentioned the outstanding application to renegotiate the S106 agreement.

Resolved that the clerk would contact the planning consultant.

PH updated the meeting on the latest information on the Manchester development site. The developers have been doing some more soil investigation and have stated that they will be starting with the demolition in March/April time and that the conditions on the approved application were that the highway work on Manchester Road should be completed first.

KC agreed that this should be questioned with the planning department. The clerk said that she would contact enforcement and ask for the latest information.

c)

To receive a quote for the fencing on the recreation ground and agree any actions required.

The clerk presented the quote from Foxhill Tree Services to replace the post and rail fencing on the recreation ground border with the Kings Arms Carpark at

a cost of £1026 +VAT. PH asked for another quote to compare. The Clerk to contact Rose fencing. KC proposed that the clerk should attempt to get another quote and if no quote is forthcoming to go ahead.
All agreed.

d)

To hear a request to fund the kits for the DNA testing for Great Crested Newts in the ponds in Church Woods.

Resolved that the testing Kits should be bought.

e)

To discuss holding the annual Parish Meeting and agree any actions required.

The clerk explained that the annual parish meeting has to be held between 1st March and 1st June. JL suggested booking a date as close to 1st June as possible. Resolved to book the hall for Thursday 20th May.

f)

Finance –

To receive the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2020

Received and noted

To receive the payments schedule for approval.

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

g)

To discuss an update on the Parish boundary and agree any actions required.

KW summarised the situation to date. The clerk had sent the formal petition to WDC and confirmed we are awaiting a response from WDC.

Correspondence – to note for possible inclusion on next agenda

Nothing.

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 18th February 2021 at 19:00

With no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.09 pm.

SignedDate.....