Parish Council Minutes 15 July 2020

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Wrington Parish Council held on 15 July 2020

Present: Cllr J Rawlins (Chair) Cllr B Taylor
Cllr J Steinbach Cllr S Treweek

Cllr D Yamanaka
Cllr H Ward
Cllr G Bigg
Cllr P Jervis
Fiona Burke (Clerk)
Cllr L Vaughn

In attendance: A resident with interest in helping with the Neighbourhood Plan

1. To receive apologies for non-attendance and to approve the reasons where appropriate.

Apologies were received from District Cllr Hogg.

- To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) related to agenda items and to receive any amendments to the Register of Interests.
 No declarations were received.
- 3. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the email meeting held 22 April, 2020.

Cllr Yamanaka asked that the request to ask Phil Neve to carry on with his report to make Climate change recommendations be added under the last agenda item. This was agreed and then the minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

4. To adjourn the meeting for Public Participation.

A resident spoke about how he would like to help with the Neighbourhood Plan. He explained what relevant experience he had and that he has been researching other local Neighbourhood Plans. It was agreed that he would be in touch with Cllr Bigg in the near future to discuss further his input to the Plan. He then left the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened

- 5. To note items of correspondence received and requiring possible action:
 - a) Letter and email concerning the bowling club lease with suggestions on how to proceed once the lease expires in March 2021.
 - Cllr Taylor explained the background to the current lease and it was agreed that there was no advantage to continuing the lease in its current form. It was agreed to consult an independent property solicitor on the matter.
 - b) Email from Lee Murphy, Senior Passenger Transport Officer, informing the Council that they will no longer be able to fund journeys made by ENCTS card holders on the Falcon Service from mid-September. This was noted.
 - c) Email from Chris Hildrew, Headteacher of Churchill Academy and Sixth form, with regards to working on a cycle route to the school. All agreed that a cycle route to Churchill academy would be very beneficial and Wrington Parish Council supports the scheme.

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d) Letter from Riona Houghton, Community Fundraiser for Marie Curie, thanking the Council for their grant of £400 towards the Marie Curie emergency appeal. This was noted.

To receive the Finance Statement. To authorise payments recommended for approval.

YMCA – Youth Club provision, April and May (sessions have continued online and support to young people has been provided during lockdown) £880.00 Healthmatic – dog bin emptying, 8 weeks £873.60 Assistant Clerk – reimbursement following purchases made:- office laminator (£76.30),2 x hand sanitiser bottles (£26.97) and anti-bacterial surface wipes (£9.85) £113.12 North Somerset Council - monthly inspection of play areas, July and August (to be paid once the invoices have been received) £57.60 Regular payments:- cleaning of Broad Street toilets (Debbie Heal), NEST Pension Scheme and salaries for Clerk, Assistant Clerk & Parish Orderly.

Cllr Steinbach proposed approval of the above payments with Cllr Samuel seconding the motion, all in favour.

- 7. To consider and agree finance recommendations:
 - a) To agree to pay the annual grant of £2,500 to Redhill village hall. Signed accounts have been received and are available.

Resolved: To agree to pay the annual grant.

Cllr Ward proposed approval of the above payment with Cllr Samuel seconding the motion. All in favour.

- 8. To receive and note the internal auditor's report. This was noted. The Clerk and assistant Clerk were thanked for their work which had ensured there were no issues highlighted in the report.
- 9. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Return in advance of submission to the External Auditor.

Resolved: The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

10. To approve the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Resolved: The Accounting Statements were approved.

11. To authorise Councillor Steinbach to discuss with Dr Liam Fox MP options to address and resolve systemic planning problems at North Somerset Council which continue to have a material adverse effect on this parish.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding recent planning problems, including conflicts of interest involving Planning Officers on the Airport Consultative Committee and enforcement cases.

Resolved: To agree to authorise CIIr Steinbach to discuss planning issues with Liam Fox.

It was agreed that Cllr Steinbach should discuss issues across the board with a broad discussion on issues in the planning department, including the lack of resources and adequate staffing in planning departments to deal with planning applications and enforcement issues which is resulting in a lack of confidence in them as well as the

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airport planning issue. He is to consult with Cllr Taylor in order to gather the evidence for this.

Cllr Bigg also reported that the Government are trying to introduce a system where planning applications won't even need to be seen so she stressed the importance of having a wide-ranging discussion on current competence and the implications of not having a proper planning department. Cllr Bigg said that it would be helpful for Liam Fox to press the Government for more money for local government. Then NSC could afford to employ more planning and enforcement officers.

12. To decide whether to grant a 1year lease to the Wrington Sports and Social Club (WSSC) based on the conditions in the chairman's letter and the reply from WSSC. Cllr Rawlins reported that she had consulted Cllr Jervis about this who had recommended that the Council consult a Commercial Property Solicitor on the lease. The same lawyer could also be consulted on the Bowling club lease.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Council should instruct a commercial property solicitor to draft the lease.

Cllr Rawlins to enquire about potential costs of solicitors.

Cllr Jervis recommended creating a 7-year lease with a break point after one year with certain conditions to be fulfilled. All agreed to this.

- 13. Consultation: The Local Government Association (LGA), new model member code of conduct (previously circulated). Deadline 17 August It was agreed to wait until the draft model proposed code of conduct has been circulated before discussion on this.
- 14. To receive matters for information and items for possible consideration at the next meeting of the Council.
 - Cllr Bigg confirmed she would be attending the Climate action day on 30 July.
 - Cllr Bigg wished to note all of the extra work that has gone on behind the scenes during the last few months by the Clerks, Parish Orderly and caretaker of the hall.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 20.52.