

GARWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held remotely on Thursday 29th October 2020 at 19.00hrs

Present ... Councillors: Tony Phillips (Chairman), Chris Strange, Rose Sparey and Phil Tucker.

Also present were: Parish Clerk (Mark Hearne) and four residents.

1. **Apologies for Absence...** Councillor Cara Campbell.
2. **Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensation** – None
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 24th September 2020** – It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and these will be signed by the Chairman in due course.
4. **Open Session**
 - 4.1 **Ward Councillor Toni Fagan** was not present at the meeting.
 - 4.2 **Local Residents**– No specific issues were raised.
5. **Planning ...** No planning applications have been received from Herefordshire Council.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 The bank balance on 30th September 2020 was £34,838.75
 - 6.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 6.2.1 – Clerk’s salary in accordance with his employment contract (October 2020)
 - 6.2.2 – PAYE (October 2020) - £105.20
 - 6.2.3- Postage - £7.80
 - 6.2.4 – Lengthsman - £447.60 – It was reported by the Chairman that the grids have not been cleaned adequately and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk brings this to the attention of the Lengthsman and payment of the invoice be deferred until a satisfactory response has been received.
 - 6.2.5 – Monmouth County Council - £931.88 – Councillor Tucker reported that he had received complaints about the standard of the work but in discussion it was noted that this may allude to an incident when a resident intervened when the grass was being cut. Councillors agreed that there was no reason why the invoice should not be paid.
 - 6.3 Budget & Precept 2021/22 – Following discussion Councillors approved the budget for 2021/22. It was RESOLVED to leave the precept for 2021/22 unchanged at £17,160.
7. **Clerk Correspondence** – No correspondence has been received.

- 8. Commons** - Councillor Tucker reported that he intends to arrange the next meeting of the Working Group in the next two or three weeks. There was some discussion on Commoners rights which if in place apply 365 days a year. Visitors will be expected to adhere to any rules introduced by the Parish Council as owners of the Commons. More specifically it was noted that dog owners will be required to keep their animals on a lead when visiting the Commons. The Chairman added that the Parish Council would be content to receive representations from the Commons Association on this issue. Discussion then turned to the membership of the Upper Commons Association and it was RESOLVED to consider, in early 2021, whether Councillor Tucker should join the group.
- 9. Footpaths** – The Footpaths Officer reported that there is a broken hinge on a gate near the vicarage on GW21. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk report the issue to the Locality Steward.
- 10. Lengthsman** - The Clerk confirmed that, despite hastening the Lengthsman, he still has not provided a quote for outstanding work. It was RESOLVED that, in writing to the Lengthsman expressing concerns over the quality of recent work, he should again press for the outstanding quotation. Regarding maintenance of Tennesfield Drive the Chairman reported that the owner has agreed to undertake the necessary work. Councillor Rose Sparey sought clarification on who was responsible for maintaining the trees that grow adjacent to the highway. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seek clarification from the Locality Steward.
- 11. Children’s Playground** – Councillor Rose Sparey had joined recent discussions with residents to consider a possible revamp of the playground but noted that any planned improvements will be dependent on the available funding. The Chairman commented that it may be necessary to seek the permission of the Secretary of State before any improvements are made. Parish Councillors confirmed that they will be content to consider any improvements proposed by residents. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk provide contact details of various suppliers of play equipment to Mrs Sue Thomas.
- 12. Maintenance of Trees in the Village** – Councillor Rose Sparey raised concern over a tree which had recently collapsed onto a telephone wire. Whilst the necessary repairs had been undertaken by Open Reach Councillor Sparey was concerned that another storm may lead to a similar problem. Councillor Sparey also drew attention to two other locations where trees have become overgrown. The Chairman agreed to discuss the problem with both landowners.
- 13. Adoption of BT Phone Box – Broad Oak** – The Clerk reported that this BT phone box has already been adopted by Community Heartbeat Trust. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Trust to discuss a possible collaborative approach converting the phone box to a resource for the village.
- 14. Request for Permission to Install Fibre Broadband Equipment on Garway Hill Common.** It was RESOLVED that the Clerk circulate details to Councillors to allow them to determine whether the issue needs to be formally considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

15. Matters for the next scheduled meeting – None were raised.

16. Date of Next Parish Council meeting – 10th December 2020

Meeting closed at 20.32hrs

SIGNED DATE