

MINUTES of the meeting of Soulbury Parish Council held on Monday, 18 January 2021 at 7.30 p.m held via Zoom due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr V. Wright, Chairman; Mr I. Culley; Mr A. Stevens; Miss W. Taylor; Mr M. Cross, Mr J. Day and 5 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Rowe and Mr J. Spires, Clerk to the Parish Council. Cllr Taylor was asked to take the minutes for this meeting.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020 were approved by the Council and signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

4. FINANCE:

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Hearts and Soulbury Gardens Grass cutting	£160.00
Hammerite paint for speed indicator poles	£16.40
Open Spaces Society	£45.00
Anglian Water (for the parish hall)	£22.00

5. PLANNING:

5.1 21/00071: single storey rear extension at 11 The Green, Soulbury
The extension plan shows dimensions of the width of the residence, 6m. deep and 3.3m high. Concern was raised that this was a huge extension so Cllr Wright suggested a site visit.

21/00143: Change of use for the siting of an additional 119 lodge style caravans with landscaping and ancillary works at The Three Locks Golf Club, Partridge Hill, Great Brickhill. Considerable discussion took place and it was finally agreed that a letter of objection would be sent from Soulbury Parish Council. The objections are:

GREEN BELT LAND DO NOT ALLOW IT TO BE CHANGED.

1. Massive intensification of traffic movement on very narrow lanes to and from the current entrance to the site. Local infrastructure and small hump back bridges are not capable of this intensification of traffic.
2. Emergency vehicle road ways and turning circles.
3. Refuse vehicle road ways.
4. Sanitation and sewerage for 119 homes.
5. Danger of flood plains.
6. Adverse effect to the local ecology/biodiversity and wildlife.
7. Restricted amount of use for the accommodation.
8. Potential of human garbage dispersing into the wildlife.
9. If this happens, before we know it this land will become an housing estate..

6. ENVIRONMENT:

6.1 Childrens' Playground

The lease, together with some amendments recommended by our solicitor are in the post of Cllr Wright. Until that arrives we can do no more.

The grass needs a cut - when it is less like a bog.

6.2 Grass Cutting

Considerable discussion took place covering:

- A clear description of the work required needs to be in place.
- Contracts for suppliers of goods or services need to be in place
- Insurances covering suppliers of services need to be proven they are in place.
- Budgets needs to be determined for projects taken on by SPC.
- Tenders for work need to be obtained.
- Invoices for services need to be reconciled against the budget.

Cllr Wright contacted Robert Goss to discuss cutting up to the 30 mph limits in 2021. He has agreed to 4 cuts a year and will do it when nature allows, ie when birds aren't nesting. Again, the above paperwork needs to be obtained.

Richard Caplan (Hearts and Soulbury Gardens) has been looking after the village green and other works after Mr. Keel decided to stop his services to us. He has done a great job and the village looked really good all last year. Consideration was given to purchase a mower which can be taken on the roads. It appears this will be about £6,500 plus the cost of providing secure storage and insurance and the possible hassle of theft. It was decided to look at the cost of a contractor, again, to do the village green. A member of the public knew of two contractors he was currently using and were doing a good job. He was asked to forward details to Cllr Taylor.

The Council were happy to retain Richard's services for the ancillary work that the big machinery cannot get to. Richard supplied a list of works requiring attention:

- Clear drainage channels
- Fill in potholes
- Remove mole hills
- Cut back/maintain slope (High Road, opposite Laburnum Cottages)
- Paint beacon
- Maintain verges
- Clear litter

The above paperwork needs to be drawn up.

7. REPORTS OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

None present therefore no report.

8. PARISH HALL:

Ian Woodland and Cllr Wright spent time clearing the leaves from around the area and the guttering.

9. MILLENNIUM GREEN:

We have received the renewal documents for the public liability insurance from Zurich. Cllr Taylor rang the company to establish what some of the wording on the paperwork meant as the premium seemed extortionate. They would not talk to her as she was not the primary contact. Cllr Wright will rectify this as he sorted the policy and was therefore the primary contact. Cllr Taylor did establish that Zurich had extended all policies for 3 months free of charge due to the pandemic which explained the discrepancy in renewal dates.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A question regarding the progress of COVID jobs was asked. Generally, it was felt people were getting them at varying rates which goes along with press reports. Infection rates are falling but sadly deaths are increasing.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr Wright reported that he had heard on the grapevine that there will not be any elections again this year. He will get confirmation of that.

Still awaiting the final invoice for the lighting now the work is finally complete.

Cllr Wright raised the problem of sewage leaking on the site opposite the bungalows in The Mead. Anglian Water has been out to the problem and 'have done their bit'.

The rest of the remedial work is the responsibility of the site owner. Site owner has been visited and he says all the effluent from the current new builds have been directed into the older drainage system of the previous industrial site which has subsequently ruptured due to the equipment being used for the current site. Cllr Wright is therefore going to the Environment Agency (as he has just found that they cover such things rather than the Public Health Dept.) and will come back to Council when he has established something.

Flytipping has occurred in two places outside the village. Both have been reported to Bucks Council.

Speed indicator sign needs moving. Need a new location which requires a hole for the pole.

As there is a lot of broadband fibre under the village green care needs to be taken so the is not cut off. There will be a meeting to discuss on the village green.

Cllr Day will be cutting down the trees this coming weekend.

Cllr Taylor raised the issue of two outdoor menages for schooling horses have been built in the area of Stapleford Lane. We have not had planning applications for these. Cllr Wright asked for location references so we can address this with Planning.

Cllr Day raised the issue of a log burner chimney at Charity Cottage which goes up the outside of the cottage and over the window. It is in an area that the public can get close to and when hot will produce a nasty burn. Cllr Wright suggested visiting the site, photographing the item and, again, advising planning. This cottage is in the conservation area.

ADDENDUM

As the Council has been using the free version of Zoom two sessions were booked for each meeting as Zoom only allowed 40 minutes of time. This has proved to be frustrating so Cllr Taylor emailed the committee after the meeting to ask for approval for the spend of £14.39 per month for upgrading the Zoom facility and to add this addendum because several things had not been covered due to being cut off in our prime. As the spend was approved, Cllr Wright has upgraded Zoom.

Items not covered were:

Websites: Cllr Taylor changed the system our hosting company, Namesco, uses to host our site. She purchased a premium version which means several sites can be running on the one cPanel. Therefore, www.soulburyparish.co.uk ran from the cPanel from its inception using Wordpress. Cllr Taylor has now rebuilt the www.soulburymillenniumgreen.co.uk onto Wordpress using cPanel which costs no more to host. In fact, we may even get a refund of the hosting costs incurred using the older system. Cllr Taylor has to work that out. Upshot is that lots of sites can share this cPanel so if Cllr Taylor adds more to it she can split the cost between all those using it and the subsequent sites will get charged pro rata and reimburse the Parish Council.

Council documentation: Cllr Taylor is progressively sending these documents to Councillors for ratification and adoption. 6 have been completed, another 5 to go. All adopted documents have been uploaded to the Soulbury Parish website.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 15th February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom.

As a result of upgrading the Zoom account, Cllr Wright has been able to book in all parish council meetings to July 2021 using the same link for each and all of them. The link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92993182042?pwd=TWlweFFxQXNvYnlxMXBDUzB4eUZ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 929 9318 2042

Passcode: 818860