

**A MEETING OF STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL
WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM MEETINGS**

The following members of the Council were present:

Cllr J McKiernan	Chair
Cllr K Winson	Vice Chair
Cllr S Tilley	
Cllr M Goode	
Cllr P Scanlan	
Cllr S Champion	
Cllr E Pritchard	
Cllr G Lamb	
Cllr C Hodson-Walker	
Cllr T Williams	

Also present were the clerk and SCC Cllr Peters.

1. APOLOGIES

2021-070 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Davies and ESBC Cllr Gould

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2020

2021-071 An amendment was made to Item 2021-067 – 3rd paragraph ... the Parish Council should **not** wait to be asked ...

The circulated minutes were then approved as a true and accurate record following a proposal from Cllr S Champion and seconded by Cllr E Pritchard with all present in favour.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2021-072 Cllr Winson declared an interest in Item 2021-077 General Maintenance Agreements.

4. REPORTS BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR, EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

2021-073 SCC Cllr Peters :

- Advised of the recent remote meeting between SCC Highways, Fountains Special Schools, De Ferrers Academy and the Parish Council to discuss highway issues in the Bitham Lane area. The minibus contractors are being asked to stagger their arrival and departure times to try to alleviate the congestion problems and some traffic calming is being considered. The parking problems on Athlestone Way were discussed and the schools had some measures in place to help with this.
- Covid – Burton & Derby Hospital Trust keep the governors regularly updated on the pressures being faced. Pirelli Stadium is to be used as a Vaccination Centre.

Cllr Pritchard commented that the parking on Athlestone Way had reduced dramatically and informed that Hillfield House was being used as a Covid testing centre; plus informed that the instructions to get a test were very clear and the SCC communication had been very good. Cllr Hodson-Walker reaffirmed that the system was good and effective for getting tested.

SCC Cllr Peters was asked for more information on Street Marshalls, which had been mentioned at the November meeting. SCC Cllr Peters advised that the staff had been trained and had been patrolling the Burton town centre educating and informing on social distancing and the wearing of masks; but they had not enforcement powers. SCC Cllr Peters advised that it is hoped that the Marshalls will be able to patrol more rural locations.

ESBC Cllr Lamb informed that the housing development on Guinevere Avenue was nearing completion and shared photographs of the play equipment which had been installed and the

boundary fencing between the development and the Jinny Trail. Some landscaping works was still to be completed. Cllr Tilley asked about hedging the boundary and the Clerk advised that this had not been part of the planning conditions.

ESBC Cllr Lamb advised of a complaint regarding the recent clearance works on the Woodland Walk. The Clerk advised that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

5. PRECEPT BUDGET 2021/22

2021-074

The Clerk had circulated budget options for consideration prior to the meeting, following discussions at the previous meeting where it had been agreed in principle not to increase the cost to residents. The Chair informed on the two options available - one for the precept amount to remain as 2020/21 which would increase the cost to residents by 2p per week and the other for the cost to residents to remain as 2020/21 which would result in a £2150 reduction in the precept amount. The tax base cost has reduced this year due to more benefits being applied for in the area.

The Chair proposed that a precept amount of £198,837.00 (option b) should be approved with the accompanying budget, this was seconded by Cllr Goode and unanimously approved.

6. BUDGET AND FORECAST FOR 2020/21

2021-075

A copy of the current budget to end of December 2020 including forecasted costs for the remainder of the financial year had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs had no comments to make on the budget and forecast.

7. BITHAM LANE COMMUNITY PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT QUOTATIONS

2021-076

A copy of the report with quoted costs had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair advised that following complaints from parishioners it had been agreed to look for further play provision including replacing the swings in the playarea.

Cllr Scanlan considered the options to be ridiculous and were not of sustainable materials; and that there was nothing wrong with what was already provided in the play area.

Cllr Champion commented that he did not support replacing the swings and that it was not a good idea to have a large mix of age groups using the play area.

The Chair advised that the swings were aging and although safe should be replaced. Cllr Pritchard commented that she did not think it unreasonable to replace the swings as they were showing signs of their age.

The Clerk informed that the proposals had come from a site meeting with a number of Councillors some months ago following complaints that there was a lack of provision for older children. The meeting had looked at options for areas outside the playarea for equipment for an older age group.

Cllr Hodson-Walker confirmed that she had attended the site meeting after volunteering at a Parish Council meeting to be involved. She advised that suggestions had been considered at the meeting whilst looking at one of the catalogues and that it was important that provision should be made for all members of the community.

Cllr Williams suggested that a survey be undertaken with the community to look and vote on the options which was unanimously agreed.

Discussion took place regarding the replacement swings, removal of the seat and play panels. Cllr Pritchard proposed that this be undertaken but not until a decision had been made with regard to other provision, seconded by Cllr Winson and carried by majority vote.

8. GENERAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

2021-077 Cllr Winson did not take part in discussions of this item.

The Chair advised that a couple of the maintenance agreements were due for renewal in March and due to the current Covid restrictions proposed that these be extended for 12 months. Cllr Goode commented that this seemed a sensible option at this time. Cllr Scanlan was against the proposal, with Cllrs Tilley, Pritchard, Hodson-Walker, Campion, Williams, Lamb in favour.

9. BIODIVERSITY REPORT APPROVAL

2021-078 A copy of the original report had been circulated in December 2020 and a copy of the amended report, correcting some inaccuracies and spelling errors, had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair suggested that a link could be established with the RSPB to study the birds in the area in greater depth.

Cllr Tilley suggested that the Open Spaces Committee could take the report and develop a plan for implementation. Cllr Tilley also suggested having a wider variety of bird boxes and more wildflower areas.

The Chair proposed adoption of the Biodiversity Report which was unanimously agreed.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

2021-079 The Clerk had circulated a register of valid planning applications with status, prior to the meeting, for consideration and updated on the current status.

Cllrs discussed the application for Maple House on Princess Way and the considered over development of limited space within the plot.

11. DATE TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2021-080 The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd February 2021 via remote access at 7.00pm.

12. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

2021-081 The Clerk advised of the several complaints that had been received in relation to the recent clearance works on the Woodland Walk. It was noted that no healthy trees had been removed and following a site meeting with the Chair and Clerk the contractor had now undertaken all the works asked. The scrub had been cleared along with self set, dead or damaged trees. The Clerk to respond in this regard and inform of the adoption of the Biodiversity Report.

Cllr Williams commented that the brambles along the canal path from the Industrial Units to Hillfield Lane could be cut back now before they get out of hand again in the Spring/Summer.

Cllr Campion enquired if a request could be made to McDonalds for their litterpicker to clear the rubbish along Meadow Lane.

SIGNATURE

DESIGNATION

DATE