



SENELEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on
Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Cllrs J Pearson, Chairman
S Barton, Vice Chairman
Mrs B Ashcroft
Mrs E Murphy
J Stevenson

2020/118 To pass as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 11 February 2022 via Zoom.
Resolved: to pass the above Minutes as a true record and for the Chairman to sign when possible

2020/119 To Note Apologies for Absence: B Pilkington, P Peers, Mrs S Murphy
Resolved: to note the above apologies

2020/120 *Public Participation

Amongst items raised this evening:

Tom Nugent thanked the Clerk for her work in reporting back after the quad bike incident and reiterated Seneley and Garswood Juniors best efforts to keep pitches in good condition. The Clerk commented that it is key to report any issues direct to the police so a crime number is created and Cllr Barton confirmed this is needed for police to direct resources in appropriate response.

Liz Whittaker asked about dates for the work at Parish Hall. This issue is covered in the Agenda but Cllr Barton confirmed work is being done in phases with external works being done first. The Clerk will update and liaise with all hall hirers with regard to availability of the hall/dates of work.

Alex Finney asked about the signage for Downall Green he had requested; Cllr Pearson said he would check with Cllr S Murphy in relation to this and report back at the next meeting. Jason Shawcross reported he had offered to pay for this signage and also the speed signage he had requested. He went on to ask if Parish Council had thought of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme because at the moment issues are being reported via social media. Cllr Barton advised to contact the police in relation to setting up a group and generally said that reporting on social media although well meant in alerting other residents can sometimes compromise evidence in criminal cases. John Mason further commented in his experience, small groups covering just a few streets worked better than trying to cover part or whole villages. Cllr Pearson commented that was excellent advice.

Andrew Boyle asked if the police's FB page auto-issued crime numbers but Cllr Barton replied that it doesn't and the best thing to do is to call 101. John Mason commented that residents should ask for the crime number to reassure them that their call details had been recorded.

- for information only: residents may raise issues under this item and any that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2020/121 To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members
There were no Declarations of Interest

2020/122 * Policing of the Area

The Clerk read out the crime report from PC Beardsworth for the period 1st February to 11th March 2021

Burglary Dwelling - 1

Theft from Motor Vehicle – 5

Anti Social Behaviour - 10 - all related to covid breaches

PC Beardsworth commented in the report that there had been no real issues with crime apart from the vehicle number plates and advised they be secured with grub screws which obviously makes it more difficult than just peeling them off and added for residents' information there is a Facebook post re theft of plates and how to secure them to make it harder to steal.

book post re theft of vrm plates and how to secure them to make it harder to steal.

She had further commented on the scrambler bike issue from the day before the meeting and police attendance resulted in it being seized (suspected stolen)

Following resident enquiry – PC Beardsworth reported no logs for an incident at Victoria/Ranmore – other than a delivery driver who left engine running and keys in the ignition and it was stolen.

Cllr Barton felt we should acknowledge the good work being done in the area and speedy attendance to recent crimes. He further commented police forces will work together on joint ventures and this may explain GMP attendance at the crime mentioned above.

– for information only, issues that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2020/123 *Chairman, Councillors and Clerk's Updates

The Clerk reported verbally:

Several hire groups had been in touch re resuming activities from the end of April onwards which is encouraging.

Defibrillator co-ordinators are now Cllr Stevenson and myself with Andrew Boyle undertaking voluntary checking duties too.

The faulty fire doors at the Community Hall will be replaced on Saturday.

The boiler room door will be replaced over the next two weeks

An email had been received re the crime mentioned above and it is believed no arrests were made (unconfirmed) and a suggestion to consider CCTV installation at key points in the area was made. It was proposed to add this as an Agenda item for next meeting to further discuss.

Cllr E Murphy updated: she had emailed Merseyside Police re a Speedwatch Scheme; she had emailed Torus re the grassed area that hadn't been restored following their use of the area for a compound during the building of new homes.; she further updated on Friends of Seneley Green activities – they are still active online, a photography events is planned along with Easter raffles.

- for information only, issues that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2020/124 To Note the Decisions of the Planning Committee

Consultation/details re the following had been received but no comments had yet been submitted by our Planning Committee

APPLICATIONS

P/2021/0209/HHFP Demolition of existing single storey rear and replacement.
new single storey rear extension .. 321 Garswood Road,

P/2021/0221/FUL Erection of Gazebo. For Garswood Primary School, Hamilton Road

P/2021/0184/TPO 18 Austin Avenue WN4 0PZ Works to trees covered by a tree preservation order to fell 1no oak, Reduce height of 2no conifers (to between 5-6ft, and reduce height and remove overhanging branches of 2no sycamores.

P/2021/0128/HHFP 27 Stirling Drive WN4 0UG Creation of a detached garage.

DECISIONS

P/2020/0933/HHFP 17 Hillbeck Crescent WN4 0RP Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch along with installation of 3no dormers to front elevation - Granted

Resolved: to receive and note Planning Committee Report

2020/125 To Pass Accounts for Payment/Receive Financial Update

The schedule of accounts for payment were read out to Members:

Further to a request for more detailed financial reporting at last meeting, the Clerk had been in touch with Billinge Parish Council and it is proposed to adopt their more detailed spreadsheet and to report on a quarterly basis (beginning at the July 2021 meeting)

Members were asked to approve amendment of total accounts for payment agreed at the December meeting from £7479.90 to £7301.70 (£178.20 reduction)

Resolved:

To pass the accounts for payment (see Appendix 1) Totalling £3826.82 and approve S137 payment of £10

To adopt a more detailed reporting spreadsheet format and to report on a quarterly basis for 2021/22, beginning July 2021 meeting.

To approve amendment to total of December accounts

2020/126 To Approve Proposed Changes to Banking Arrangements

Due to the sad loss of Cllr Ken Cleary, the proposal includes removing his name from our banking mandate and to add two further members to ensure at least two members are always available for financial transactions. The Chair and Clerk are currently operating under procedures from the beginning of the pandemic in relation to approval of payments and under instruction the Clerk has been undertaking these online.

Remaining existing signatories are the Clerk (C Bolton), Cllr S Murphy and B Pilkington (currently in Australia) so the proposal is to add both Cllr J Pearson and Cllr S Barton to also authorise them to sign cheques, have authorised access to banking online system in relation to viewing all transactions, balances and provide approvals where appropriate.

Resolved:

To agree the above proposal to remove Cllr Ken Cleary from the Parish Council's Banking Mandate and to add two further Members (Cllr Pearson and Cllr Barton) to the Mandate to join Cllr Murphy and Cllr Pilkington as authorised signatories.

For the Clerk to complete forms, obtain necessary signatures and submit to bank with a copy of these Minutes to confirm approval of action.

2020/127 Estates Working Party Report

The Estates Working Party had met on 26th February and had agreed proposals for full Parish Council approval (report with Members)

For the benefit of the public present Cllr Pearson updated on the proposed refurbishment of the Parish Hall following the Estates Working Party meeting; he reiterated the issue had first been raised just over two years ago by residents who wished Parish Council to invest in updating the hall with a view to preserving the integrity of the building and facilitating increased use; discussions on the extent of works had been ongoing since then and more recently specifications had been done for identified works by Mike Murphy (volunteer) who was also happy to serve as Project Manager in liaison with Estates Working Party. Cllr Pearson further commented the uncertainty of the future situation during the current pandemic had only served as an obstacle to progress, but now having a national roadmap out of the pandemic, Parish Council are keen to have the work done as soon as possible.

During the electrical fixed wire testing work to comply with current regulations had been identified and will be carried out imminently.

The Estates Working Party had identified the following refurbishment and issued specifications to eight contractors for phased work. Two contractors had responded and Cllr Barton commented that the quotes had been 'poles apart' and the phases are listed below (the costs relating to the lower quote is in brackets):

1. Hall panelling; £5062;
2. Kitchen £3320;
3. Decoration £2855;
4. External pointing £3,400
5. Partition/disabled wc £5,600. TOTAL £20,237.

It had also been proposed at the Working Party meeting that it had been advised to have a £10,000 contingency to cover any unforeseen work (due to the age of the building) taking the total funding requirement to £30,000.

It was proposed that the contract be awarded to the lowest quote in each phase. It was also proposed not to increase the Precept to cover the planned refurbishment and for the Clerk to apply to the Secretary of State for borrowing approval to apply for a Public Works Loan Board Loan for £30,000 to be repaid over 10 years.

Roller Shutters: three quotes had been submitted to Members relating to replacement rollers shutters for the front door at the Community Hall and the Estates Working Party recommended raising an order for the quote valued at £1061.

Resolved:

To place the order for the refurbishment work with the contractor supplying the lowest quote for each phase (note all phases will be ordered from the same contractor)

Not to increase the Precept to cover the cost of the refurbishment/contingency. For the Clerk to apply to the Secretary of State for borrowing approval to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £30,000 to cover quoted work (including a £10,000 contingency). To be repaid over 10 years.

For electrical work identified under the fixed wiring inspection to be completed prior to any commencement of the phased work.

For Mike Murphy to project manage the works in conjunction with Estates Working Party on a voluntary basis.

To order shutter replacement at the Community Hall (£1061)

2020/128 Events Working Party Report

There was no update from Events Working Party.

Resolved:

To note the above

2020/129 Public Transport Working Party Report

The Clerk had liaised with the Chairman in relation to non-response from Cllr Liam Robinson in relation to work agreed at Garswood Rail Station and Councillor assistance had been requested. Cllr Pearson updated that a meeting with Cllr Robinson was to take place with himself and Cllr Murphy.

Resolved: *to note above report.*

2020/130 COVID19 Update

There was no update

Resolved:

To note the above

2020/131 Schools Update

Cllr Barton commented all schools had opened to all pupils on Monday 8th March but it was too early to comment on any impact.

Resolved:

To receive and note the above

2020/132 Communications Working Party Report

Facebook has continued to be updated with all information considered appropriate. The website is up to date with all Minutes and other documentation. It also include posts to signpost these and give other information.

Resolved:

To receive and note the above report

APPENDIX A**Schedule of Accounts for Payments**

151	Waterplus PH	162.39
152	StHC - grounds maintenance Apr-Oct 2020	573.62
153	Crown Gas PH	58.22
154	Clerk - Mar Salary	1184.49
155	Caretaker CH PH Mar Salary	588.76
156	Sports Attendant Mar Salary	241.11
157	HMRC	228.64
158	E-on - CH electricity FEB	147.35
159	E-on - CH gas March)	264.18
160	E-on - CH elec March	129.42
161	E-on - (contra entry relating to Transaction 135)	-299.81
162	Hoyles - servicing/replace fire fighting equipment CH	62.66
163	Hoyles - servicing/replace fire fighting equipment PH	266.10
164	CVS - food bank posters	15.00
165	Members Allowance BA	120.00
166	Clerk's expenditure reclaim: paper, printing, keys, sweets	*84.69

- £10 sweets at Christmas