Atworth Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at 6.45pm in Atworth Village Hall

www.atworth.org

Present:

Cllrs. Effie Gale-Sides (EGS) (Chairman), Richard Clark (RC) (vice-chair), Kathy Hartley (KH), Arnold Snowball (AS) Andrew Gooding (AG), and Heather Chaplin (HC) and PCSO Steph Holman [part of meeting]

Clerk: Phil McMullen

Ref. **Agenda items**

076/20 1. **Welcome**

EGS welcomed those present to the meeting this evening.

077/20 2. **Apologies for absence**

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from PCSO Maggie Ledbury

078/20 3. **Declarations of interest**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 17th September 2017

It was noted that RC and AS are trustees of the Atworth Village Hall Charity. One of the planning applications discussed this evening is regarding a property belonging to Cllr. Andrew Gooding, who therefore declared an interest when that item comes up for discussion.

079/20 4. **Questions to the Chair of the Council by Members of the Public**

Public speaking time is restricted to 15 minutes in total

Public Participation

There were four members of the public at the meeting this evening**.** Comments were received regarding planning application 19/06790/FUL

A member of the public also expressed an interest in resurrecting the Community Speedwatch group, which was welcomed by the Council. The Chairman advised contacting Rodger Fooks, the Community Speed Watch Co-Ordinator at Wiltshire Police.

Reconvene meeting

The meeting was reconvened.

080/20 **5. To Receive Reports from our partner organisations**

5.1 Police report

PCSO Steph Holman submitted a report on behalf of the Police.

ED12 Beat Code monthly report for November's 2019 Meeting

October's figures

Atworth

04/10/2019 MOUNT PLEASANT

Children have been throwing a bottle of drink up in the air which has hit the IPs vehicle not sure if any damage has been caused.

12/10/2019 ASHLEY CLOSE

Unknown suspects have stolen the lead flashing from the garage roof of a property that the IP owns.

16/10/2019 PURLPIT

IP has been bitten on the thigh by a small black dog (breed unknown). The bite punctured the skin drawing blood.

20/10/2019 FLEETWOOD RISE

Known male suspect has punched IP in the nose.

22/10/2019 MOUNT PLEASANT

RP has witnessed a fight between numerous people. Upon arrival, no complaints being made. Persons stated it was verbal only.

31/10/2019 BATH ROAD

Missing female – located

Regarding a vandalism incident, in which a resident's advertising hoarding for the forthcoming elections was damaged, PCSO Maggie Ledbury reported that PCSOs Janet Gould and Adam Almond called on the IP for this. They have given him some words of advice but there is little or nothing to go on reference finding the culprits. There have been two other incidents in Spa Road, Melksham but they were both different political parties.

PCSO Holman asked that it be noted that our first point of call would be PSCO Adam Almond in future. Clerk to ensure PCSO Almond was invited to attend.

EGS stated that a dog had reportedly been poisoned by a toxic substance in a nearby field. The owner was distressed but EGS would encourage her to make a police report. Possibly another dog had been affected recently. PCSO Holman replied that nothing had been reported from other sources to date.

5.2 Wiltshire Councillor

There was no Wiltshire Councillor present this evening and no written report was received.

5.3 Village Hall committee

RC reported that he had submitted a grant application to the Area Board for tables and chairs which had been successful on this occasion. He had since contacted two different companies for quotations. A sample chair and table had been supplied for users to give feedback.

The Committee has agreed to install a sound system. This is already progressing – speakers and a projector are now in place along with a much bigger screen. This was welcomed by everyone present.

5.4 CATG report

RC reported that the CATG meeting had taken place on 17th October and the Parish Council's request for the extension of the double yellow lines leading into Mead Park, additional double yellow lines on both sides of the road at the entrance to Clock Tower view, and double yellow line installed both sides of the road at the entrance to Fleetwood Rise, had been submitted to CATG for approval.

Atworth Parish Council has already agreed to pay for this work. EGS observed that any comments regarding the implementation should be directed to Wiltshire Council who will follow due diligence and consult with residents before the work proceeds.

081/20 **6. Planning Applications**

6.1 Application Ref: 19/06790/FUL

Application for Full Planning

Proposal:- Retrospective change of use to B8 use and extension to existing building (B8 Use Class), landscaping and associated works.

At: 8 Atworth Business Park, Bath Road, Atworth, SN12 8SB

EGS explained that there were two elements, firstly the change of use to B8 use and secondly the landscaping and associated works.

The 106 agreement covers B1 and B2 use at present. They had omitted storage and distribution. The applicant was now looking for retrospective approval to be allowed storage and distribution, hence the request to regrade as B8.

The council supports the retrospective change of use to B8. It was recorded that AS and AG had objected.

The Council supported the landscaping and associated works. It was recorded that AS and AG had objected. The Clerk was therefore directed to state "Support subject to the following conditions: that the wildlife bund is put in place, planted with native planting, and care taken to mitigate the noise impact for adjacent properties."

6.2 Application Ref: 19/10599/FUL

Application for Full Planning

Proposal:- Demolition of Existing Garage and Conservatory. Construction of Replacement Garage and Side/Rear Extension. (Amendment to 19/05976/FUL)

At: The Firs, 5 Chapel Rise, Atworth, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8JZ

Full details are available to view on Wiltshire Council's website at: http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx

Cllr. Andrew Gooding explained that he was declaring an interest in this application and therefore wouldn't be commenting or voting.

The remaining Councillors considered the application before them and agreed to **support** subject to the condition that the party wall of the neighbouring garage is to be built from reconstituted stone rather than rendered and also a party agreement to be put in place.

082/20 **7. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

7.1 To consider, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in October 2019

Link to October's minutes

Proposed by RC, seconded by AG and all those present were in agreement that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting. The minutes were presented to the Chairman for signature.

083/20 **8. Clerk's Report**

Updates on the following actions arising from previous minutes:

8.1 Overgrown hedges. There was a concensus that the area outside Snapdragons showed a marked improvement. Where hedges make the footway narrower the Clerk needs to be informed so that he can ask for the hedges to be cut back.

8.2 Village benches – EGS explained that the existing supplier was unable to supply the style of bench that we required. The Clerk was asked to obtain brochures from alternative suppliers. EGS explained that we need something that suits the clock tower and is sturdy and minimalist.

8.3 Planting trees on green space in village

The Clerk responded that the following response had been received from Wiltshire Council highways:

Any planting on the public highway would require highway approval as trees would become the responsibility of the local highway authority.

There would be issues concerning tree planting along A365. Please can you supply the exact locations where you would like to plant the trees along with their species and mature height?

The verge either side of Neston Road junction is part of a visibility splay and the council would not like to see anything that would compromise visibility.

Also because of the approach to this end of the village the highway authority would have concerns in placing a substantial sized tree in a location where it may be involved with an incident.

The council's tree consultant would be part of any consultation to ensure that the tree is suitable for the location. EGS to meet with Ruth Durrant on this.

8.4 Additional "Welcome to the Village" signs

The Clerk informed the meeting that this had now been formally submitted to CATG and would be discussed at their meeting on 16 December.

084/20

9. Finance

9.1 Councillors to considering the precept for the year 2020/21. EGS advised councillors of the elements which in her opinion required additional funds in the coming year. RC wished to see additional bulb planting. AS wished to see additional trees. AG wished to see planting that supported birds and insects. There was also a request to see an information board erected advising visitors of village highlights.

9.2 Approval of Payment Schedule and authorisation of cheques

Approvals for the meeting taking place in			November 2019				
Date	**Payee Name**	**DD/Chq**	**Net £**	**VAT £**	**Gross £**	**Payment Details**	**Approved By**
	E. Gale-Sides	DD	17.00	-	17.00	Poppy wreath	
	Philip McMullen	DD	324.02	-	324.02	Salary and Office Allowance	
	HMRC	DD	81.00	-	81.00	HMRC income tax for wages	

The payment schedule was proposed by AG and seconded by RC and all were in favour.

9.3 Approval to accept Budget Monitoring Statement to end of November 2019

Atworth Parish Budget Monitoring 2019/20
November 2019

	Annual Budget	Spend to date	Balance Remaining
Expenditure	£	£	£
CLERKS SALARY	5,600	3,311	2,289
CLERK'S OFFICE EXPENSES	560	331	229
WI VILLAGE CLEAN & TIDY	580	288	292
GENERAL ADMIN	250	107	143
INSURANCE	4,300	2,119	2,181
WALC	500	454	46
SLCC	50	43	7
BENCHES	2,300	-	2,300
SID DEPLOYMENT	400	13	387
VILLAGE MAINTENANCE	1,690	665	1,025
AUDIT FEES	300	275	25
VILLAGE HALL RATES	130	135	(5)
REC RATES	170	171	(1)
VILLAGE HALL	4,500	45	4,455
WATER RATES	160	143	17
GRASS CUTTING	4,500	301	4,199
ARMISTICE WREATH (S.137*)	20	-	20
YOUTH CLUB RENT	30	-	30
PRESENTATIONS	100	65	35
HIGHWAYS WORK	2,500	-	2,500
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE EQUIPMENT	200	-	200
NOTICE BOARDS	1,500	-	1,500
VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS	1,250	55	1,195
CLOCK TOWER SITE IMPROVEMENTS eg	250	4,094	- £3,844
VAT		1,018 -	1,018
Total Expenditure	**31,840**	**13,633**	**18,207**
Income	£	£	£
PRECEPT	28,521	28,521	-
B/F from existing balances	3,319	306	3,319
Grants		-	-
Interest			-
HMRC Tax refund		- £41 -	
VAT refund		-	0
Total Income	**31,840**	**28,786**	**3,319**
Net Expenditure	**-**	**(15,153)**	**14,888**

Balance Brought Forward	***20,216***
Current Balance (Cashbook)	**35,369**
Current Balance (Deposit A/c)	**-**
-Current Balance (Bank)	**35,368**
=Unpresented cheques	*£0*

Acceptance of the Budget Monitoring Statement was Proposed by AG and seconded by RC and approved by all.

085/20 **10. Agenda items**

10.1 Project: Lighting the Clock Tower

The Clerk explained that he had submitted a pre-app enquiry to Wiltshire Council and had received a comprehensive response.

EGS invited councillors to vote on whether to continue with the project since it had become far more complex and potentially expensive than originally envisaged. AS explained that he was no longer interested in proceeding with the project. KH proposed that the item is removed from the agenda. RC seconded.

10.2 Conversion of stockyard to visitor's car park in Bradford Road

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Sir James Fuller at Neston park explaining that access was needed every day for the farm vehicles. Sir James appreciated that there is a major traffic problem in Bradford Road, opening up that area as a car park would not work, could be open to abuse and would set a precedent. There would also be a long-term maintenance and insurance responsibility.

10.3 Re-Wilding areas of Atworth

Councillors were keen to see additional tree planting and successional bulb planting.

The clerk reported that he had been in touch with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust who had responded, *"This is very much something we could help with and advise about. There are a number of options when it comes to providing 'bee-friendly/pollinator' planting which we can discuss, from mini wildflower meadows to more perennial pollinator planting in borders or containers. It would be good to discuss this further so I am able to offer the best advice and cost guidance"*

10.4 Footpaths Warden

Councillors were unanimous in their support of the initiative to appoint a Footpath Warden. Clerk to write and inform the applicant.

10.6 SID

The Clerk explained that Melksham Without Parish Council had approached Atworth Parish Council regarding the purchase of a new SID, to replace the one previously shared between Melksham Town (who were no longer interested in the scheme), Melksham Without and ourselves. The overall cost was £2,290.00 excl VAT and they were asking whether we would like to make a contribution towards the purchase and subsequent maintenance and insurance of the device. Melksham Without Parish Council would be happy to continue on the same basis as before and install the SID in Atworth on the schedule agreed, and invoice us for the cost of the installation.

Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea and that they would be happy to make a contribution so long as an assurance was received that Atworth would see the SID deployed on a fair and equal basis, so for example if it were regularly deployed in one location in Atworth and four different locations in Melksham Without, then a one fifth share of the overall cost would be deemed to be fair.

Clerk to check details with the Clerk of Melksham Without and report to the next meeting.

086/20 **11. Correspondence**

There was no further correspondence of note.

087/20 **12. Any Other Business**

EGS mentioned that in Purlpit there is a commemorative pump that the History Group installed. The bench in front of it is now dilapidated and in a dangerous state. We should consider replacing it with one of the former Clock Tower benches. The Council was in agreement with this approach. EGS was keen to see that the existing bench was removed ASAP and would speak to the handy-man who had painted the other benches for us to see if he could assist.

RC mentioned that the cars parked by the garage are causing residents to walk in the road and around them which is clearly dangerous.

KH reported that a resident of Mead Park had complained of holes and poor surface of the road.. EGS to arrange a meeting with KH on this.

088/20 **13. Date of the Next Meeting of Atworth Parish Council**

December 18th in Atworth village hall

Followed by 15th January 2020 in Village Hall

Meeting closed at 22:00

Signed……. **Date …….**