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# minutes of the ONLINE meeting of CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH council held on mondaY 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

Meeting commenced: 7.30p.m. Meeting concluded: 9.08pm.

Present: Councillors Duggan-Rees (Chair), Williams, Torrens-Spence, Blakemore, and Wallach.

Also in attendance: Miss Caroline Harris, Parish Clerk , District Councillor Goodwin-Pearson, County Councillor Bob Filmer (for part of the meeting) and a member of the public.

## Apologies for Absence:

None received

## 86.20 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th January 2021

RESOLVED: unanimously that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th January 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman as soon as it is safe to do so.

Updates and actions since last meeting – for reference only

None

## **Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations**

None

**88.20 Reports**

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| **ORGANISATIONS** | **REPORTS** |
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| **Police** | No update provided |
| **Outside Bodies** |  |
| **County Councillor Filmer** | **Current Covid-19 Restrictions in Somerset: these** were re-capped.  **Coronavirus infection rates:** As at 29th January the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 16,417 The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 229.8 for Somerset with Mendip at 217.2, Sedgemoor at 208.6, South Somerset 209.1 and SW&T at 278.5. The latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.2. In response to questions regarding the slow reduction of cases in our area, County Councillor Filmer explained that there were many factors to account for this as the interpretation of statistics is complicated.  **Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline:** A reminder of the single phone number was given for Coronavirus-related support. **0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.  **Vaccination programme roll-out**: All sites will continue to offer vaccinations to the priority groups as identified by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, including frontline health and care staff.  **Older Age Domestic Abuse:** Worryingly incidents of domestic abuse have increased and help and information are available from : [www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk/)or by telephoning 0800 69 49 999.  **Census 2021:** Households across Somerset will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021 on March 21st. It will be the first run predominantly online. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.  **One Somerset:** It is expected the Government’s eight week statutory consultation phase on the transition to a Unitary authority in Somerset will commence in mid to late February. |
| **District Councillor Godwin-Pearson** | The meeting was informed that the district budget setting meeting had been very positive and that there are hopes of creating a new economic recovery officer role.  There would be an extra £42,000 for the climate emergency fund, including £15,000 ringfenced for Cheddar Gorge to combat anti-social behaviour.  There were warnings of scams circulating offering Council tax rebates and phishing requests from a fake NHS website.  The Grants Committee can make awards to groups or individuals. Further details will be circulated to the members about this. |

89.20 Good neighbour Scheme Donation.

Johnny Torrens-Spence appraised the meeting of the ‘’Good Neighbours Scheme’’ and asked the council for a donation of £200.

**RESOLVED:** To agree a donation of £200 for this scheme which could be used for either start up and/or running costs. It was stipulated and agreed that this money would be returned pro rata in the event of the scheme winding up.

## **Planning**

### Planning List

Members received the list up 15/02/2021 showing recent applications and decisions. It was noted that application number 5/20/00015 is being appealed to the Secretary of State. (We cannot comment further on this appeal)

### VDS group update

Cllr Wallach appraised the meeting of progress and that there are just ‘finishing touches’ to be done before the draft plan is ready to submit to Sedgemoor District Council. The printing costs are still to be advised.

1. Conservation area update – No further update since the last meeting

(County Councillor Filmer left the meeting)

## **91.20 Administration & Finance**

Clerk’s wages at the standard hours of 16 per month, to be approved for

payment by Sedgemoor District Council Payroll, and an additional 5 hours due to IT problems

MS Office annual renewal reimbursement to clerk £59.99

Village maintenance £40.00

Councillor’s stationary expenses of £10 towards additional printing and stationery for Cllrs Blakemore, Torrens-Spence and Duggan-Rees. £30

**RESOLVED:** To pay these as soon as practical and safe to do so

**92.20** **Footpaths & highways**

1. Footpaths – No updates
2. Highways – The Chair reported that good progress has been made towards the 30mph speed limit changes and signs. The process involves preparing an application, then a period of consultation is needed before an order can be made. A lot of work has been done to measure the areas where signs will be needed as there are strict rules regarding spacing and positioning of these. The additional horse warning signs and SLOW road markings in Ashton are also hoped for after the new financial year starts.

**93.20 Memorial Cross – Stone Allerton Tree update**

Cllr Wallach undertook to submit a planning application for removal of the tree and will not specify on this what it will be replaced with at this stage, as this has still not been agreed.

**94.20 Chair’s report**

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**95.20 Clerk’s report**

a) IT update – The clerk explained that the laptop has had problems with crashing and loosing data. The ‘a’ key also does not work. It was agreed in principal that the laptop will need to be replaced in the new financial year and this will be added to the next agenda. The clerk will do further research into suitable replacements and best prices.

b) Changing the dates of forthcoming meetings: the Annual Parish Council Meeting from the 17th May 2021 to the 3rd May 2021- in order to be able to have a virtual Zoom meeting within the current legislation this meeting needs to be held before the 11th May.

**RESOLVED**: To approve the meeting date change to the 10th May 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting is currently scheduled for the 12th April. It was agreed to postpone this and to ask the Village Agent which dates after June might be convenient for her.

**96.20 Standing Orders-**

It was proposed that as the current Standing Orders have not been revised since 2012, (and as it is recommended that Standing Orders are revised annually), the draft Standing Orders prepared by the clerks Sam Peake and Caroline Harris are approved to be used until such time as they can be simplified and re-drafted by Cllr Wallach.

**RESOLVED:** To unanimously approve these Standing Orders- Proposed by Cllr Torrens-Spence and seconded by Cllr Wallach

**97.20 Matters of Report**

It was reported the litter in the villages continues to be a problem, and that individuals have been collecting a lot of litter during their daily exercise. District Councillor Godwin-Pearson advised that and that while organised litter picks are not currently possible due to the Coronavirus restrictions, he offered to ask about the dates that these could re-commence.

Potholes continue to be a problem and these are being reported by members and the clerk when aware.

**98.20 Future agenda items**

1. Laptop
2. APM and APCM date changes

The Chair asked that members submit agenda items to the clerk in good time, so ideally no later than ten days ahead of a meeting.

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Chairman Date

The next Parish Meeting will be by Zoom on: 29th March 2021

Caroline Harris, Clerk to Chapel Allerton Parish Council