

YOXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council
held on the 1st April 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: P Hughes, P Kitt, J Williams, R Keys, M Arch, D Muir and P Bailey

Also Present: Borough Councillor L Beech
Three Members of the Public
R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from J Jessel.

2) **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, P Hughes, mentioned the following:-

- Zoom meeting for May to be held on the 6th May 2021.
- Query raised regarding Council Tax increase.
- Thanked S Pryde for assistance with Zoom.
- Issues with A515 plus other highway matters.
- Propose "Village Get Together" in July-September.
- Sad passing of D Cross, Parish Councillor and Chairman. Condolences sent to family.
- Ward Boundary changes update. R Keys mentioned following a second consultation:-

Following a second consultation, the Boundary Commission have made their final recommendations for ward changes in East Staffordshire to accommodate the reduction of Borough councillors to 37.

The originally proposed Bagots and Needwood ward now includes Rangemore, Dunstall, Wychnor and Hoar Cross as part of a large ward consisting of Abbots Bromley, Barton and Yoxall.

Three councillors will be elected to represent the new ward at the next Borough Council elections in May 2023.

The role of parish councils and their respective parish boundaries remains unchanged.

The changes need parliamentary approval which will be announced during the latter part of this year.

- Sue Evans interested in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

Resolved:

That Sue Evans be co-opted as a Councillor for the Parish at Yoxall.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declarations to be made when subject is discussed or received during the meeting.

4) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH MARCH 2021

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom Meeting held on the 4th March 2021.

Resolved:

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Zoom Meeting held on the 4th March 2021.

5) MATTERS ARISING

- No matters raised.

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- No matters raised.

7) REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

a) Report of County Councillor J Jessel

- No items reported.

b) Report of Borough Councillor L Beech

- Update given regarding the proposed Boundary Changes.

8) **PLANNING**

Planning Report – 01/04/2021

R Keys reported the following items:-

2021/00244 – An application for the provision of dog breeding kennels at Stoneyford Croft, Dunstall Lane. We have received several objections from neighbours and callers from outside the parish expressing concern regarding the location for such an activity. We have made careful enquiries and feel we need to reflect the concerns of local parishioners by also objecting to this proposal which we believe will be ultimately determined by the ESBC planning committee.

2020/00899 – Conversion of egg unit at Woodland Farm, Dunstall Lane to G8 general storage units. This application has continued to also attract a number of comments focusing on highways implications. We have been in discussion with the planning officer as we share these concerns.

2021/00077 – Longcroft Farm. Change of Use for a barn to be converted to G8 general storage. This application has been withdrawn pending further information.

2019/01517 – An application for two detached houses on the site occupied by Cartreff, Main Street, Yoxall. This application has still not been resolved as the applicant continues to negotiate with ESBC planning.

Permissions have been granted for:-

2020/01480 – Erection of a stable block at the Garden House, Longcroft. 2020/01455 – An extension at Fox Hole Barn, Scotch Hill Road. 2020/01465 – An extension at Byron House, Weaverlake and 2021/0132 – A side extension at Weaverslake Farmhouse, Hadley Street.

9) **CLERK'S REPORT**

a) Correspondence

- SCC – Staffordshire Libraries Online.
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Final Recommendations for East Staffordshire Borough Council.
- J Jessel – A38 Bulletin.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.

- Email from Gill Robinson regarding Longcroft plus replies.
- J Jessel – Road Closure – Newborough.
- Staffordshire Community Foundation – BKVC 2021.

10) **MATTERS IN PROGRESS OR REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION**

a) **Open Spaces**

P Kitt reported the following:-

Inspection carried out on Monday, 22nd with Phil Hughes.

The area has been recently mowed and was looking good.

John Francis was contacted at the time of the visit and was asked for a price to trim between all the trees. John gave a price of £150.00 to do all of it.

He was asked if he would be prepared to do the work mid-April and invoice with his normal end of April invoice. John agreed to this and has been asked to do the work. Parish Council approval is sought for this work.

Laura Beech has agreed to follow up our application for a Grant of £750.00 to install fencing and gates to the right hand side of Milne Holme Pingle and I shall be contacting Laura early April to pursue this.

Apart from mowing, no other major costs are envisaged for Milne Holme Pingle over the Spring months.

b) **Village Amenities**

- J Williams reported the Waste Bins outside the Newspaper shop will be sorted by next Thursday.
- Also commented the Car Park negotiations continue regrading St Peter's Walk.

c) **Roads and Pavements**

Reported last month of increased HCV movements through Yoxall.

Contacted HS2's Help Desk. Pointed out that assurance was given that HS2 lorries would not pass through the village.

Response and email received confirming that the lorries are not from HS2. Have obtained contact details in case of further issues.

Contacted Kings Bromley and Draycott P.C.'s and suggested we meet when appropriate to consider options.

Kings Bromley have not responded. Draycott state there is no problem, despite increased traffic from the Marchington Industrial Estate where seven day operation is in operation for container vehicles.

Have written to the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways on Staffordshire County Council advising the various issues with the A515 and asked for support.

- Some HGV's coming through Village due to large development site in Lichfield.
- R Keys mentioned a broken section of pipe found under Sandpits Lane.
- P Hughes reported Community Speedwatch to confirm a date to resume.

d) Village Hall

J Williams mentioned the following:-

- Reviewing railings.
- Election of Police and Crime Commissioner on 6th May 2021.

e) Best Kept Village Competition

- BKVC 2021 – Notice from Staffordshire Community Foundation confirming the competition will not be run this year.

f) Footpaths

R Keys reported the following:-

- Footpath by the egg production site, formal complaint to Staffordshire County Council – Officer to review.
- Back Lane – Obstruction issues.
- May need up to ten stiles. Grants from SCC reduced. Some stiles may be repaired. Will discuss problem with Staffordshire County Council.

- J Williams said he would obtain a quote to restore the wrought iron gate at the top of the Sports Field.

g) Website

M Arch mentioned the following:-

- Covid information up to date.
- Details of Boundary Changes included.
- Plus planning details from R Keys also included.

h) Burial Ground

J Williams reported the following:-

- Spoil to be reduced.
- Discussed with Sexton drainage at Burial Ground.

i) Ferrers Field

P Kitt reported the following:-

Inspection carried out on Monday, 22nd March at 10.30am with Phil Hughes.

The area was generally in a very good condition and had been recently mowed. The football pitch having been done twice, looking particularly good.

Sovereign had carried out an external inspection and audit and identified some safety issues, as indicated on the attached documents.

It was agreed that the elements regrading Public Safety needed to be addressed immediately and the keenest prices possible obtained.

Other elements would be priced and reviewed.

Ken Raworth was contacted for prices and action.

Regarding the play bark, Ken quoted £260.00 for two 1 ton bags of play bark, to collect, deliver to site and spread. On contacting Barton Fields, their price per bag was £99.00 per bag; does not include spreading. Ken has been given the go ahead as his price to deliver and spread, not seeming unreasonable, and the fact he would carry out the work this week, prior to the Easter Holidays ensures the necessary urgency.

Ken was asked to price to remedy the other issues identified and to keep his prices as keen as possible.

Repair hole in Tunnel: £45.00

Replace defective timbers in Fort and below Ramp into Fort: £85.00

Secure rocks back into place: £25.00

Remove timber base (old jumping off point for Zip wire) and make good area: £60.00. It was £80.00 to repair.

Cheaper to remove completely and negate ongoing maintenance costs.

Put up two signs on Wooden Notice Boards – no charge.

As these issues are all extremely dangerous, Ken has been given the go ahead and again, asked to complete prior to the 1st April, when the Children break up from School.

To treat all the timbers for Woodworm/Re-paint (again, as identified by Sovereign, see attached) on the Swings, plus all the Benches at the same time; Ken has given a price of £255.00.

To remove rust, treat to prevent rusting and re-paint goalposts: £75.00

As these issues are not presenting any immediate danger, they are on hold and Parish Council approval is sought to carry out these works, with a view to asking for the work/invoice to be submitted in May.

Simon Manning is scheduled to trim the overhanging Fir tree and remove Ivy from the trees in the bottom corner of the Field on 7th April, as agreed at the last meeting, there being no overhead cables in close proximity – (thank you John).

Apart from mowing, no further major costs are envisaged for Ferrers Field over the Spring months.

j) Riverside Regeneration

D Muir reported the following:-

1. Grant monies have been received from both ESBC (£1,000) and National Forest (£1,420) for the following completed work on Goose Green:-

Tree work, pond clearance, improvements to entrance gates and fencing, fruit trees and design and construction of two interpretation boards. The interpretation boards have been completed but I'm awaiting delivery – some time the week after next. I will then have to arrange to get them installed.

2. There has been some concern brought to my attention regarding a couple of large ash trees which have been creaking in the wind and which have branches overhanging the path at the top of Goose Green. I suggest that we have an annual or six monthly 'tree inspection' as part of our duty of care to the visitors to the Green.
3. A new bench has been placed along the path by Janet Laing in memory of her husband, Stephan. We agreed a suitable spot for it, between the river and the path and she arranged the installation of it last Friday.
4. As mentioned at our last meeting, I have spoken to Michele Clerc from Live and Local and we are arranging a meeting with Spilt Milk to discuss making an audio walk in Yoxall (A Little Wander). This will involve Spilt Milk talking to various interesting residents and taking in points of interest. Not sure how it will work but they are willing to talk it through with anyone who is interested in the project.
5. Phil has received a letter and report from Sue Harper regarding her concerns about the state of the River Swarbourn to the north of Goose Green along Victoria Street. She is concerned that the river course is changing and will cause problems downstream for the Village. It is a very detailed report with photos and drawings. I have spoken to Jamie Bradbury at the Environment Agency and passed on Sue's email. I've had a response from him today and he confirms that her email has been logged and is with the team who are drafting a response.
6. Gave details of Goose Green Income and Expenditure.

11) **WISH LIST**

P Bailey mentioned the following:-

- Very little to report.
- Fun Dog Show cancelled.
- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme changed – More detail when available.
- Definitive Booklet of Footpaths to be included on Wish List.
- Village Welcome Pack to be included on Wish List.
- Christmas Tea and Food Boxes reviewed.

12) HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

- Deferred.

13) FINANCE

a) Cheques Payments

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	£
01/04/2021	505927	V Shorthouse	331.17
01/04/2021	505928	R Young	268.95
01/04/2021	505929	SPCA	388.00
01/04/2021	505930	Bryony Halsted	550.00
01/04/2021	505931	South Staffordshire Water	260.26
01/04/2021	505932	ESBC Litter Bins	595.68
01/04/2021	505933	ROSPA	111.60
		TOTAL:	<u>£2,505.66</u>

It was proposed, seconded and agreed the above cheques should be issued.

Resolved:

To issue the above cheques.

14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6th May 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

P Hughes
Chairman