

# FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

## **PRESENT:**

Cllrs E De Quincey (Chair), D Toon (Vice Chair), D Carver (RFO), P Hammond, S Spencer, S Tomkinson.

Borough Cllrs P Farrington, M Smith; County Cllr M Winnington joined during the meeting.

C Little (Clerk)

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr L Bayton did not attend.

### **2. Declaration of Councillors' Personal Interests:**

None.

### **3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 and matters arising not on this Agenda:**

Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman. The clerk advised that she had raised and chased the issue of flooding to the residential premises at Sutton Bank Garage without success. When Cllr Winnington joined the meeting he advised that there were very limited resources due to Covid-19 and many other cases to contend with. He requested that the parish council contact him again and he will endeavour to secure a site visit.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Spencer advised that the application 20/32262/FUL for a glamping pod in Meretown Farm had been refused largely on the basis of its location in a conservation area.

#### 4. Financial Report and Authority for Payments:

##### 1.2020/2021 Quarter Three

The financial statement dated 13 November 2020 was presented. It balanced to the latest bank statements received: -

Current Account @ 05 November 2020	£110.00
Reserve Account @ 05 November 2020	£1,018.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,128.38</b>

##### 2. Payments Approved

Precept Payments	Budget £ p	Agreed to Pay
Clerk's Salary – 3rd quarter *(gross)	109.77	<b>£87.77</b>
Clerk's Expenses – 3rd quarter	15.00	nil
PAYE		<b>£22.00</b>

\*Gross salary was £109.77, PAYE was determined by the payroll service.

**The council approved the above payments.**

##### 3. Budget 2021/2022

The draft budget for next year was presented. This was based on the forecast to the year-end which produced a precept balance brought forward of £629.84. The draft budget required a precept of £1110.83 (2 x £537.09 + Council Tax Support Grant, £36.65).

Year	Annual Precept £
<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>1110.83</b>
2020-2021	1072.27
2019-2020	976.00
2018-2019	989.99
2017-2018	893.99

Salaries and Insurance have been increased in line with the Government's Consumer Prices Index (CPI – All items) which in September 2020 stood at +0.7%.

The general contingency was preserved at 15% (£185.00) as was the reserve at £300.00.

Stafford Borough Council has not yet announced its concurrent grant for 2021-22 but it is expected to remain the same as recent previous years, £270 (2 x £135). The council authorised the RFO to ask SBC for the maximum concurrent grant.

**ACTION: RFO**

**The council debated the draft budget, made no amendments then approved it unanimously.**

#### **4. Concurrent Grants**

The RFO reminded the council that any Concurrent Grants for the current year must be made by 31 March 2021 or be forfeit back to Stafford Borough Council. The council therefore agreed encourage applications that need to be considered no later than the meeting next March. The RFO agreed to prepare a notice for the website and noticeboards.

**ACTION: RFO**

#### **5. Banking**

Councillors had already been made aware that the incentivised offer NatWest bank had made to move the council's account elsewhere has been frustrated. Both of the banks that offered free banking and to which we were invited to apply, Coop Bank and Metro Bank, have decided that they will not take on parish council business at the present time. Neither bank has given any explanation for this stance, so the council is left with no option but to stay with NatWest at least for the time being.

#### **5. Update on A519:**

Still no progress on future plans for structural safety work. Cllr Hammond raised concerns that the double white lines in the road approaching Sutton from Woodseaves appeared to require renewing. Cllr Spencer agreed to check this.

**ACTION: CLLR SPENCER**

Cllr Toon advised that he had recently seen council workmen in the area who advised him they were preparing to resurface the road early next year. Cllr Smith advised that any road markings covered by the resurface would automatically be

restored. Cllr Tomkinson advised that traffic was still travelling through the village far too fast, even more so with reduced traffic levels due to lockdown. Cllr Smith advised that there was actually nowhere to site speed cameras even if the accident records held by the safer road partnership supported such an installation. The clerk agreed to check the accident records (which were last updated on 26 February 2020) These show a serious collision outside Swan Court on 07 October 2016 where two children suffered serious injuries and an adult and a child suffered slight injuries. These individuals were all passengers in one vehicle. There is no other vehicle recorded. A second serious incident occurred at the junction with Shay Lane on 27 February 2019 involving two vehicles and 2 passengers in one of the vehicles were seriously hurt. There were no incidents recorded in Sutton.

#### **6. Matters requiring attention in the Parish – Flooding at Sutton Bank:**

Cllr Toon reported that there had been significant flooding on the road outside Sutton Farm. Whilst the flood water had been cleared and a pothole repaired, the drain gully which had caused the issue had not. Cllr Winnington asked that this issue was raised along with flooding at Sutton Garage.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr De Quincey advised that the website accessibility audit had been completed and the findings shared with councillors ahead of the meeting. He confirmed that the website was compliant with the current legislation.

#### **7. The Red Lion, Sutton:**

Cllr Toon advised that the Red Lion in Sutton is currently being advertised for sale as a licenced house. He stated there had been offers made by villagers and external parties but none had been accepted at this stage. It would appear that some people see it as a development opportunity. Cllr Toon said would be useful to know the stance of the planning department and it was clear there had been some preparatory marking out of the car park. Councillors stated that there was considerable opposition to both losing the pub and the possibility of a development. There has been talk of a community purchase and there needed to be time for that to be looked into. Cllr Smith advised that the parish council could request that the pub was added to the community asset register. Cllr Toon advised

that he understood that councils had to be careful about nominating community assets as potential developers could take legal action if this hampered their plans. Cllr Mike Smith advised that we would be alright at this stage and it would be quite reasonable for the Parish Council to apply to register The Red Lion as an Asset of Community Value. The clerk agreed to complete the submission as far as possible and liaise with councillors to submit it as soon as possible.

**ACTION: CLERK**

#### **8. Any Other Business:**

Cllr Spencer advised that the planning applications for Whitleyford Farm, Shay Lane have now been decided:

- Change of use from agricultural building to single dwelling/house- Allowed
- Prior Approval The Parlour - Change of use of agricultural building and associated curtilage to a dwelling house under Class Q - Refused
- Prior Approval Cattle Shed- Change of use of agricultural building and associated curtilage to two dwelling houses under Class Q – Refused
- Prior Approval Straw Shed - Change of use of agricultural building and associated curtilage to two dwelling houses under Class Q – Refused

#### **9. Correspondence:**

No other correspondence received.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 10 March 2021

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at **7:56 p.m.**