

Minutes of Sevington with Finberry Parish Council
A Virtual Meeting held in on Monday, 6th July 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr Martin (Chair)
 Cllr Oakley-Hills
 Cllr Whybrow

Cllr Bartram
 Cllr Townsend

In attendance: Borough Council Paul Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Kennedy who had a migraine and Oakley-Hills who had been delayed.</p>	
<p>To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. No declarations of interest were declared.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2020. The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. There were no members of the public present.</p>	
<p>Report from Borough Councillor Cllr Bartlett's report had been circulated.</p>	
<p>Applications for vacancy of Councillor Cllr Bartlett was suggested as a Parish Councillor. If no-one else is found, Cllr Bartlett will stand – to re-visit in September.</p> <p>It is hoped that there may be interest following the latest newsletter. Suggest leaving until September, if still a vacancy, Cllr Bartlett will step forward at that point</p>	
<p>Concern regarding Social Media It is important that the Parish Council draws up a Social Media Policy. Not sure that we need our own Facebook page, would like to ensure that the Parish Council is not involved. There is a problem with a couple of residents who post items that are not true and the Parish Councillors appear to be baited into arguments.</p> <p>An e-newsletter being set-up is much easier to communicate information through this. Having a PC group does not stop others posting incorrect information on their own Facebook. Comments should be made that state: contact the Clerk, see our website.</p> <p>We should not be drawn in to Facebook /social media comments and a policy will provide a good steer on this. Engaging on this is always slightly risky and other agendas come in to play. Think we need to apply common sense and approach comments with caution.</p> <p>Propose an extraordinary meeting in September with intention to adopt policies. We will run a Policy Audit and draw up those that we require.</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>There was concern that we are being drawn in and feel that Cllr Oakley-Hills is being baited and that she has been treated unfairly by members of the public. We are a new and separate Parish Council. Having the newsletter going out should help.</p>	
<p>Update re: play equipment The play equipment being installed for accessible equipment and the installations are underway but there have been a few issues.</p>	
<p>Waterbrook and request for media comment Cllrs Martin, Townsend and Oakley-Hills worked together and the paper has now been published. Cllr Bartlett also commented on this and the paper wanted to look into Amazon moving in. We need to welcome jobs into the Borough and for the reason that we are about to enter a deep and long recession as we are very sad that the Winery has been put on hold but the site will potentially be used.</p> <p>On Waterbrook, HMRC have planned to extend the use of the lorry park for 2 years but this will now facilitate Brexit until 2023. Not sure if the site is big enough, it could be that this will need to expand or move elsewhere. The staff car park was 250 spaces so we are talking about a huge employer for the area. Could be positive for the area notwithstanding the impact of the traffic. J10a was built to alleviate traffic issues, we are already backed up, then we may have traffic management issues.</p> <p>Concerns have been expressed around Amazon’s employment practices and there is clear disquiet about this. Need to be wary if they are coming that we build in reserved matters in order to manage their working practices as best we can by working creatively and practically with new employers in the town.</p> <p>There are real issues for traffic flow in the Amazon Depot in the North of the County, need to ensure that the traffic flow issues are resolved through the planning restrictions. <i>Do you have to be careful that you don’t alienate the companies?</i> Yes, but they are already changing as their stakeholders are expecting them to change. It is a hell of a site – as foundations are already there, it must be perfect to them, just need to manage it. <i>Will the traffic lights be in place prior to this?</i> Don’t know what shape Crest will be in by this point following the Covid-19 issues. Rutledge Avenue to Swift on Finberry, the Community Centre and the traffic lights trigger points are all 500 occupancies and they must be nearing this. There is a huge tipping point about to be reached. Must have an open dialogue with Crest about when they will realistically going to build. As they stopped doing what they were supposed to do on Bridgefield when there was a crash in 2008. Need to engage to find out what is going to happen going forward. Would be a great opportunity to get out of a community centre if we can gain a seat at the table with Crest.</p> <p>What is the process to hold Crest to their agreements? They need to meet with the Parish Council, just need a pragmatic approach to decide what is really important.</p>	
<p>BT Payphone kiosk in Church Road, Sevington and campaign to add a defib machine BT gave the option to the PC to adopt this and we went forward with adoption if possible subject to the agreement for the way forward. Agreed to pay £1 and adopt the payphone.</p> <p>The kiosk is causing the residents to feel some sort of entitlement. There may well be ill-feeling toward the previous Parish Council and this is a fresh start and we hope that we can build a new dialogue. We cannot fix lingering resentments over-night.</p> <p>If adoption does go through then there is some finance available from Gerald.</p>	
<p>Highways Improvement Plan We are going to re-visit. Traffic improvement plans are futile on Finberry and might be worth re-visiting on Sevington North. To be revisited at September meeting. Highways Plan to be sent to all.</p>	

Support for the community around Covid-19

We have had a watching brief over what might be required and what our response/role is going to be. Think we are still waiting to see.

Any further thoughts – think this is perhaps too soon.

Cllr Bartlett are keen to provide additional resources in to their Community Warden Scheme, an additional resource will be available and it is key that we have a report from the Community Warden who will be responsible for Willesborough/Finberry and what they are going to offer. Need to create a link in to the responsible officer. It is predominantly for the rural areas and the scheme is changing to assist with more urban areas. When this is settled, we need a report or the Warden to attend the meetings and what they can offer and how they will work with the Parish Council.

Local neighbourhood magazine/newsletter

Created a newsletter and it is ready for delivery – put together and printed.

Rick to circulate this week.

130 houses for Sevington North and 20 for Jan. Rick to deliver to Andy, Andy to provide addresses. James, Robyn and Rick to deliver on Finberry.

Good to deliver asap to cover the whole of the area in a few days.

Very well put together – keep an eye on how many reply and watch whether there is much interest.

Crest/HML meeting in support of Finberry residents

HML have sent out another confusing letter to individuals of poorly printed statements so no-one knows how much has to be paid and when. This matter needs addressing because no residents are able to understand the paperwork they are receiving.

The representation added to the confusion, this is just symptomatic of the chaos that HML represent. Awaiting a response from Crest/HML – the Clerk will chase for a response.

Planning Matters:

A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:

[20/00667/AS](#)

Land adjoining The Paddocks and Orchard Cottage, Church Road, Sevington Kent

Outline application for 3 office buildings

Cllr Bartlett has called this application in to the Planning Committee.

Issue with traffic and the proximity to the Church is an issue. The Church becoming a community hub will already increase the traffic.

Also, the fundamental point of protecting the setting due to the high number of Listed Buildings in order to allow Church Road to maintain its rural setting and was not included in the Local Plan for sporadic increase for buildings.

Deadline was 28th June – respond by the end of the week to TB

[18/00098/CONL/AS](#)

Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent

Discharge of condition 63

Suggest that newspaper comments are submitted

[18/00098/CONM/AS](#)

Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent

Part discharge of conditions 73 relating to Parcel A

Suggest that newspaper comments are submitted

Financial Matters

a) To approve the following financial documents:

To note/authorise the following:

i. To note the Parish Council's financial position

The Parish Council bank balance as at 29/06/2020 was £10,206.16 with outstanding payments to clear of £3279.76.

ii. To authorise any payments

Payee	Amount
Printing of newsletters	£ 89.44
Thomas Saint	£ 113.71
Tracey Block	£ 309.96
HMRC	£ 105.20

A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.

To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

There were no changes to be made

Any Other Business

CLlr White joined the meeting, he raised concerns around fly tipping around Wickes in Sevington North. All we can really do is make sure that it is reported whenever it happens.

Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council

We are still awaiting guidance from the Government on when we are able to meet in person. There is generally an appetite amongst councillors to do so, although some have expressed concerns around health so ideally we would need a larger venue than the Chamber of Commerce or the Hall we had in Mersham (we discussed approaching Finberry Primary School again for use of their hall; also mentions of Willesborough Church hall for the same reason). If we do not get the green light by September, or we cannot arrange a venue in time, then Skype will suffice. The Clerk to keep the Council informed of advice as it is received.

Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

Monday 7 September 2020

Monday 5 October 2020

Monday 2 November 2020

Monday 4 January 2021

Monday 1 February 2021

Monday 1 March 2021

Monday 5 April 2021

Monday 3 May 2021

Thank you Paul/Gerald for attending.

Meeting closed at 21.25.