

**CHIPPENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held via videoconferencing on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 7pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: NB, IH, PF, FM, SR NW MG

Other councillors: JH, JS

Members of public: one

Minute		Action
20-21/97	<b>Apologies for absence</b> None	
20-21/98	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> NW - item 103 i. has been approached by Sunnica	
20-21/99	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> Minutes from the last meeting were signed by the clerk as a true copy due to this being a virtual meeting.	
20-21/100	<b>Public Participation</b> IC -	
20-21/101	<p><b>District Council Report</b> <b>Sunnica</b></p> <p>The meeting discussed the compulsory purchase order (CPO) which was recently served on one landowner. JS explained that a CPO is separate from a planning application but that it must meet strict criteria. District Councillor Julia Huffer has spoken to Lucy Frazer MP about this application which has caused much distress to the landowner.</p> <p>JH and JS are planning to hold an online meeting, possibly with LF, to engage with local residents about recent developments.</p> <p>The meeting discussed this application and whether Sunnica met the criteria for a utility supplier. It was confirmed that they have a utility licence.</p> <p>It was noted that many felt that that statutory consultation process was inadequate and was stage-managed by Sunnica so that feedback and two way dialogue was limited, especially around contentious issues.</p> <p>The parish council would like the District Council, as the Principal Planning Authority, to object to the consultation process as they do not believe that the application has met the metrics for an adequate consultation. IC asked the District Councillors about the metrics to measure the process. JS will send details to the clerk to disseminate to interested parties. JS said that the adequacy of the consultation process will not be examined until the planning application has been submitted by Sunnica.</p> <p>JS also asked for examples of where the consultation did not meet expectation to be sent to him so that he can build a robust document to challenge the consultation. One such example is the repeated pledge that CPOs would not be used.</p> <p>NW reported that every land owner along the cable route has been served with Section 172 order which enables Sunnica's surveyors to go onto their land to survey which can involve digging up fields which are actively growing crops. Again, this is very heavy-handed and leaves the landowners feeling that they do not have control over their own land.</p> <p>It was noted that because of COVID it is very hard for some people to focus on anything other than their day to day survival. This has a two-fold impact. Firstly, people who would have engaged in the consultation process have not felt able to do so and secondly, the worry of this colossal scheme appearing is causing an immense amount of worry and stress during an already stressful period.</p> <p>Other points of note are that LF has asked twice for the alternative assessment (of land) and Sunnica are refusing to provide this document.</p> <p>FM has contacted other parish council Chairs whose villages are affected by this scheme. So far three parish councils have responded and a Zoom meeting is planned within the next week. JH and JS will also attend.</p>	
20-21/102	<b>County Council Report</b> JS – report sent via email.	

20-21/103	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>i. Sunnica Solar Farm See item 20-21/101 – District Council</p> <p>ii. Luton Airport expansion The consultation for airport expansion including a holding pattern over Newmarket has been discussed by the Combined Authority who will respond on behalf of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p> <p>iii. Old Mill Stud – 20/01683/VAR The council is concerned that the whole replacement of the main dwelling was rolled into this application rather than being submitted separately. The clerk will ask the planning office for an explanation of this. A query was also raised as to whether this development will generate any CIL funding. There were no objections to the application.</p>	
20-21/104	<p><b>Play areas</b></p> <p>i. U 12's Play area lease ongoing</p> <p>KP noted that the fence posts at the U12 play area (near the vehicular gate) have rotted and the fence is falling over. He has quoted £100 labour and parts to replace the posts. PF asked if the walkway slat could be replaced. NB will investigate the best way to do this.</p> <p>ii. Outdoor Gym – NB has fitted the replacement part.</p> <p>iii. Annual Inspection - the council approved the appointment of David Bracey for the play area annual inspection at a cost of £150 + VAT.</p>	
20-21/105	<p><b>Highway Matters</b></p> <p>i. Speed Sign – conversion to solar NB – Work to convert the sign has been completed but because of Brexit the courier is waiting for things to settle before sending it back from France.</p> <p>ii. The dog waste bin has been damaged when the contractors removed the old speed sign. NB has reported the matter to Highways.</p>	
20-21/106	<p><b>Village Matters</b></p> <p>i. Risk Assessment The edges of road around Park Farm corner have eroded. This is causing damage to cars and issues of road safety as motorists are having to use the middle of the road on a blind bend. The clerk will report the issue to Highways.</p> <p>ii. Recent Criminal Activity NW reported that the training facility near Red Lodge Karting has had to give up trading as they have been broken into 5-6 times and can longer get insurance.</p> <p>iii. Laurel Hedge The clerk has been in contact with Carter Jonas regarding the laurel hedge at the opening of the allotments. They maintain that it is not on their land and that the maintenance does not fall to them. The hedge is encroaching on the staggered gates and access is impeded. The council agreed a one-off contribution £160 to help get the hedge back to a manageable size. This cost is to be shared with the owner. Going forward the owner will maintain the hedge on both sides of the boundary.</p> <p>iv. Village Sign The council agreed to pay JB an additional £250 for labour for the sign.</p>	
20-21/107	<p><b>Correspondence and Financial Matters</b></p> <p>i. Policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Model Financial Regulations Policy Working with FC to review all relevant content and implement for the council.</li> </ol>	

	<p>2. Social Media Policy SR pulled together SMP from other councils' policies and linked into what we currently do. FM's feedback was that there could be more clarification between councillor based account and personal accounts. She will send SR examples and SR will modify the wording to ensure clarification.</p> <p>3. Sickness Absence Policy SR has written a Sickness Absence policy which is based on CAPALC templates. The council reviewed and adopted the policy.</p> <p>ii. Finance Committee</p> <p>1. Precept The council discussed the precept for 2021/22 and agreed a 10% increase. This is to help the council reach their target of not relying on other income streams to support the day to day running costs of the council. In real terms this means a £5 p.a. increase for a Band D property.</p> <p>2. Budget 21/22 The council reviewed the revised budget which had been worked on by the Finance Committee. The figure for training was increased to £350. The budget was then accepted by the council.</p> <p>3. Appointment of internal auditor The council appointed Judy Broadway as their internal auditor for 2020/21 audit.</p> <p>iii. Charity Accounts SH will ask Snailwell's clerk for an update.</p> <p>iv. Payments for authorisation EBAC £73.12 – new oil filter, 8 PL Carter Jonas £210.22 – play area rent Mark Bouttell Electrical Services - £144 fixing lighting issues at 10 PL HMRC £97.59 tax and NI Red Shoes £45 - payroll</p> <p>v. Palace Lane properties Electrical work has now been completed to fix the lighting issues at 10 PL. NB has been considering the longer term budgeting needed for the ongoing maintenance and contingency for the PL properties. It was agreed to put £10k per property into EMR to ensure funds are available for any emergency or longer term maintenance issues which may arise.</p> <p>vi. Poors Land and Village Hall No update</p> <p>vii. Councillor training SR has circulated a training calendar and reiterated that now is a good time to make use of the ongoing training facilities available to both the clerk and councillors.</p>	
20-21/108	<b>Items for the next agenda</b>	

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### PAYMENTS

#### Cheques

#### Electronic Payments

EBAC £73.12 – new oil filter, 8 PL

Carter Jonas £210.22 – play area rent

Mark Bouttell Electrical Services - £144 fixing lighting issues at 10 PL

HMRC £97.59 tax and NI

Red Shoes £45 - payroll

#### Standing Orders and Direct Debits

Dec 20 £40.00 S Desborough - cleaning

Dec 20 £130.00 KP Services – play area maintenance

30/11 £27.37 NEST

#### Acacia Management Fees

12/20 £46.80 10 Palace Lane

12/20 £3.90 + £44.40 8 Palace Lane

12/20 £188.63 – 8 Palace Lane, electrical inspection by Maple Facility Services

### RECEIPTS

#### Bank interest

Dec 20 Lloyds Bank 23p

#### Other

#### Precept

#### Palace Lane – monthly receipt

Dec 20 £740 + £65 8 Palace Lane

Dec 20 £780 10 Palace Lane

#### Bank Transfers

#### CIL Expenditure