

# Vernhams Dean Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING	:13 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
TIME OF MEETING	:7.30 pm
VENUE OF MEETING	: Millennium Hall
TYPE OF MEETING	: ORDINARY
PRESENT	: ADRIAN BUTT (AB)
	: HAYDN WATKINS (HW)
	: MARK DOHERTY (MD)
	: PAUL NICOLL (PN)
	: JULIE DRURY (JD)
	: MARY PERRY (MP)
CHAired BY	: RICHARD WINCH (RW)
IN ATTENDANCE	: KAREN NIGHTINGALE (KN) : CLLR K NORTH (KN HCC) : CLLR P NORTH (PN TVBC)
PARISHIONERS	:0

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## Apologies:

None.

Currently we have 7 councillors but we do have 8 seats on the council. Compared to other villages this seems unnecessary, however the process to reduce the number can only be achieved through a TVBC Community Governance Review, which has already taken place. It is possible however to have a vacant seat on the council. A parishioner from Upton has been approached for co-option and if he is amenable he will be asked to join but if not the seat will be left vacant.

## Election of Officers:

The following offices were unanimously nominated, seconded and approved:

Office	Councillor May 19
Chairman	Richard Winch
Vice Chairman	Paul Nicoll
Planning sub-committee	Julie Drury Paul Nicoll Mark Doherty
Village Hall	Adrian Butt
School Governor	Julie Drury
Playing Fields	Richard Winch
Transport , roads and highways	Richard Winch
Tree Warden	Paul Nicoll
Footpaths	Haydn Watkins
Internal Auditor	Tammy King
Flooding	Richard Winch
Neighbourhood Watch	Michael Knight
Website administrator	Duncan Johnson

## Register of Interest:

All register of interest forms were completed and returned to Clerk. Cllr Nicoll declared an interest in planning application 19/00813/FULLN and had no part in discussion.

## Urgent Matters:

None raised.

**Minutes of meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March** agreed and signed.

## Public Participation:

### Matters Arising:

Grass cutting tenders. Tenders had been received from TVBC and Scofell. It was decided to go with Scofell, in line with other parish councils. They have done a good job on PC owned land. However, there are small pockets of land around the village

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for which HCC have responsibility for, which have not yet been cut. Clerk had emailed Cllr K North raising the issue and she is awaiting a response.

## **Update on Little Fingers/Pavilion project:**

A public meeting had taken place to showcase the proposed plans for the pavilion extension. It had been well attended and the feedback was generally positive. The plans had also been on display for 5 days in the pub. The main issue that needs a solution is the siting of the BBQ and store area. The proposed plans give rise to some H&S issues especially on Bonfire night. A meeting is to take place with the PFA and the firework rep to discuss further and find a solution. One potential solution is to re-site the fireworks in the adjoining field. Cllr Doherty to approach landowner to discuss.

All land needs to be registered by 2030 and the Council needs to register the Burydene in order to effect a licence agreement with Little Fingers. Henny Garner has kindly agreed to act on our behalf at no cost other than the cost of searches etc.

Council members provided authority for the Chair, Richard Winch, to instruct Henrietta Garner acting on behalf of Mishcon de Reya in respect of work to be undertaken on registering Council-owned land.

The clerk enquired as to whether other PC land should/could be registered at the same time.

The VAT issue must be considered seriously to ensure we are not in breach of any tax laws.

## **Re-siting of 30mph sign**

Unfortunately, this is not as simple as just moving a sign. It will mean a change of speed limit (i.e. an extension of the 30mph area) which is a much longer and more involved process. The request has been passed to Andy Harding and Traffic Management (HCC). Chair is to ask for a written report from the parishioner who injured herself as a result of falling when 2 cars passed at speed. This is to be passed to Cllr North.

## **Phone box**

The BT repainting programme has begun so we wait to see if the VD box is included.

## **PFA Update:**

A donor to the MUGA had expressed concern over the maintenance of it. Weeds and moss have encroached onto the court. The gate is not locked and the tennis net winder had disappeared. The weeds have now been treated and removed and the winder replaced. It is no longer necessary to lock the gate as no charge is now made for using the court.

During the recent windy weather, 2 trees came down and needed to be removed. Luckily, they did not do any damage to the school or play equipment.

## **Correspondence:**

A shared ownership house is now available in Hurstbourne Tarrant. Details have been sent to councillors and to FOCUS.

A card had been sent to David Sullivan Chair of Hurstbourne Tarrant PC on behalf of VDPC who is retiring this year after 24 years of public service to the community. He was sincerely thanked for his work.

## **Councillors Reports:**

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Cllr Drury reported that the sign for Hatchbury Lane has been re-instated in a better position than previously. Potholes on the road to Rockmor pond have been filled however, there is a very large pothole by Church Cottage, which is in urgent need of repair. Cllr Drury will check that it has been reported to the HCC website. A complaint has been received regarding excessive noise from quad bikes from a residence. Situation to be monitored. Landowner should be approached in the first instance.

Cllr Perry reported that a parishioner was concerned about Ash Dieback disease. Cllr Nicoll agreed to take a look at the tree.

Cllr Nicoll reported that the last tree survey was undertaken 10 years ago so needs renewing.

Cllr Watkins reported a large pothole in The Dell. This needs to be reported to the HCC website.

The issue of flooding at the bottom of Conholt Hill is becoming a serious issue. Andy Harding (HCC Highways) has been to site to see the problem however; the issue is that the field, which could take the water run-off, is higher than the road. With the increase in traffic and especially cyclists, the Council is concerned there will be a bad accident. Cllr K North will take this up with HCC.

The property developer at Haydown has indicated the properties will go on the market at the end of May and that the cob wall will be re-instated.

The issue of cars parking at the bottom of The Dell is still causing concern. A resolution to investigate the possibility of introducing double yellow lines was passed with all councillors in favour. This process is a long one involving many rounds of consultations.

An issue had arisen with footpaths 20 and 21. An obstruction had been introduced but after some discussion had been amended and deemed to be acceptable.

An open meeting with HCC regarding flooding is due to take place on June 6<sup>th</sup> where flood mitigation plans will be presented. It is unclear if work on the water treatment facility will take place this August.

## **Planning:**

19/00834/FULLN Pilates studio Myrtle Cottage Back Lane. Application will not proceed further.

19/00895/TREEN Fell Thuja and cypress trees Meadow Cottage Back Lane. No comment.

19/00813/FULLN Single storey extension 4 Shepherds Rise. No comment.

19/01035/FULLN External staircase to attic in stables. Manor Farm Cottage. Objection. Building is increasingly looking like a dwelling rather than an agricultural building for which original permission was granted.

## **Finance:**

The statement of governance was officially signed off by the Chairman.

The annual accounts were officially signed off by the Chairman

The Council agreed that it met the criteria for the Certificate of Exemption.

Current balance in Lloyds account: £30750.96

A budget was submitted to Council and agreed. See attached. The training budget

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had been increased, as all new councillors are required to attend New Councillor Training course. Clerk to distribute details of forthcoming courses.

Cllr Nicoll raised the issue of the school payment for the car park. The school budget is extremely tight and the £400 p.a. payment is deemed expensive. The clerk outlined the historical background and it was agreed in principle that the potential for reduction existed. However, there may be legal implications that need to be examined. Clerk to forward a copy of the licence to PN and RW.

## **Invoices authorised and cheques raised for:**

Retrospective approval was given for S Haigh for removing fallen trees £351.00

Village hall support grant £1000

Village hall hire x 1 meeting £30.00

S Haigh weed removal at MUGA £120.00

VDPFA Maintenance payment £500

TVBC Grass cutting Oct – March £179.58

HALC Annual fee £261.00

Scofell Landscapes Ltd Grass cutting April 2019 £318.89

**Meeting finished: 9.00pm**

**Date of next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**