Vernhams Dean Parish Council

# Notes of the Meeting held

# Vernham Dean Millennium Hall – 21st September 2020.

## The meeting commenced with a one minute silence to remember Enham Parish Councilor James Nash who was tragically killed in August.

## Present:

Richard Winch RW Haydn Watkins HW Adrian Butt AB

Julie Drury JD Paul Nicoll PN

**2. In attendance:** Karen Nightingale KN Gemma Clinch HCC Rights of Way

John Hale JH Chair PFA

## 3. Apologies:

## Kirsty North Cllr KN Phil North Cllr P N Mark Doherty MD Nigel Palmer NP

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## 4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 28th July 2020 were agreed and signed. Cllr Butt wished to record that the expenses paid to him relating to PPE and sanitizer were for community use and not personal.

## 5. Register of Interests

None registered.

## 6. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

## 7. Presentation by Gemma Clinch on behalf of Hampshire County Council Rights of Way team – Promoting Volunteering

HCC are looking to recruit volunteers to help maintain public right of ways. Information has already been sent to FOCUS for publishing to parishioners. The department is available to help with issues arising on footpaths such as broken signposts, paths being blocked or installing kissing gates. They can also help establish the identity of landowners. It is important that any problem arising is accurately recorded in terms of location. There is a link on the HCC website to report issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

It was agreed that HW would be a useful point of contact.

## 8. PFA Update

The skateboard ramp has continually failed to pass the RoSPA test for the last 5 years and it does not meet the required safety standard. Ownership of the ramp has been queried by TVBC who believe they still own it. The cost of bringing it up to the required standard and the subsequent cost of weekly inspection (£48 pw) was deemed to be unacceptable in light of the fact that it is seldom used as a skateboard ramp. JH has monitored usage of it which concurred that 80% of the time it is not used and 20% of the time it is used by children climbing on it. It was therefore decided that it should be disposed of. JH will put an article in FOCUS explaining this decision. The table tennis table has a large split on the side which will cost in the region of £1600 - £1700 to repair. Again, this has rarely been used for its intended purpose and so it was decided to dispose of it also. Ongoing maintenance of play equipment and benches is being carried out. Unfortunately, there is no football team who wish to use the playing field on a regular basis which has a big impact on finances. There may be a grant available to help or a possible insurance claim could be made as a result of a notifiable disease. Clerk to send insurance details to JH.

## 9. Matters Arising

Mary Perry had retired as a parish councilor after 15 years. The chairman had made a presentation of gardening products to her as a mark of thanks for her service on behalf of the parish. The council can now officially co-opt a new councilor to replace Mary. Advert to be placed in FOCUS and on social media. To reduce the number of councilors to 7 requires TVBC to carry out a Community Governance Review which may occur in the medium to long term.

Work to create the new water treatment plant for the school is expected to begin early in October, providing the legal aspects have been completed and the easement has been granted by the PC. A compound will be created in the car park for the works machinery which will reduce the amount of available parking spaces. Two trees will be lost but HCC will replace with four after the work is complete. A lump payment of £5000 will also be paid to the PC. It was agreed that an article should be placed in FOCUS to make parishioners aware of the impact of the work.

The future of the phone box had been the subject of a survey carried out by the clerk. Of those who responded the majority were in favour of keeping the box as it is – available for 999 calls only. Chair to respond to BT accordingly. Urgent maintenance is required on it – the door has rotted and it is also in need of painting. A parishioner has offered to do this.

The issue of flooding at the bottom of Conholt Hill remains unresolved. Chair to continue to press HCC for a resolution.

The proposal to make a new footpath from Underwood to the flower meadow has been rejected by the trustees of the land. No further action to be taken.

The Chair had extended the council’s thanks to the PCC for the excellent condition of the churchyard now being undertaken by local parishioners.

Cllr Butt had updated the risk register. To be circulated and agreed.

**10. Highways Update**

Vegetation between Upton and Hurstbourne Tarrant had now been cut following on from correspondence to the HbT PC. The road from Vernham Street had been closed due to laying of fibre optic cable by BT.

**11. Correspondence**

A letter of complaint from a parishioner regarding the start time of street cleaning had been sent to TVBC and received an apology and a promise that no work should commence before 7.00 am in future.

A tree at the car park had been notified to the PC as having fallen onto the car park. This had been dealt with by the clerk.

A parishioner had written to the PC complaining about the noise of cockerels in the village. Advice had been to contact TVBC animal nuisance.

Letter received from a parishioner in Littledown complaining about dog fouling in the village. Suggestion was made to get it published in FOCUS to try and get dog owners to take more care when exercising their dogs. Dogs who are allowed to roam free are also a nuisance in this regard as owners cannot see what they are doing. The new dog bin is being well used and requires emptying.

**12. Councillor Reports**

Cllr Watkins had received a message from a parishioner worried that the removal of the barriers at the car park may lead to travelers visiting the Burydene.

Cllr Drury to remind HCC about the replacement of the metal finger sign.

Cllr Butt noted that the grass verges have not been cut at all. HCC has this responsibility – clerk to chase up. AB had been made aware of a report that parish councils may be required to “police” social distancing laws. This was generally felt to be untrue.

Cllr Nicoll reported that the hedge at the bottom of Conholt Hill is severely overgrown. Chair to contact landowner. He reported that dog owners are increasingly using the Burydene to exercise their dogs. New signs are required to ask owners to clear up after their dogs.

Chairman reported that some work is required to lift up the canopies on the trees on the pond area. Working party to be set up October/November

**13. Planning**

The enforcement officer had been called to a property in Littledown where a barn was being erected without permission. No retrospective application has been seen yet.

Conversion of the Old chapel Back Lane Vernham Dean 20/01332/FULLN – Council had once again objected to this application. The Chairman had asked how many times the property owner will be allowed to re-submit. No response has been received.

Detached garage with garden store Beeches Farmhouse Vernham Dean 20/02156/FULLN. No comment.

**14. Finance**

Balance in Lloyds account £24796.01

A notice of exemption had been received from PFK Littlejohn the external auditor.

A rough estimation of PC monies available to spend on play equipment on Burydene is in the region of £10,000

**To approve invoices for payment and raise cheques**

R Winch expenses for presentation to Mary Perry £49.69

K Nightingale Clerk Q1 salary £569.07

K Nightingale Expenses for auditor gift £25.00

Scofells grass cutting £637.70

Floodlighting Services Ltd repair to light £276.00

Toby Bunce Tree removal £300

Meeting finished 9.00 pm

Next meeting **9th November 2020**