**SALT & ENSON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting Held online Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Minutes**

Public Open Forum – No members of the public attended

1. **Attendees and Apologies**

Attendees : Chair - Barbara Clancy,

Councillors R Walls, J Starr, I Wimshurst, C Beardmore

Stafford Borough Councillor – Frances Beatty

Clerk DW Croxford

Mr JD “Fred” Scott

The meeting was quorate

Apologies – None received

1. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to items on the agenda**

Cllr B Clancy declared a Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 5 Planning Application 20/32275/FUL - Land between Salt Lane and Sandon Road

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2020**

This was agreed as a true and correct record by all present.

1. **Process of Election of Co Opting Mr JD “Fred” Scott**

Mr Scott volunteered to become a member of the Parish Council and provided the Clerk with a completed application form, confirming eligibility, and a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form, beforehand.

Proposed by Cllr Walls,

Seconded by Cllr Beardmore.

Vote Unanimous.

Cllr Scott was warmly welcomed to the Council.

**5. To discuss planning applications received as below**

* 20/32275/FUL – Land between Salt Lane and Sandon Road

**20/32275/FUL – Land between Salt Lane and Sandon Road**

Chair Cllr B Clancy left the meeting at this point and Cllr R Walls chaired this item for the meeting.

A discussion was held to discuss the outcome of the SBC Planning meeting held on 16th December 2020 at which the LPA had granted permission to the Applicant to proceed, subject to a lengthy number of preconditions to be fulfilled before work began.

A discussion was held to discuss the limited number of options available to the Parish Council / and other private objectors to challenge the decision.

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It was resolved that the Parish Council would write to SBC, under their published Complaints procedure, to challenge the permission given. This on the basis the proposal did not meet the guidance for Gypsy and Traveller sites, and that the Parish Council had significant concerns regarding the manner in the way the proposal was heard (on Zoom).

It was understood that the SBC Complaints procedure must be exhausted before the Local Government Ombudsman can be referred to. Further the LGO cannot accept a complaint from a local (Parish) Council, only from private individuals.

Chair Cllr B Clancy re-joined the meeting after this item concluded.

Borough Councillor Beatty gave a helpful update on Borough Council matters, including the current response to the COVID situation, and a number of large scale infrastructure developments being undertaken in Stafford.

Cllr Beatty was thanked and she left the meeting after this item.

**6. To receive Financial Statement and Clerks report**

* + 1. To receive and approve the financial statement and bank reconciliation

The clerk had circulated the financial statement and bank reconciliation reports and both were approved by all present.

* + 1. To approve financial payments

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Accounts for approval** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Paid prior to the meeting** | |  |  |  |
| **Paid To** | **Details** | **Amt** | **VAT** | **Total to pay** |
| Information Commissioners | Annual Subscription to ICO by DD on 27th Nov 2020 |  |  | £35.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  | 35.00 |
| **To be Paid** | |  |  |  |
| D Croxford | Clerk - Hours worked Oct-Dec 2020 | 613.94 |  | 613.94 |
| HMRC | PAYE Q4 2020 | 153.40 |  | 153.40 |
| D Croxford | Clerk- Expenses Oct -Dec incl mileage and Zoom Costs | 143.90 |  | 143.90 |
| Vision ICT | Website hosting and support Feb 2021 to Jan 2022 | 125.00 | 25.00 | 150.00 |
| SPCA | Clerks Training - Responding to Planning Apps | 30.00 |  | 30.00 |
| GCS (Shropshire) Ltd | Erecting pole and installing Speed sign | 150.00 | 30.00 | 180.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1,271.24 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL**  **189/21** |  |  | 1,306.24 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Accounts for approval** |  |  |  |  |
| **Orders to approve** |  |  |  |  |
| **Paid To** | **Details** | **Amt** | **VAT** | **Total to pay** |
| Salt Village Hall Committee | Grant towards floor replacement | 2,500.00 |  | 2,500.00 |
|  |  |  |  | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* + 1. Following a written request from the Salt Village Hall Committee it was resolved to make a grant to them for £2,500 towards the cost of lifting and replacing the mahogany floor of the Village Hall. The funds to be ring fenced for that specific purpose as part of a grant application made by the SVHC to the National Lottery for a Capital Grant. Timing of the payment to be established.
    2. Following a review of current balances and reserves it was resolved to transfer from the current account to Reserve Account £80 into Computer Reserve and £4,550 into General Reserves.
    3. The Budget for 2021 – 2022 circulated beforehand, was discussed and approved. It was resolved to set the Precept at £7,817 (2020-2021 £7,665). This will result in a 0.7% increase to the Band D rate as advised by Stafford Borough Council.

It was resolved that the Clerk would explore the possibilities of a Maintenance Contract with suitable contractor to maintain the village ditches and gullies.

**7. Holly Bush Inn – Update re Agent’s Marketing Strategy and Tree Preservation Orders on two trees at car park entrance.**

Clerk advised that when last contacted, November, the brewery’s agents, Fleurets, advised that the pub was being sold as a going concern with a new tenant still being sought and if successful would be offered a lease.

Clerk advised no progress is being made with the Tree Protection Officer at SBC and he remains in diary for a response. In the interim, as a preventative measure, it was resolved a sign / plaque would be sourced and attached to each tree acknowledging the respective benefactors to the Parish.

**8. Tipping reported at Salt Heath**

A village resident had reported unauthorised tipping and developments on Brick Kiln Lane, Salt Heath. Was resolved to establish the current position with the Environmental Officer at SBC and with Hopton Parish Council given the site is on the borders of the two Parishes.

**9. The use of the Phone Box**

Cllr Clancy reported following the withdrawal of this book exchange facility during the current COVID crisis, a number of Parishioners had expressed an interest in managing the facility themselves, facilitating a re-opening. Cllr Clancy will explore this with them.

**10. Maggie Yeates’s Bungalow, Salt village**

A resident had reported the current position with the derelict bungalow owned by the late Mrs Yeates. The empty bungalow is in the hands of the Executors Solicitors to sell, proceeds to a charity nominated by the deceased. Matters are proceeding slowly. The Council are not aware of any issues from the property affecting the public at this time.

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**11. To discuss Highways issues and note any requiring reporting**

Cllr Walls advised there is a blue sign on the A51 carriageway, heading from Weston to Stone,

prohibiting HGV’s from turning left and entering Salt via Casey Bridge.

There is however not one on the opposite carriageway, heading from Stone to Weston, prohibiting HGV’s turning right and entering Salt via Casey Bridge. Was resolved to advise Highways.

**12. To review correspondence received**

Clerk to distribute when received

**13. To inform attendees of dates of future meetings**To note dates of future meetings as follows: Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom 3rd Mar/ 5th May/ 7th Jul/ 1st Sep/ 3rd Nov

**14. Meeting closed at 21.30 hrs**

Signed .......................................... .........................................

Chair.............................................. Clerk..................................

Date...................................

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