



Bournheath Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 10th February 2021, 7.30pm

Held virtually by zoom due to the Coronavirus Lockdown

Councillors present:

Cllr Andrew Hewston (Chairman), Councillor Karen May (Vice Chairman), Cllr Louise Colley, Cllr Sara Ffoulkes, Cllr Matthew Guest, Cllr Peter Trueman, District Cllr Margaret Sherrey

In attendance:

No members of the public

Clerk: Angela Barnes

1. Apologies

Cllr Steve Westwood, Country Cllr Shirley Webb

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr L Colley declared an interest in item 11a. The application 20/01624/FUL has been submitted by her next-door neighbour.

3. Dispensations requested

None

4. Public Participation / Question Time

None

5. County Councillor and District Councillor reports

District Cllr Margaret Sherrey reported on the following:

District Council waste collection service is now fully staffed again, at one point 27 people were off work. The Whitford housing development has been given the go ahead, one main condition was the improvement of the traffic junction.

District Cllr Karen May reported on the following:

Currently 4,800 Bromsgrove residents are on furlough. Lateral Flow Testing is now available. The Vaccination Centre at the Artrix has been recognised as being clinically excellent. A Town Centre Strategy is in progress and there are plans to purchase properties on the high street, develop the old library and fire stations sites, and hold outdoor events at the Bird Box once restrictions are lifted.

6. Reports from Community associates

- a) **Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Cllr Guest wished to offer his condolences to the family of the late Bryan Hewitt and proposed that the Parish Council should do something to recognise his many years of service as the NW co-ordinator, this was seconded by Cllr May and agreed by all members. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for a bench.

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Anti-social behaviour in the lay-by on the Stourbridge Rd, Fairfield had been reported to the police. The Clerk was asked to email County Cllr Shirley Webb and Richard Clewer of Highways, to request that the trees are cut back again.

b) **Bournheath Village Community Centre (BVCC):** Cllr Colley advised that the repairs over the windows had not yet been carried out. Cllr May agreed to contact Eric Jenkins. The toilet upgrade is underway and work to date has been approved by the Buildings Inspector. The Builder is having access issues due to irresponsible parking across the gated entrance, one person has been asked several times not to do so but refuses to comply with the signs and requests.

c) **Parish Footpaths:** Cllr Trueman advised that there is a broken barrier on the PROW sited alongside the motorway bridge. All issues have been reported to WCC and reference numbers have been obtained and will be monitored for progress.

7. **To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13/01/2021**
The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place and would be signed by the Chairman ASAP.

8. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated that a resident had asked him to investigate obtaining "bend in the road" signs, following an incident on Valley Road. The Clerk was asked to request signs and a grit bin from County Cllr S Webb and R Clewer of WCC Highways.

9. **Progress reports from the Clerk:**

a) The Clerk reported that BDC had not responded to either the requests for fencing around the children's play area, or an update on the condition of the ground (drainage issues). District Cllr M Sherrey said she would follow-up on this. Cllr K May recalled that there had been talk of adding a road gully rather than a bund. The Clerk was asked to contact Fiona McIntosh on this, and copy Cllr S Webb and R Clewer.

b) **Any other items of correspondence:**

Councillors have been advised on emails received throughout the month.

10. **Finance:**

a) The meeting was advised of the current financial position as per bank reconciliation, copy attached, was **APPROVED**. Members were informed that the list of audit requirements had been received and that the annual VAT reclaim had been submitted to HMRC

b) A review of the current budget and spend to date was carried out, copy attached, was **APPROVED**

c) Council **AGREED** the payments as per list attached and cheque to be signed ASAP

11. **Planning:**

a) **The following applications were considered: -**

21/00021/FUL – 42 Fairfield Road

The Parish Councillors reviewed the application, along with the comments of other consultees and residents. The Parish Councillors note that the plot of land is green belt designated but it falls within the existing village envelope, therefore a house development is possible.

The proposed house is sited quite close to the adjacent cottage Number 36, there being a 10m wayleave (easement) between the plot and Number 42 to the other side; the wayleave is for possible future access to a 400mm public sewer beneath. There are several safety concerns; the proposed pedestrian access is via a series of steps with a 2-metre step down onto a narrow road. A short length of pavement 900mm max wide from the bottom of the steps forms part of the application but for

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safety is this sufficiently wide enough? This entrance would encourage visitors and deliveries to park and block a narrow road. The visibility from the already shared drive is limited, would three properties using this narrow driveway be too much? There are already 3 to 4 cars & and camper van parked at the existing property, would the proposed parking be adequate for both properties?

Number 36 still suffers from flooding issues, despite the flood alleviation work, a proposed building so close will be a loss of much needed soakaway.

The Parish Council would ask that the various comments made by North Worcestershire Water Management and by Severn Trent are complied with prior to the application being considered.

The Parish Council believes there is the possibility of dispute, see in "Comments" by owner of Number 44, who has stated that he will not allow access over the shared access for the proposed new property; the Parish Council ask that this issue be resolved before the application is determined.

20/01624/FUL – 77 Fairfield Road

The Parish Councillors reviewed the application, along with the comments of other consultees and residents. The Parish Councillors echo the request of Emily Hathaway an Historic Environment Advisor at WCC, that should Planning approval be granted then such approval to be conditional upon the block being recorded as a Level 1 Historic building before any alterations begin. They also have concerns over the true nature of the renovation, is it merely to improve the ground floor garage and create a 1st floor gymnasium as stated, OR is it to create a separate self-contained dwelling as shown in the plans? The rear garage area is to be extended and it should be noted that the floor slab is being well insulated beneath. The 1st floor "gymnasium" provision shows an area labelled "bedroom", there is also shown a kitchenette, a shower room and a cross-section clearly show a table and what appear to be dining chairs. An area is also labelled "gymnasium".

Should BDC be minded to approve the application, then the Parish Council would like to see the following Condition applied: That the two buildings always remain as one property, namely number 77 Fairfield Road.

b) No Enforcement matters to consider.

12. Planning for face-to-face meetings:

Members **agreed** to change the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting from May to 28th April 2021.

13. Newsletter – Members discussed items for inclusion and Cllr L Colley volunteered to produce the newsletter for review at the next meeting

14. Online Quiz – Members liked the idea of hosting a quiz but lacked the experience to do so, Cllr M Guest agreed to seek a volunteer via the B61 Facebook group

15. Purchase of Lease for BVCC – District Cllr Margaret Sherrey was briefed on communications and documents exchanged between BPC and BDC, most of which are detailed in the BPC January Minutes. She agreed to look-into the matter, to reach a solution.

16. Matters for consideration at next meeting

Members to email the Clerk with suggestions.

17. Date and time of next meeting

A virtual Parish Council Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 10/03/2021 at 7.30pm via ZOOM

This meeting ended at 9.49pm.

AMH..... Chairman

14/3/21..... Date

Agenda items 10 a, b & c

Bournheath Parish Council: bank reconciliation and budget comparison to 10/02/2021

See below

BANK RECONCILIATION as at 10/02/2021					
Opening balance at start of year	30,952.54		At Unity Trust Bank 10/02/2021		35,124.26
Add receipts	11,226.75				
	42,179.29				
Less payments	7,620.35		Less/add unrepresented		565.32
	34,558.94				34,558.94
					-
BUDGET COMPARISON					
To 10/02/2021					
	<u>Budget 20/21</u>		<u>Rec'd to date</u>		u/p's
<u>Receipts</u>					
Precept	10,680.00		10,680.00		
Funding - Compensation					
Lengthsman	1,900.00		546.75	300476	322.50
Interest	-			300482	242.82
From reserves/other	20,000.00				
VAT refund	600.00				
	33,180.00		11,226.75		
<u>Payments</u>	<u>Budget 20/21</u>		<u>Spent to date</u>		
Salary	3,700.00		3,267.30		
Clerical expenses (travel)	50.00		-		
Admin includes election costs	1,673.00		103.99		
Hall hire	277.00		-		565.32
Chairman's allowance	100.00		20.83		
Subs	300.00		288.47		
Insurance	300.00		272.91		
Audit	230.00		85.00		
Training	800.00		-		
Lengthsman	2,500.00		903.00		
Projects	20,000.00		1,770.80		
Grants	1,500.00		75.00		
Highways	1,100.00		420.00		
VAT	600.00		413.05		
	33,130.00		7,620.35		

V/R. No.	Name	Reason	Chq no.	Exp Total
030	Mrs A Barnes	Salary, Feb 2021	300482	242.82