

## PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held virtually using Zoom

on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllr S Briscoe (Chairman)      Cllr G Adams      Cllr P Beddoes      Cllr M Bishop  
Cllr J Chapman      Cllr C Collier      Cllr R Farrow      Cllr N Haughton      Cllr R Jones  
Cllr J Langford      Cllr S Sinclair

**In attendance:** Mrs C Thompson, Clerk

#### **P20/24      TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –**

Apologies received from Cllr B Ayling and Cllr B Nix.

#### **P20/25      TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Cllr S Briscoe – Purley Park Social Club (PPSC)  
Cllr M Bishop – Purley Sports and Social Club (PSSC), Purley on Thames Cricket Club (PoT CC)  
Cllr C Collier - PPSC  
Cllr R Farrow – PSSC, Purley Jubilee Football Club (PJFC)  
Cllr R Jones – PSSC  
Cllr J Langford – PPSC, PSSC

#### **P20/26      TO RECEIVE ANY STATEMENT OR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No members of public present at the meeting.

#### **P20/27      TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES – to confirm as a correct record the Minutes from the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

Minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 are taken as correct and agreed. To be signed by the chair at later, due to the meeting being held virtually.

#### **P20/28      PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR REPORT ONLY (that are not already on the agenda).**

- P20/14 - Climate Committee – No update to report due to covid-19 restrictions, meaning the committee had been unable to meet.
- P20/14 – Fish Pass at Mapledurham Lock – To note that the fish pass has been put on hold due to covid-19 restrictions.
- P20/16 - Goosecroft Development Working Group – Planning permission has been granted by West Berks. The working group has a list of jobs to be done. Cllr J Chapman has contacted Sulham Estate, they are only able to do weeding and seeding. Cllr M Bishop believed Sulham Estate originally mentioned to do the fencing.

- P20/20 – Website Update – The website launch had been delayed due to covid-19 causing disruption to the IT Contactors. The launch should be next week.
- P20/21-5 – Community Shop and Post Office – A formal vote from the community is needed as part of the next steps, it would have to wait until restrictions with public gatherings are lifted.
- P20/20 – Annual Report – The group of volunteers had started to distribute the report to residents in March. Unfortunately, it coincided with the government covid-19 restrictions and therefore not all reports were delivered to every household in the parish.
- P20/20 - Annual Parish Meeting – The meeting had been cancelled for this year, due to covid-19 and new government legislation.
- P20/21-7 – Trade Bin at Mapledurham Drive – The delivery of the trade bin had been postponed until covid-19 restrictions lifted.

**P20/29 TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND TO NOTE THEIR DECISIONS THERETO:**

**Barn Committee –** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Noted

**P20/30 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Rick Jones gave his report:

- WBC had been concentrating on Covid-19. Their main role and priority is supporting The Community Hub with Greenham Common Trust and Public Protection Partnership. The Community Hub is working together to give help to the public.
- WBC providing information for the district. Delivery of the information leaflets was not as successful as hoped; the postcard leaflet would be emailed out to missed households.
- The WBC had been giving support to care homes in the district.
- The waste management by Veolia had continued as normal. WBC was one of the only districts that have not had disruption to the weekly curb side waste and recycling collections.
- NHS & Primary Care in the district had been coping well during the pandemic; the Royal Berkshire Hospital had been coping very well. Adequate levels of PPE Equipment in West Berkshire.
- WBC had received approx 300-400 applications for the Small Business Grant.
- Individuals in receipt of Council Tax Support have had a grant applied to their account. Residents that had experienced a drop in income due to Covid-19 consequences were able to request a council tax 'holiday' by contacting the local taxation team.
- Guidance urging the public not to have bonfires is not a legal ban but a very strong advisory.

Cllr R Jones thanked the Council and the Clerk for the way it had adapted to working during Covid-19 period.

**P20/31 CLERKS REPORT**

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| i) Payments and receipts for month 11 & 12                  | NOTED |
| ii) Budget – to receive the latest budget report            | NOTED |
| iii) Correspondence not already circulated – <i>if any.</i> | NOTED |

- The Clerk thanked the support and commitment of the councilors during Covid-19 and the new council year.
- Debit card transactions for March shared and would be signed off by the chair upon next meeting in person.

- Financial Year End on the system had been completed by the Clerk. The Council had done well keeping costs down and had increased the reserves by approx £82,000 during 2019/20. This was more than predicted.
- The Officers had been working individually in turn in the Parish Office on set days and disinfecting key areas of the office upon leaving. The Officers had been working from home for the other days.
- An extension of the deadline for Parish Councils to complete the AGAR Report had been given due to Covid-19.

## **P20/32 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Sue Briscoe presented her chairman's report to the council.

- Chairs of Committees had been looking at Budget Savings due to financial loss during the Covid-19 restrictions.
- Annual Parish Meeting had been cancelled for this year.
- Three of the four Chairs of Committee's had agreed to stay in position for the next year. Cllr R Farrow will not be staying as Chair of Planning Committee and would be looking for a councillor to take up the role.
- Cllr S Briscoe will chair the council through the covid-19 period but would be standing down before May 2021 and would be looking for another councillor to take up the Chair role. Cllr Briscoe was happy for interested councillors to contact her confidentially to discuss the role.
- The Clerk and the Chair have a weekly catch up on the phone once per week. Happy to report the Officers had been keeping the office running smoothly in the circumstances.
- Received a message from a member of the public regarding speeding along the A329 near Beech Road. It was reported the 'lockdown' and quieter roads had seen an increase in speeding drivers along the stretch of road and the concern was raised over the danger to cyclists and public walking along the pavements. Raised this message with WBC Road Safety and the local Police, who are promising to put things into place.

## **P20/33 RESOLUTIONS**

**P20/33-1 To discuss and agree the Parish Council's approach to tenant proposals of a rent holiday.**

Two requests had been received from tenants, one for Purley Sports and Social Club and the second for Purley on Thames Cricket Club. For the purpose of the decision, the items were each discussed and voted on separately due to the nature of the requests. The council agreed the approach would be consistent with all tenants.

### Purley Sports and Social Club

The PSSC had written to the council to request a rent deferral period from end of March 2020 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The Parish Council had received a copy of the PSSC current accounts prior to the meeting which had been circulated to the councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the request of a rent deferral period until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. *(9 support and 2 abstention)*

### Purley on Thames Cricket Club (PoT CC)

PoT CC had requested a rent reduction of £400 per month, for each month the Cricket Club were unable to play and use the pitches due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

The Parish Council received a copy of the PoT CC current accounts prior to the meeting which had been circulated to the councillors.

It was RESOLVED to agree to the request of a rent reduction of £400 for each month the PoT CC are unable to use the facilities and pitch. *(10 support and 1 abstention)*

**P20/33-2 To agree to the renewal of the Bungalow Tenancy**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the renewal of the bungalow tenancy for another year.

**P20/33-3 To agree arrangements of Villager of the Year 2020**

Cllr P Beddoes explained that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and restrictions in place, it would be very difficult to organise the Villager of the Year competition for 2020. And with the great community spirit within the Parish, to help each other during Covid-19, it would be impossible for the Council to decide on one individual or group.

Therefore, it was proposed by Cllr Beddoes that there will be no Villager of the Year Competition for 2020 and instead to celebrate all the kindness of the residents and volunteers in the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. A visual 'Thank You' display would be created in the Barn at the Chairman's reception in October 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to a 'Celebration of Kindness' by the community during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**P20/34 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS ITEMS FOR THE NEXT PC MEETING**

- Ancient Oak Tree on Long Lane
- Planning Meeting for March and April 2020.
- Website Update
- Update from Goosecroft Working Group
- Update of the Community Hub and Volunteer Groups
- Farmers Market Update.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Parish Council: TBC