

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council, Yaxley Parish Council
held by Zoom on 14th July 2020.**

Present:- Councillor R Butcher – Chairman.

Councillors B Doncaster, E Gilchrist, K Gulson, J Lusted, S McMullon, G Needham, M Oliver, D Porteous, S Sanderson, and A Wood.

In attendance – County and District Councillor M McGuire, Mrs H Taylor – Clerk and two members of the public.

FC34. APOLOGIES

No apologies were given.

FC35. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor K Gulson declared a non pecuniary interest in item no. FC40 as a Yaxley Countryside Volunteer.

FC36. MINUTES

Councillor M Oliver proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 9th June 2020. This was seconded by Councillor D Porteous and **RESOLVED**. The Chairman referred to Minute FC24, co-option, and reported that Mr and Mrs Rickman had decided after the meeting, for personal reasons, not to join the Parish Council.

FC37. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident thanked the Parish Council for the new art work on the Pavilion and went on to request a further litter bin at the rear of the building. The Clerk explained that an additional black bag had been tied to the railings next to the existing bin and their use would be monitored.

County & District Councillor M McGuire reported that he and District Councillor K Gulson had met with the District Council's Community Safety Officer on Hillside to discuss the issue of unsociable parking of cars. He confirmed that they had spoken with the resident concerned with a view to finding a compromise. A further meeting would be held next week.

Councillor M McGuire also mentioned that he was in discussions with Officers at the County regarding the closed footpath between Windsor Road and Hawthorne Road. He explained that the route is not recorded as a public right of way and essentially is a private right of way. However, this would not prevent the accrual of public rights over time, through long-term continuous use of the route by the public. The Parish Council could submit an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order to record a public footpath along this route which would require evidence to be sought from local residents who have used the footpath for the past 20 years. Councillor K Gulson added that he had contacted the Planning Department at the District Council who were looking into the possible breach of planning conditions of the associated application for the provision of 4 dwellings north of the existing care home and the relocation of the footpath.

In mentioning that the resurfacing of Mere View should be commencing soon, Councillor McGuire referred to correspondence between Produce World and the County Council regarding the need to review directional and weight limit signs in the village. Councillor McGuire would be pursuing the issues raised by Produce World with the Engineers at County.

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FC38. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FC24.1 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Property Committee held on 30th June 2020 were received and noted. With regard to Minute No. PR11, pavilion modernisation, it was proposed by Councillor M Oliver, seconded by Councillor A Wood and **RESOLVED** that the cost of installing shutters on the windows and front door of the Pavilion, approx. £7,000 be funded from the General Reserves.

FC24.2 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members received and noted the draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 30th June 2020.

FC39. REQUEST TO ACQUIRE LAND BEHIND POOLEY WAY

Consideration was given to a request from a resident to acquire 8 to 10 metres of open space land, to the rear of their property, in Green Lane Park (a copy of the request is appended in the Minute Book). The reasons for the request were in the main related to security and anti social behaviour and it was proposed that the area would be tidied up and fenced in as a secondary garden.

In considering the request, Councillor K Gulson reminded Members that the area in question had been opened up with the help of the Yaxley Countryside Volunteers and that the area of woodland had been cleared off self sets and any dead trees. Mr R Bingham of the Countryside Volunteers added that the overall landscape of the area in question had been untouched, with an abundance of thistles and weeds, as they were an excellent security barrier. Members were of the opinion that any acts of anti social behaviour should be reported to the Police so that they can be flagged as an area of concern and regularly monitored and that making the woodland smaller would not be the answer.

Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor K Gulson, seconded by Councillor M Oliver and **RESOLVED** that the request to acquire the land be refused and the applicant be encouraged to report any anti social behaviour to the Police.

FC40. REQUEST FROM YAXLEY COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS TO USE THE OLD GARAGE NEAR TO THE AMENITY CENTRE AS STORAGE

On the proposal of Councillor R Butcher, seconded by Councillor M Oliver and subject to confirmation of the level of business rates for the building , it was **RESOLVED** that the Yaxley Countryside Trust be given use of the old garage for storage with the condition that they contribute to any rates for the building.

FC41. INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2019/20

Councillor M Oliver proposed that the Internal Auditor's report for the year ending 31st March 2020 be received. This was seconded by Councillor K Gulson and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

FC42. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2019/20

A review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit for 2019/20 was proposed for approval by Councillor M Oliver and seconded by Councillor A Wood. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

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FC43. ANNUAL RETURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

The Annual Return and Statement of Governance, which included the conclusions of the Internal Auditor, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was submitted to Council for adoption before submission for audit. Having been satisfied that the Council was in a position to answer yes to the accounting statements and in noting the Internal Auditor was content that the accounts for 2019/20 were correct it was:

- (a) proposed by Councillor M Oliver that the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 be approved and the Chairman and the RFO be authorised to sign the document, this was seconded by Councillor A Wood and **RESOLVED**; and
- (b) proposed by Councillor S Sanderson that the Accounting Statements 2019/20 be approved and the Chairman be authorised to sign them on behalf of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor K Gulson and **RESOLVED**.

FC44. RISK REGISTER

With the assistance of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Members reviewed the Parish Council's Risk Register. In doing so, Councillor K Gulson proposed that Councillors R Butcher and J Lusted be authorised to sign the Register. This was seconded by Councillor G Needham and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

FC45. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Members received and noted a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) detailing five freedom of information requests received during the period 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020.

FC46. SECTION 137 BUDGET – AWARD OF GRANT

Councillor R Butcher proposed that an award of £250 be made to the Young People's Counselling Service towards the cost of running counselling sessions for young people in Yaxley. This was seconded by Councillor M Oliver and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

FC47. LICENSING ACT 2003 – DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Members were advised that the District Council had reviewed their Statement of Licensing Policy and were undertaking a consultation exercise on the updated draft policy. Members were encouraged to view and comment using the online link provided.

FC48. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Councillors received and noted the contents of the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30th June 2020 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

FC49. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of payments made since the previous meeting, which included details of the purchase ledger cheques requiring payment, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was proposed by Councillor G Needham, seconded by Councillor M Oliver and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to be paid.

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FC50. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor K Gulson reported on the ongoing success of the Community Fridge which was distributing over 200 kilos of food each week. Members were advised that the fridge had been relocated from the Austin Hall corridor and would now be situated in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground and would still open every Wednesday between 10.30am and 1.00pm.

FC51. EXCLUSION THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor J Lusted and seconded by Councillor M Oliver that the meeting should be closed to the press and public at 8.06pm.

FC52. PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE FOR THE GROUNDS TEAM

Having considered the options before them, it was proposed by Councillor R Butcher that a budget of £22,500 be set aside in the General Reserves to purchase a new vehicle for the Grounds Team. This was seconded by Councillor M Oliver and **RESOLVED.**

FC53. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business being concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor J Lusted and seconded by Councillor A Wood that the press and public should be readmitted to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.38pm



Signed

Chairman.