

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTH NIBLEY PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY 11 May 2020, via ZOOM, AT 7.30 PM.**

**Present:** Mr Ken Brown (Chair), Mr D Purnell, Mrs J Burton, Mr K Larkin, Mr D Palmer, & Mr R Symons.

**District Councillors:** Mr K Tucker, Mrs C Braun & Mr G James.

**County Councillor:** Dr J Cordwell.

**The Acting Clerk:** Mr. R Symons

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting.

**1.** The Chairman **invited apologies**. There were none. The Chairman announced that Cllr. Roberts had tendered his resignation due to pressures of work which were precluding him from being fully involved in Council matters. The Chairman recorded his thanks for the contribution Cllr. Roberts had made.

**2.** The Chairman invited any **Declarations of Interest**. There were none.

**3.** The Council **approved the Minutes of the Council's April 2020 Meeting** as a true record. Arrangements will be made for the Chairman to sign-off the Minutes as a true record, at a later date. .

**4. Election of Councillors into Council responsibilities for 2020/21.**

The Chairman invited Councillors to nominate a Chairman for 2020/21. Cllr. Brown was nominated and unanimously appointed as Chairman.

The Chairman invited nominations for Vice Chairman for 2020/21. Cllr. Purnell was nominated and unanimously appointed as Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Councillors retain their responsibilities for 2020/21, as previously organised. The Clerk reminded the Council that Cllr. Roberts had been the representative on the Village Hall Committee. Following discussion it was agreed that councillors would have the following responsibilities for 2020/21:

- Stinchcombe Hill Trust: Cllr. D Purnell
- North Nibley Recreation Field Trust Committee: Cllr. J Burton
- Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr. J Burton
- Parish Footpaths: Cllr. D Palmer
- William Purnell Education Charity: Cllr. D Purnell
- Tyndale Monument Trust: Cllr. D Palmer
- Stroud Joint Cluster Group: Cllr. R Symons

**5** The Acting Clerk reported the following matters.

Arrangements for appointing a new Clerk. Due to the lockdown the closing date for applications had been extended until 15 May. This had enabled a further advert to be placed in "On the Edge". Three applications had been received to date. Plans

were being made to interview via Zoom, probably in weeks commencing 18 & 25 May.

6. The Chairman opened the Meeting for **Public Discussion and Questions**.

There being no matters from parishioners the Chairman closed the Meeting.

7. The Council considered and commented upon the following **Planning Applications**:

- **S.20/0598/FUL** Location: Land East Of, Stumpwell Lane, Southend, Wotton-Under-Edge. Application Type: Full Planning Application. Description: Re-submission of the application S.19/0701/FUL - Demolition of a disused building and erection of two buildings to create a live/work unit.

Following discussion the Council agreed that there was no overriding reason for it to change the previous comments as set out in the Council's letter of 6 June 2019 ;

1. If the local planning authority is minded to approve the application then conditions should be applied as set out in para. 4.60 of the Local Plan. In this regard the Parish Council considers the occupation of the premises should be restricted to the applicant Mr G Beer, Director of Treecreeper Arborists Ltd, from the outset and for no other person or business, without the prior written approval of the planning authority

2. The Parish Council is concerned to ensure a safe vehicle and pedestrian access is provided at the outset, before first occupation of the live/work unit. The site adjoins a sharp and dangerous bend. It is important to provide safe forward visibility across the bend and safe right hand turning, to meet acceptable highway standards and the approval of the highway authority. These arrangements should be maintained at all times.

3. The proposed green metal cladding is considered to be inappropriate in this location within the AONB. The Council considers wooden cladding to be more visually appropriate and more sustainable, in keeping with the applicant's stated intentions for the development of the site.

- **S.20/0589/LBC.** Replace 3 top floor windows (frames & glass), 2 front and 1 side (West) - Old Bournstream House, Bournstream, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire. GL12 7PA

Following discussion the Council agreed to make No Comment.

- **S.20/0805/AGR.** Replacement greenhouse. Agricultural Barn, Pitt Court, North Nibley, Gloucestershire.

Following discussion the Council made the following comments:

1. The greenhouse should only be a direct replacement in size to the previous structure and no larger. It should not be used for commercial purposes.

2. The Parish Council is concerned over the ongoing increasing number of structures/ buildings on this land, which is visually prominent when viewed from Millend and along Waterley Bottom. The continued creep of buildings/ structures beyond those currently existing, plus a replacement greenhouse, would be visually obtrusive and distract from the high landscape character of this part of the AONB contrary to Local Plan Policy ES 7. No additional buildings/ structures should therefore be permitted.

## 8. Parish Council Finances.

### 1 (a) Parish Council Audit on year 2019/20.

The Clerk introduced the report from the Internal Auditor on the Council's Accounts for 2019/20. He reported that the auditor had been critical about a number of matters and had produced a report which had been previously circulated to Councillors. In response the Clerk had produced an Action Plan which had been sent to Councillors. Following discussion the Council approved the Action Plan and noted that matters were being addressed with immediate effect and over the next two Council Meetings. .

(b) The Council received and reviewed **Section 1-Annual Governance Statement - Accountability Statements, for 2019/20**. Following discussion the Council agreed it was an accurate statement and the Chairman and Clerk/RFO arranged to sign-off Section 1 of the AGAR.

(c) The Council received and reviewed the **Section 2-Annual Governance Statement - Accountability Statements, for 2019/20**. Following discussion the Council agreed it was an accurate statement and the Chairman and Clerk/RFO arranged to sign-off Section 2 of the AGAR.

(d) The Council were informed that the Parish Council **Annual Insurance** renewal had been received. This document had been reviewed by Cllrs. Purnell & Symons. Cllr. Purnell reported that some minor changes had been made to the cover purchased, to include the exercise equipment on the Jubilee Playing Field & an increase in cover for the Monument in the Cemetery. Following discussion the Council agreed to approve the Council's Insurance cover for 2020/21.

(e) The Council formally approved the **Council's Budget for 2020/21**. This budget had been previously presented and agreed by the Council at their January 2020 meeting (Minute 14(2)). Following the Audit it was decided it would be prudent to remind the Council of the Budget it had approved. The Clerk will ensure that the budget spend is reviewed and approved by Council at 4 monthly intervals, starting with the July 2020 Meeting.

(2) (a) The following payments to be approved and made by Council:

- Public Works Loan Board: The Council noted that the half year payment of **£1,068.74**, will be taken by Direct Debit this month. **(Local Government Act 2003 Sch.1)**
- The Council approved the payment of Parish Council Insurance renewal through Came & Company. **£336.26. (LG Act 1972 S.111)**

- The Council agreed to reissue the Grant cheque to Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper. (The original cheque had been destroyed in error by the recipient and returned to the Council).
- The Council approved payment to Cllr Palmer who had purchased a Zoom licence on behalf of the Council. **£14.39**
- The Council approved payment to GAPTC for Internal Audit fee for 2019/20. **£165.00**

(b) Other Financial matters to be discussed.

- The Council noted the first payment of Precept is due to be received from Stroud DC.
- The Council noted that it had received from Stroud DC a Non-Domestic Rate Demand for £0.00, in respect of the Cemetery.
- Council approved the transfer of £64,500 (Legacy Money) into the new Council Nationwide Building Society Accounts from the Council's Lloyds Bank Deposit Account. To be actioned by two signatory Councillors, once the current lockdown procedures permit.

9. The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Dr Aston regarding the ivy on Churchyard wall. The email had been forwarded to Councillors for a decision on what action should now be taken. Following discussion the Council agreed that it should appoint a professionally qualified person to examine and report upon the state of the wall, making appropriate recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken. Councillor Purnell and the Chairman would identify and approach suitably qualified professionals for a quotation. The Acting Clerk will write to Dr Aston on behalf of the Council in response to his email of 6 April. **(Local Government Act 1972. S.214(1)).**

10. The Council noted the following Planning Appeals had been received and a response on behalf of the Council had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Lots 1/2 Waterley Bottom. Planning Appeal Refs **APP/C1625/C/20/3247582/83** and **APP/C1625/W/20/3244956,**

11. The Council noted the following Planning Application decisions:

- **Ref. No: S.19/2743/HHOLD.** Construction of extension to be used as a workshop. - The Old Kings Head Nibley Green North Nibley Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 6AZ. **Application Refused.**
- **Ref. No: S.20/0254/FUL.** Resubmission of the application S.19/0608/FUL - Erection of agricultural / equestrian buildings, change of use of land to a mixed use of agriculture / equestrian - Land Opposite New Inn Waterley Bottom North Nibley Gloucestershire: **Application Withdrawn**
- **Ref. No: S.19/2738/FUL.** New building for storing garden machinery and other domestic paraphernalia (retrospective). (373379, 193709) - Swinhay

Farm Buildings, Vernals Lane, Swinhay, Wotton-Under-Edge,  
Gloucestershire. **Application Permitted**

- 12.** The Chairman invited Reports from Councillors.
- a. Parish Councillors. Cllr. Symons mentioned that prior to his resignation Cllr. Roberts had suggested that improved signage was required at the bottom of Wood Lane to deter motorcyclists. It was agreed the Acting Clerk should purchase a suitable sign.
  - b. **The Council received a written District Council Report from District Councillors.** The Chairman thanked District Councillors for their report.
  - c. **The Council received a written County Council Report from County Councillor John Cordwell.** Cllr. Dr Cordwell advised that since writing his Report the Testing site at Oxstalls was now due to be closed.

In response to a question about Pyke Quarry Recycling Centre Cllr. Dr Cordwell said that the plan was to open the centre on Monday 18 May.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cordwell for his report.

**13.** The Council received and approved a written Cemetery Report.

- 14.** There was no Correspondence to report on. Councillors requested that applicants for the Clerk's position should be interviewed by all the Council via Zoom.
- The Acting Clerk agreed to forward applicants' cvs to all Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

**The next meeting of the Council will be Monday 1 June 2020, at 7.30 pm.**