



## High Offley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 19:30 hours on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, at Woodseaves Village Hall.

### **Councillors Present.**

E. Halls (chair); D. Turpin (Vice-Chair); S. Celecia; R. Hockenhull; P. Mason; M. Turvey, together with the Clerk, S. Ridgewell.

### **Public Open Forum.**

There were no Members of the Public present.

### **21/140: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor M. Smith. Stafford Borough Councillor P. Farrington had also sent his apologies.

### **21/141: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

The Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021, were approved as a true and accurate record.

### **21/142: To Note any Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Halls declared an interest in item 21/145, having previously been involved with the Woodseaves Pre-School.

### **21/143: To Receive an Update on the Post Box at Grub Street.**

Councillor Farrington was not present to provide an update regarding any further contact with Royal Mail.

### **21/144: To Receive an Update on the Speed Signs and Speed Limit on Stafford Road.**

The Clerk stated that there was no further update regarding this matter and that further information was awaited from Staffordshire County Council or Amey.

### **21/145: To Receive an Update Regarding the now Dissolved Woodseaves Pre-School.**

The Clerk stated that, as yet, no funds had been received from the Pre-School. Councillor Halls stated that she had spoken with the former Treasurer and that there had been an issue with transferring the funds, but that would be resolved soon.

### **21/146: To Discuss Public Rights of Way Issues and Receive an Update on the PRoW Group.**

Councillor Turvey provided an update on issue with some local Rights of Way that he had reported to the County Council, which were noted by Councillor Halls for the PRoW Group. Councillor Halls reported that the PRoW Group were continuing to meet via Zoom Video Conferencing and that continued engagement was encouraging.

### **21/147: To Receive a Report on the Chair's Visit to BiFor FACE.**

Councillor Halls reported that she attended the BiFor FACE facility in Norbury on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The visit had been arranged by Councillor Reed at Eccleshall Parish Council for the benefit of parish councils in the area. Councillor Halls stated that it was a very worthwhile and informative visit to the facility that conducts research into the effect of CO<sup>2</sup> on trees, as well as other flora and fauna.

### **21/148: To Receive an Update on the Accessibility of the Website.**

Councillor Halls stated that she had not, as yet, conducted an assessment of the website to determine how accessible it is, but pointed out that there was still an issue with navigating the website from handheld devices. The Clerk stated that Mr Baker was endeavouring to resolve the issue.

Whilst the website was being discussed, Councillor Turvey asked if the 'walking routes' document that had previously been available via the website, could be made available. The Clerk stated that the document warranted an update.

**Action:** the Clerk agreed to forward the 'walking routes' document to Councillor Halls for the PRoW group to consider.

### **21/149: To Receive an Update Regarding the Noise from Batchacre Farm.**

Councillor Smith had updated council prior to the meeting, via email, that the apparent noise issue was not from the farm, but from a separate company (Bio-G) who lease some land at the farm and operate an Anaerobic Digester.

Following three separate complaints about reversing alarms on vehicles handling bulk Maize, all day over a weekend from Friday to Sunday and up to 22:00 hours, the complainants followed advise to contact Environmental Health at the Stafford Borough Council, and, in turn, that the Environment Agency, who licence the digester. The Environment Agency contacted the operator who advised them that it had been necessary to work long hours to complete a job, due to forecast bad weather and that the task was now finished.

### **21/150: To Consider Planning Application 21/34727/HOU for Kimberley House Farm.**

**Resolution:** There were no objections to this application.

### **21/151: To Discuss Highway Issues.**

- a) To receive an update on the signs warning of the low bridge at Shebdon.

Councillor Winnington was not present to provide an update.

**Action:** the Clerk agreed to contact Diana Firkins at Staffordshire County Council Highways, to determine any progress with this matter.

**21/152: To Consider Finance Matters.**

a) Proposed Budget for 2022/23.

The proposed budget was discussed and amendments were requested for presentation and the December meeting to vote on the precept request.

b) Requested Expenditure on a PRow Legislation Book for the PRow Group.

Councillor Halls requested £35 expenditure on a PRow legislation book. This expenditure was unanimously approved.

c) Requested Expenditure on Village Hall Fees of £66.

This expenditure was unanimously approved.

**21/153: To Further Discuss Celebration of Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

This matter was discussed at length, with the merits of a 'street party' considered at both the Village Hall and Woodseaves C of E Academy. It was agreed that there was merit in gauging what the community wanted to do to mark this historic occasion.

**Action:** Councillor Halls agreed to pose the question on Facebook.

**21/154: To Request Items for the Next Council Meeting Agenda.**

It was requested that the question of whether or not to purchase anymore rock salt be considered, in addition to the unresolved and regular items.

**21/155: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Council Meeting.**

The December meeting would be held from the earlier time of 18:30 on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 21:08 hours.

S. Ridgewell, Clerk to Council. Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.