

**Minutes of the virtual Parish Council Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Present: Cllrs Mr S Digby – Chairman, Mr P Brown, Mr N Cloke, Mrs F Curzon, Mr O May, Mrs J Roy.**

**Councillor Ian McEnnis.**

**Clerk – Mrs H Glasgow.**

**Members of the public: 0**

**Members questions**

Councillor Ian McEnnis reported that applications can now be submitted for the Council fund designed to support groups/projects. All applications should be submitted to Cllr Ian McEnnis.

252.1 To agree to co-opt a new Parish Councillor.

A vacancy had arisen on the Parish Council due to resignation of Anthony Stevens. Councillors Digby and Cloke interviewed Peter Brown and recommended to the Council that he is co-opted. Peter has lived in the Parish for nearly 25 years and is very much looking forward to getting involved in the community and making a positive contribution.

Council agreed to co-opt Peter Brown.

252.2 Attendance and acceptance of apologies for absence.

Cllr W. Pitcher. Councillor D, Hayday.

252.3 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests relating to items on the Agenda.

None.

252.4 Minutes - To confirm and sign the Minutes of the April Meeting.

Council confirmed the minutes to be a true and accurate record. The Chairman will sign the minutes at the next full council meeting.

252.5 Chairman's Annual Report

Why?

Why do we do what we do?

We all know what we do and how we do it, but in these globally challenging times I believe we need to examine why. What is our purpose, what is our cause, what is our belief; and why should anyone care?

Once we understand these things and can communicate clearly, we will inspire change.

We have watched as we have stressed our planet so much that consequences like global warming, forest fires, floods and now a pandemic have steamrolled us.

Do we create a future where our children will be safe and able to lead fulfilling lives, or do we rob them of secure food supplies, survivable temperatures and stable communities?

We have seen clearer skies, quieter roads, cleaner air and healthier nature.

We will never have a greater opportunity to create that change in how we live and work.

We have seen the real heroes in society. Binmen, bus drivers, post office workers, nurses, care home carers and doctors, some of whom are dying in order to serve or save others.

However, we are a species that rises to a challenge and have many people in our own community who have volunteered to come forward and show a love for their vulnerable neighbours. This is where the future must lie. As one of our own enters his fourth week on a ventilator and is in grave danger, we must ask ourselves how we can lead our community into a better future. If the leaders aren't leading, we have to lead them.

Back to the why.

We do what we do because we want to make a real difference.

We want to make the world a better place because we believe that we can make positive changes in a corner of the globe.

I believe that now is the time.

We have the chance to change some of our behaviours forever.

This is an extraordinary time. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary actions. We must lead or we will be led.

Simon Digby, Chairman

PS. My thanks go to the public servants in our area. County Councillor Darren Hayday continually helps this Parish and injects energy into the area.

District Councillors Jean Teasdale and Ian McEnnis have been great also.

Our clerk, Hayley Glasgow, has led us through the last year and has continually put in the hard yards to make things happen. Everything happened as it should have happened, and more. Locked down with a very young family, she still managed to make sure that our meetings took place virtually and put in hours of overtime keeping our community informed. She is an inspiration to all of us.

Each Parish Councillor has given their time unselfishly over the last year for which I thank them.

Jo Redfern and Tony Stevens left us and we gained Fiona Curzon and Ollie May. My thanks to the leavers and a big welcome to the joiners.

As a matter of record, I'd like to mention some of the activities we have taken on in the last year -

- Fly tipping reported and removed
- A full ROSPA inspection and refurbishment, including a new baby swing, in the Playground
- Wheeler End Summer party support
- Wreaths purchased and laid
- Ideas executed and paid for from savings
- Emergency plan resurrected and updated
- Footpaths reported
- Continued efforts to making parking safer in Piddington
- Salt bin installed on Bullocks Farm Lane
- Roadside weeds were treated, overgrown hedges reported and cut back
- Attendance at LAFs, NAGs and Rural Forum Meetings
- DCLG, BCC and BASC Conferences attended
- The continued annual cutback of brambles and encroaching growth on Chipps Hill to encourage the spread of wild flowers
- More daffodil bulbs planted
- Over 800 saplings planted on Piddington Green
- Three new kissing gates organised
- Hedge cut back near Ham Farm and A40 cut back up the Old Dashwood Hill
- New pedestrian gate at the playing field
- Dead wood and epicormic growth removed on Piddington Green
- The AED checked and maintained
- New bench installed on Wheeler End
- New bank account with more modern and efficient payment method
- Speed limit stickers and caddy bags obtained and distributed
- On-line counter terrorism course taken
- Telephone tree created for our Emergency Plan
- Sleeper steps installed

#### 252.6 Allotments

It was reported that there are currently four uncultivated allotment plots. The Clerk wrote to the tenants in October 2019 and asked that the plots should be cultivated as per the allotment rules and regulations. If they are not, they may be served notice.

Council debated if the tenants should be served notice despite some tenants saying they will cultivate their plots during this growing season.

Council held a vote, five members were in favour of serving notice now to tenants with uncultivated plots and one was against.

The Clerk will write to those tenants.

Councillors will review the allotment tenancy agreement before the June meeting and send The Clerk any suggested amendments they wish to be included.

An amended tenancy agreement will be reviewed at the June meeting.

#### 252.7 To review the website

Councillors had reviewed the new model website and made some comments and suggestions. Councillors Brown and Curzon will discuss the suggestions with the Clerk and a proposal will be reviewed at the June meeting.

## 252.8 Clerk Report and Correspondence

Correspondence Received

1. War Memorials magazine
2. WDALC Meeting – now virtual
3. Several emails from BMKALC re COVID-19
4. Several emails from Buckinghamshire Council re COVID-19
5. Several emails from Chiltern Waste re COVID-19
6. Advice received from NALC re COVID-19
7. Cllr Curzon has secured a grant of £150 for the Village VJ Day celebrations.
8. The Chiltern Society will begin the footpath clearance once they are able to.
9. Several emails from Thames Valley Police
10. Scam alert emails

Clerks Report

1. The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council have both been cancelled. Cllrs Simon Digby will remain as Chairman and Jane Roy will remain as Vice-Chair.
2. The Parish Councils Facebook page is up and running.
3. The External Auditor has advised they have extended the deadline for the audit.
4. The Clerk will deliver the Internal Audit documents in the next few weeks.
5. The Clerk has raised a dispute with HMRC regarding unallocated funds.
6. No allotment plots vacant.
7. Any member of the public can report a problem to TFB on the website fix my street – [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)

## 252.9 Finance

## Income and Expenditure May 2020

Pay via	Expenditure	Subtotal	VAT	Total	Description
bacs	Mrs H Glasgow - Clerks Salary April	£ 402.69	£ -	£ 402.69	Clerks salary
bacs	BCC pension for Mrs Glasgow April	£ 163.03	£ -	£ 163.03	BCC Pension
bacs	HMRC April	£ 100.80	£ -	£ 100.80	HMRC
bacs	Mrs H Glasgow - Clerks expenses Apr	£ 128.32	£ 15.73	£ 144.05	Zoom Package/\
bacs	TBS Hygiene LTD	£ 54.00	£ 10.80	£ 64.80	Env Waste
bacs	Ollie May	£ 10.83	£ 2.16	£ 12.99	Barrier Tape
bacs	Simon Digby	£ 16.00	£ -	£ 16.00	Printing of flyers
bacs	Buckland Landscapes	£ 365.83	£ 73.17	£ 439.00	Grass cutting Ap
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 1,241.50</b>	<b>£101.86</b>	<b>£ 1,343.36</b>	

## Income

**Total** £ - £ - £ -

HSBC Account Statement of Account

Opening balance - 06/04/2020 £ 24,328.90

Less approved expenditure £ 1,809.11

Less direct debit ICO annual  
subscription £ -

Income £ -

**Total as at 07/05/2020** £ **22,519.79**

Unpresented cheques £ -

## 252.10 New Investment ideas 2020

Elizabeth Stillman has quoted £1860 for four groups of planting. It was agreed that two groups of planting would be

in Piddington and two groups of planting would be in Wheeler End. Cllr Roy will produce a plan to include locations and details of shrubs. Permission will need to be sought from the West Wycombe Estate for planting on Wheeler End Common.

The Clerk will contact Cllr Pitcher regarding an update on the kissing gates.

Cllr Digby reported that he had spoken to another local Parish Council for costs re the outdoor fitness equipment, basket swing and zip wire and the cost approximately £30,000. This as funded by a grant.

Cllr Digby contacted Nigel Adams, an Environmental Development Consultant, regarding advice on better environmental management of the countryside with which the Parish Council are entrusted. Nigel quoted £240 per day. Council agreed to hire Nigel Adams for initial advice. Cllr Digby will arrange a parish visit with Nigel Adams to which all councillors will be invited.

252.11 Update on Parish Councillors supporting the vulnerable and elderly during COVID-19

Councillors reported they had done some shopping, pharmacy collections and organised for a lawn to be mowed for various people whom had contacted them.

It was reported that volunteers are still able to help should anyone ask.

252.12 Emergency Plan

The Parish Council were quick to put together an action plan to ensure everyone in the Parish had someone to contact should they need help. Cllr Roy volunteered to write up the learnings from the actions taken during the current pandemic to help guide us in any future similar situations.

252.13 Members Questions and Statements

Following the Government guidelines, Council agreed to leave the notices up on the play equipment at the recreational ground but remove any tape on benches.

Council noted the email received re Councillor email addresses and GDPR.

Cllr Curzon has ordered some saplings to go on the green adjoining the A40. Cllrs Digby and Cloke will also place an order.

Unfortunately, the daffodils were mowed over by the grass cutting contractor recently. The contractor has promised to replace these. Cllr Cloke will ensure that replacement bulbs will be planted by a contractor of the Parish Council's choice and that the plantings will enhance the current layout.

242.14 Planning Applications: None.

252.15 Date of next meeting – **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.52pm

Signature..... Date.....

