



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2022

Meeting opened: 19:10

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair informed all present that the meeting was being recorded for minuting purposes only and the recording will be destroyed once the minutes are approved.

To recap, the January meeting was changed to an extraordinary meeting because of COVID numbers and only emergency business was dealt with in January, so there are a lot of items brought forward to this meeting.

- a. Attended in person by Cllr Gudgeon (Chair), Cllr Dille, Cllr Middleton and Cllr Proctor, Ward/Cllr Birdi, three members of the public and the Acting Clerk.
- b. Apologies received from Cllr Fisher due to ill health and Ward/Cllrs Jandu and Keough

2. Democratic Half-Hour/Public Question Time/Invited Guest Speakers

Public Question Time – This time is reserved for pre submitted questions from the Public in advance of the meeting.

- Has planning permission been granted for houses at back of allotments. Cllr Dille read an email received from CCC, *“The Thompsons Farm, Lion Court and Bennetts Road Bellway S106 agreed and near signature. David Wilson/Barrett site – no progress. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the local centre application on Bennetts Road, amended plans expected in next couple of weeks after which consultation will ensue. Taylor Wimpey Phase II approved by planning committee and work is progressing on site. Oxford College are still working with the various reports, etc to support applications on their landholdings. I understand the detailed design work for the link road has been commissioned and work is progressing on it.”* People are opposing it, but not attending PC meetings.

Cllr Gudgeon talked about discussion with CCC Planning regarding the planning portal, because the PC is not receiving notice of planning applications as the Council is a statutory consultee. CCC having a new system installed, which should be up and running in April.

- **Bennetts Road Hedgerows**

Cllr Dille contacted Taylor Wimpey and CCC on 25/01/2022 straight away as soon as PC became aware. Taylor Wimpey's immediate response was to halt works for investigation, then responded as follows, *“There is a requirement to construct a new S278 ghost island right-turn junction to access our development. These works, which we have programmed commence Spring/early Summer include a widened carriageway and a 2m footway which protruded within our land parcel. In order to facilitate the construction and required visibility splays, all of the hedgerows and trees were required to be removed from the whole of the site frontage. With the onset of the bird-nesting season, in order not to delay the works the foliage has been removed in advance. The design is currently on its third technical submission with Coventry City Council Highways and we are expecting approval in the coming weeks. We have offered to replant the hedgerow on the boundary of the school site once the S278 junction is constructed.”*

Cllr Dille read the email inquiry raised with CCC Planning Enforcement, which he is still awaiting a response to, as follows, *“I am concerned that more hedge around Bennetts Road for the Taylor Wimpey Phase II development has been removed than that has been agreed as part of the reserved matters... the reserved matters advises that enough hedgerow will be removed to create a T-junction access from Bennetts Road onto the development, but the other trees and hedgerow will be retained. A member of the public first got in touch with Keresley PC to raise a concern. I have been in touch with Taylor Wimpey... The design is currently on its third technical submission with Coventry City Council Highways and we are*

expecting approval in the coming weeks. I have decided to report this as a suspected planning breach to Coventry City Council as I am not in a position to tell Taylor Wimpey whether the decision was right or wrong. Please can you look into the situation and report back to me so that I can share the response with my fellow Councillors and members of the public who have expressed concern over the hedgerow removal. I feel that if this is not deemed as bad practice, then I believe it discredits the integrity of planning policy which would be a tremendous shame, however I hope I can be proven incorrect about my suspicion, so please do otherwise confirm to me that the correct permissions were granted ahead of the hedgerow removal. Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to your response. Cllr Matthew Dille”

Member of the public complained that this was the removal of 73.4 metres of ancient hedgerows and 10 trees (classed medium quality) were also removed. Cannot confirm status of other trees and hedgerow further back on the site. The Member of Public has also trawled CCC Planning Portal and can find no evidence of permission to remove or any application and feels the Parish should be compensated via CCC or the Hedgerows Commission (fine = £5,000).

The lack of a ghost lane was raised at the application stage by a former Councillor. Taylor Wimpey has provided plans for the new road layout, but Cllr Dille has informed them that he cannot find this anywhere in the public domain.

The hedgerow and trees have now gone. The Council’s priority is to confirm the legal position with CCC Planning Enforcement before deciding on the next step.

Cllr Proctor proposed that, subject to the response to Cllr Dille’s inquiry, the Parish Council asks CCC Planning Enforcement at the very least to publish a statement that it considers this is not to set a precedent around what it considers to be acceptable behaviour on behalf of any of the developers in the area and in the event that other developers are found to be taking advance action ahead of decisions coming from CCC Planning, then they will enforce. If this was an individual member of the public this would not be permitted.

If CCC has been complicit, it is in direct contradiction of their tree-planting initiative currently being promoted.

- **Bellway Development**

Outline planning has been granted and there is now 6 weeks before they pay S106 monies and reserved matters decided.

The member of the public shared their concerns and will forward a copy of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust’s report to the Clerk for comparison with the developer’s ecological report.

- **Cedar Tree**

Ward/Cllr Birdi will speak to Ward/Cllr Keough to submit petition about saving the Cedar Tree for report on progress.

Action 1: Cllr Birdi to speak to Cllr Keogh

- **Questions submitted in writing**

- i. Why is there no phone number to contact the parish council?
There is a mobile number: 07784 986109. Due to the part-time nature of the Clerk’s role, this is operated on an answerphone/callback basis.
Clerk to amend outgoing voicemail message to reflect this.
- ii. Why is there no postal address to people can send a letter?
There is no Parish Office. The library is therefore given as the postal address in the public noticeboards.
Chair to confirm with Library staff procedure for receipt of any post.
- iii. Why has the website not been updated since October?
See item 11
- iv. What services are you providing in Keresley Parish?
To be covered in the forthcoming newsletter.
- v. When will the Parish Council be distributing newsletters?
The PC printer has now been installed at the Library and printing of the newsletter will be done from that. Content is prepared and should be distributed shortly.

Action 2: Clerk to respond to person who submitted these questions.

3. Ward Councillors – Update

Nothing to report

Speedwatch on Tamworth Road 09/02/2022.

4. Declarations of Interest

- a. To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

None declared.

- b. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature (Councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items).

None declared.

5. Finance

- a. **To approve DRAFT amended Budget 2022/23**

The Chair summarised the Clerk's Report into the amended budget and precept (see appendix).

The Amended Budget 2022/23 was approved (Proposed: Cllr Proctor / Seconded: Cllr Gudgeon).

Clerk to confirm of ratification of decision to CCC [Sent: 08/02/2022 and acknowledged: 09/02/2022]. Information can now be shared.

- b. **Approval of payments**

Payments were approved as per the Financial Report (Proposed: Cllr Dille / Seconded: Cllr Proctor).

6. Council Membership

Co-option available for one and second position can be co-opted after 21 February. To be advertised in Noticeboard and on Facebook.

7. Minutes of 14th December 2021 and 11th January 2022

- **December Minutes**

Action 1 – Done

Action 2 – question about traffic surveys – Query about timing of surveys within parish CCC Highways no response. Parish Liaison – “The Traffic Team has not requested any of the traffic counts and cannot comment. The Design Team have had surveys out on Tamworth Road and Long Lane, but not on the dates given. We suspect they may have been private requests in connection to local proposed developments around Keresley. Whilst the survey may not be acceptable in terms of the potential reduction in COVID related traffic, consultants can apply a mutually agreed uplift and/or quantum for validation based against previous and forecast figures such that it would show a suitable level of traffic. I hope this will answer your residents' questions.” – Done – Monitor future planning applications and we may identify the source. Please keep the PC informed if you see monitoring equipment in future.

Action 3 – Litterpicking – successful litterpicking day in January. Suggested location for February litter-pick in area around Community Library, whilst the library itself is just outside the Parish, use it as a base and concentrate on the nearby streets within the parish.

December Minutes approved (Proposed: Cllr Proctor / Seconded: Cllr Gudgeon)

- **January Minutes**

Action 1 – See item 11

January Minutes approved (Proposed: Cllr Gudgeon / Seconded: Cllr Proctor)

8. Judicial Review

December meeting request to consider being a donor for action that may be recommended in future.

Update: Currently on pause. The PC will await further requests in due course for consideration as and when.

ACTION 3: Cllr Gudgeon to contact Merle Gering for an update.

9. **NALC awards scheme**

New website will be constructed with a view to ensuring we meet the criteria for a NALC award

10. **Flooding in the Local Area**

Watery Lane flooding – latest update 08/12/2021 from Highways Development Control, *“I can confirm that the balancing pond has progressed on site [Bellway Development at Jubilee Green] and is now controlling the risk of any flooding from the site”*.

Cllr Dille looked at the state of the road in Watery Lane – street cleaners are regular, but no wheel-washing. Cllr Dille written to Bellway to review their practices.

Cllr Middleton asked about agent for pipelines through the parish. This may be worth asking Severn Trent Water about.

11. **Keresley Parish Council Website**

Following Cllr Passmore’s resignation the website has been reviewed and following approval in January meeting, the Wordpress conversion has been purchased and the new site is being developed ‘behind’ the existing website. Wordpress will allow greater ease of access and updating the new site. Facebook will be the Council’s main route for updating the public, with a holding note and link having been published on the old site. The new website should be ready in 6-8 weeks for launch.

The Chair clarified that the Parish Council uses the Keresley Parish Council Facebook Page, not the Keresley Parish Page, which is not related to the Parish Council.

ACTION 4: Cllr Gudgeon to contact the owners of the Keresley Parish Page to ask for clarification in their page description.

12. **Planning Matters**

Nothing further (see Item 2).

Opportunity to meet with Taylor Wimpey again.

ACTION 5: The Planning Committee to meet to discuss this and consider meeting with multiple developers. Possible consideration for the Annual Parish Assembly (to be held between 1 March and 1 June). A discussion followed. The conclusion was to add the Assembly as an item for future agenda.

13. **Correspondence & Communication** for information only

Taiwo Owatemi MP will be attending Jubilee Wood event on Saturday, 12/02/2022. This event will be an opportunity to develop a relationship with the MP. Ward Councillors welcome and other groups include Eco Council from President Kennedy School, 13th Scout Group, working with Park Rangers from CCC. Bat and bird box building workshops. Hosted by the Park Rangers. Maintenance of the wood is an ongoing issue.

Cllr Middleton asked about ownership of Jubilee Wood - All owned by CCC. Parish Council is working with Rangers to maintain it. Indicative plan shows The Keresley Link Road going through a slice of Jubilee Wood. Cllrs met with CCC Highways who shared their presentation. Assured that there are no confidential matters outstanding. New road will progress in parts being executed by separate developers. Asked about lack of information about the new road. Add to item for future agendas. According to white paper the roundabouts should have been built before.

Cllr Dille reported the plaque from the Jubilee tree was found during the litter-picking event. Council agreed to Cllr Dille having it re-mounted on granite and a new stake at a quote of £60+VAT.

14. **Councillor’s items for future agenda**

- Jubilee Wood
- The Keresley Link Road
- Annual Parish Assembly
- Platinum Jubilee event(s)
- Archiving of Parish Council Records

15. **Date of Next Meeting**

Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 8 March 2022 at 19:00, Keresley Community Library, Bennetts Road, Coventry, CV7 8HX

Meeting Closed: 20:35

Minutes Approved:

Signature: Cllr Laura Fisher (Vice-Chair)

Date: 08/03/2022