

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office: 2 St Mary's School, High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6EU

Clerk: Nicola Duke, April Rise, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN 01373 864127

Minutes of a virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Full Parish Council held on
Monday 11th January 2021 commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr Buffery-King (Chair), Cllr Leonard, Cllr Price, Cllr Jones, Cllr Beaven, Cllr Boardman, Cllr Willis and Cllr Cottle.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk), Wiltshire Councillor Seed and 8 members of the public.

Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern: None at this stage.

	AGENDA ITEM
20.049	Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given None.
20.050	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
20.051	Minutes of Council Meetings The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th December 2020 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Beaven).
20.052	Wiltshire Council Report Wiltshire Councillor Seed reported on The Sanctuary, Dark Lane North, providing an update and taking questions from members of the public. Cllr Seed confirmed that Wiltshire Council was aware of the issues which had been raised and was monitoring the development. He had confirmed with relevant officers, including the Conservation Officer, that the work which had taken place to date was in line with regulations and the planning permission granted in 2006. Any works outside of that permission had been discussed with Wiltshire Council which had raised no objections and a planning application would be submitted in due course. The concerns raised by members of the public were noted, especially those relating to transparency. Cllr Seed reported that property owners held the right to discuss development issues and proposals in confidence with the local planning authority. It would therefore be difficult for residents to access this information as the discussions which had taken place were not in the public domain. Officers would, however, deal with any evidence of inappropriate development at the site via the enforcement team. Cllr Seed undertook to investigate

	<p>the involvement and liaison with Historic England and report back to the PC. <i>Post meeting note: Cllr Seed confirmed that WC was in liaison with Historic England regarding the Sanctuary site.</i></p> <p>Cllr Leonard asked Cllr Seed for an update on the planning application relating to the Westbury incinerator and Cllr Seed agreed to look into this and report back.</p> <p>Cllr Seed then left the meeting due to commitments elsewhere.</p> <p>Cllr Beaven asked that information be sought from Cllr Seed as to the possible deferment of the 2021 local council elections and the progress of WC's budget setting for 2021-22. The Chair would email Cllr Seed to raise these questions. <i>Post meeting notes: Cllr Seed had confirmed that there was speculation regarding the timing of the 2021 elections, although no decision had been made as yet. He had also confirmed that the WC budget was likely to include a 2.5% increase on council tax and a 2.5% increase on the social care levy; representing a 5% increase in total and that there was no update as yet on the progress of the Westbury incinerator planning application.</i></p>
20.053	<p>CPT Report</p> <p>No report provided. A member of the public reported on the high level of hare coursing incidents and it was confirmed that Cllr Cottle was in close liaison with the police over this issue.</p>
20.054	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>No planning applications at time of issue.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a planning application had been received that morning, which would be circulated to members. The deadline for comment was 12th February 2021 and the application would therefore be listed on the February agenda.</p>
20.055	<p>Planning decisions, appeals, enforcements and other matters</p> <p>The below listed planning decisions were noted:</p> <p>20/09577/TPO - The Old Parsonage Vicarage Lane Steeple Ashton BA14 6HH - Reduction of all trees listed in TPO W/08/00020/MIXED - Refuse</p> <p>20/09842/TCA - Gables Court 3 Butts Lane Steeple Ashton BA14 6ET - T1 - Birch Reduce by up to 2m and prune away from building - No Objection</p>

20.056	<p>Clerk's and Chair's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Website – the Clerk reported that work continued on uploading information to the new website. b) Tree survey – the Clerk reported that work continued on this project. The surveys would likely be completed in the spring as the contractor had indicated he would prefer to see some spring growth before making a final report. c) Speed Indicator Device (SIDS) – the Clerk reported that information had been sought from neighbouring towns on SID strategies and providers. This would be listed as an agenda item for the February meeting. d) Climate Emergency – the Clerk had provided a paper, which was discussed. Members agreed to establish a working group to take initiatives relating to climate emergency forward. It was agreed that Cllr Leonard would lead this group, with the support of Cllr Cottle and Mrs Aeberhard. Representation would be sought from SAGE and the Natural History Society. It was agreed that Cllr Leonard would draft information on this initiative for social media and the newsletter, as well as looking into co-ordinating a spring planting drive with SAGE. e) Financials – the Clerk reported that the financial reports would be an agenda item for the February meeting, together with a line by line review of the PC's capital allocations.
20.057	<p>Budget and Precept 2021-22</p> <p>A revised budget incorporating members' comments had been circulated to members, was debated and adopted. It was resolved to set the Council's precept for 2021-22 at £24,351, representing a 5.6% increase on the current year and an increase of £3.33 per annum on a Band D equivalent property (proposed Cllr Price, seconded Cllr Jones).</p>
20.058	<p>A350 Melksham Bypass</p> <p>Members considered the proposed response from Cllrs Leonard and Jones to the proposals for the A350 Melksham bypass, which was supported and approved for submission to Wiltshire Council.</p>
20.059	<p>Farr Field Community Orchard</p> <p>Members noted that the Council had previously resolved to support the community orchard at Farr Field, which would be planted by the Trustees. It was noted that the ongoing maintenance would be the responsibility of the PC and would need budgetary allocation from 2022-23. The Chair asked the Council to consider authorising the progression of the project to enable the tree planting to take place, such authorisation being required as legal matters had not yet been finalised. The approval was duly given (proposed Cllr Price, seconded Cllr Leonard).</p>
20.060	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>To receive and reports and update from members (for information only):</p> <p>Cllr Buffery-King – reported that Cllr Beaven would be taking forward a dedicated parish council zoom meeting to discuss the proposals for the temporary structure at Acreshort Park/St Mary's (December minutes refer). This was scheduled for Monday 15th</p>

	<p>February 2021. Information on this meeting would be disseminated via social media and the newsletter.</p> <p>The Chair also reported on the forthcoming local elections scheduled for May 2021, and it was noted that only 2 of the current councillors were intending to re-stand. This would represent a significant change in the Parish Council. It was agreed to advertise the elections and the change in membership as widely as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Beaven proposed a formal vote of thanks to Cllr Buffery-King for her nine years' service as Chair of the Parish Council, which had involved a significant amount of work especially during the previous year due to the coronavirus pandemic. This was seconded by Cllr Leonard and unanimously resolved.</p> <p>Cllr Boardman – asked for any available updates on proposed developments at the Kennels. There were none.</p> <p>Cllr Cottle – reported on the recent attendance of environment officers to a fire at The Sanctuary, where large amounts of plastic had been burned. It was noted that an abatement order had been issued to the owner. It was noted that Wiltshire Council had acted promptly and the matter was in hand.</p>
20.061	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The Chair reported that she had received a request from the Village Shop Management Committee for staff to use the rear Council entrance to exit the building for shift changes. This was felt to be sensible and duly approved.</p>
20.062	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 1st February 2021.</p> <p><i>Note – arrangements for this meeting to be agreed nearer the time, dependent on the latest advice from central government regarding in person Council meetings.</i></p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.