



Minutes of the Parish Council Tuesday 8 December 2020

54/20 Attendance and Apologies for absence

Attendance: Cllr Buxton (Chairman); Cllr Jacklin (Vice-Chairman); Cllr Sayer; Cllr Booth; Cllr Burn; Cllr Grover; Cllr Penney; Cllr Pike

Apologies for absence: Cllr Evans

Present: Ruth Davies (Clerk)

There were 4 members of the public present. Their details are recorded in line with GDPRs.

55/20 Declaration of interest for items on the agenda

There were no other declarations of interest.

56/20 Statement from Sunningdale Parish Council

Cllr Buxton requested the following statement was read into the minutes by Cllr Jacklin (Vice-Chairman) on behalf of Sunningdale Parish Council:

On the 27 October 2020 Sunningdale Parish Council received warning of legal action in the form of Judicial Review. Central to the claim was an allegation that in October and November 2019 the Parish Council acted unlawfully in suspending Cllr. Pike from the Finance Committee and from all Parish Council related financial decision making. It was also alleged that the Council had acted unlawfully in allowing this suspension to continue for what became an indefinite period of time.

Whilst the Parish Council's intention at the time was to preserve the legal integrity of the Council's decision-making processes it now accepts that its actions in trying to achieve this were procedurally incorrect and unlawful. As a result of this it is acknowledged that Cllr. Pike was unlawfully prevented from participating in the financial administration of the Parish Council from October 2019 to the present time.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman and I would like to apologise to Cllr. Pike for the inconvenience caused as a result of these actions. The Parish Council sincerely hopes that this apology will allow both parties to move on in this matter and work together in the interests of the Parish Council and the community of Sunningdale to re-build a productive and effective working relationship in the future.

Cllr Buxton brought forward a resolution to re-instate Cllr Pike to the Finance Committee with immediate effect and to full participation in the financial decision of council. This was **resolved** by the council.

57/20 Approval of Minutes of Council of 10 November 2020

The council **resolved to approve** the minutes and they will be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting once the Clerk and Chairman meet.

Matters arising

- The RBWM Library Consultation is now closed

58/20 Announcements from the Chairman

The Chairman formally welcomed Cllr Grover to the council.

The Chairman confirmed the Christmas lights were switched on Friday 27 November, the last Friday of the month as usual, and will remain lit until 12th night. Cllr Buxton has personally had many positive comments on the lights this year.

The Chairman confirmed that the real Christmas trees would once again be collected from the Recreation Ground after Christmas.

The Chairman confirmed to council that the parish office would close at 3pm on Friday 18 December and re-open at 9am Monday 4 January 2021. On behalf of the council Cllr Buxton thanked the parish team for all their work this year in what have been difficult circumstances.

59/20 Public Adjournment

Cllr Buxton confirmed to council that no members of the public present had contacted the Clerk prior to 10am on the day of the meeting requesting to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda.

60/20 Councillors Questions and Business Motions

There were no business motions brought forward.

The Chairman confirmed the responses to the questions sent by Cllr Pike prior to the council meeting on the 10 November had been provided as a paper for council and shared with all council members prior to the meeting.

The Chairman responded to the questions in the meeting 10 November as follows:

- The councillor training is being requested and council will be updated when more information is available
- The CIL payment has not been received, the Clerk is following this up
- The Council's Model Publication Scheme is on the council website under "Council Governing Documents"

Cllr Pike informed council she had attended 2 other parish council meetings where she became aware of training available via HALC. Was the Chairman aware?

The Chairman confirmed with Cllr Pike that she was attending these other parish council's meetings as a member of the public, and confirmed she was aware of the HALC training.

Cllr Pike informed council of the NALC councillor guide to Community Business and requested that this was shared with other council members. The Clerk confirmed that this would be downloaded from NALC and sent to the council members.

Cllr Pike questioned why the Statement of Accounts 2019 20 was not on the website? The Clerk confirmed this would be actioned.

61/20 Business from previous meetings

The council reviewed the proposed COVID-19 secure protocols for the litter picking equipment and **resolved** to approve the purchase.

62/20 To receive a presentation of the draft budget as proposed by the Finance committee

The council received, reviewed, and discussed a motion from Cllr Buxton regarding the maintenance of Holy Trinity closed graveyard as it directly related to the draft budget being reviewed as prepared by the Finance Committee.

The council **resolved** to approve the motion for the council to take over maintenance of the graveyard. Within this resolution was a request for confirmation on the timescale over which this would take place, Cllr Buxton agreed this would be confirmed once the requirements as detailed in the paper had been agreed with all parties.

The Council received the presentation from Cllr Booth as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the full draft budget as prepared by the Finance Committee and RFO for consideration, comments, and questions.

Cllr Booth confirmed all comments, questions and actions would be reviewed by the Finance Committee at the next meeting on the 12 January 2021 to be brought back to council on the 19 January 2021 for final approval and precept setting.

Cllr Booth confirmed all questions additional to those raised in the meeting should be sent to him, cc the Clerk and would be included in the considerations at the Finance Committee meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Booth for the extensive and detailed presentation.

63/20 Information Sharing

Cllr Burn shared the sad news of the 19-year old's death in the Chobham Road Monument Car Park.

With no further items to discuss, the Chairman closed PART I of the meeting at 9:15 pm.