**FYFIELD AND WEST OVERTON PARISH COUNCIL 5 – 2019/20**

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 16th January 2020 at 7.00pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.

**Present:** Cllr S Nichols (Chair), Cllr J Drew, Cllr D Woolley, Cllr G Emberlin, Cllr A Miller, Cllr J Turner, Cllr L Davies & Cllr M Dissanayake.

**Apologies:** Cllr L Staddon, Cllr A Baring, Unitary Cllr J Davies & PCSO M Camilleri.

**In attendance:** S Roberts (Clerk) and Jeremy Hallett.

**Declarations of interest:** None

**Dispensations:** None

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** The minutes of the November meeting were approved and signed as a true record.
2. **CO-OPTION**

Jeremy Hallett from Lockeridge was co-opted onto the Council and signed a declaration of acceptance of office. *(Cllr J Turner proposed, Cllr M Dissanayake seconded).*

1. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* Knights Close Play Area in West Overton – The installation of the new playground equipment is now complete and lots of positive comments have been made. It was agreed Marlborough News Online should be asked to do an article on the refurbishment with a photo. **Action Clerk**
* VE Day – at present the Kennet Valley School and the Upper Kennet Churches are not proposing to hold an event to mark the occasion, should the situation change the Council would be happy to contribute.
* Community Tree Planting Project – Alex Hickman would be invited to speak to the Council at the next meeting in March. **Action Cllr J Turner**

All other matters arising are covered under the headings below.

1. **STANDING ORDERS**

The new Parish Council Standing Orders were formally adopted by the Council. *(Cllr D Woolley proposed, Cllr J Turner seconded)*

1. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

It was agreed to ask Action for the River Kennet to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting this year, should they be unable to attend Sarah Simmonds from the WHS would be asked. The Clerk agreed to put a save the date in the Upper Kennet News. As in previous years individual invitations will be posted through the doors of all houses in the Parish. **Action Clerk & Whole PC**

1. **TRAFFIC/ROAD SAFETY/POLICE (JT)**

Community Speed Watch – confirmation of eligibility has been received and volunteers have come forward. Once the police checks have been confirmed the initiative will be in a position to progress.

Speed Indicator Devices – the Council are exploring the idea of a joint purchase with Froxfield Parish Council. It was noted the devices would require an electricity supply (although solar options are available), can only remain in the same location for between 2 and 8 weeks and cannot be used on the A4. Cllr M Dissanayake asked if there was any data available to show their effectiveness? **Action Cllr J Turner**

Ivy (Eckhard) Lane – pedestrian safety concerns have been raised by local residents and school parents at its junction with the C38. The layout of the junction restricts driver visibility on entering the lane and there have already been several near misses. Cllr Jill Turner requested support from the Council to take this forward to CATG with a suggestion of either white lining to indicate a virtual pavement or a bollard on the corner. The Council agreed unanimously to support the proposal. **Action Cllr J Turner**

North Farm – the request for warning signs on the A4 for horses crossing the road was not prioritised by CATG for this financial year.

Fyfield A4 – the request for the imposition of parking restrictions in both directions in the vicinity of Fyfield filling station was supported by CATG and the request has been submitted to the Traffic Orders Team, an update should be received by the end of January.

A4 road safety – following on from a letter sent to Claire Perry ONeill to express our shared (FWO PC, Avebury PC & Manton) concerns about traffic safety issues on the A4, a letter has now been sent to Danny Kruger MP requesting a meeting to discuss the issue.

A4 Bell public house Junction – concerns have been raised about road safety at this location. A letter was sent to Claire Perry ONeill in October 2019, she referred the letter to the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Highways, to date we have had no response.

*Please see full report attached.*

1. **EMERGENCY RESPONSE (JT)**

The Team met in November to review the Plan, to check out the facilities and emergency equipment in the designated emergency HQ (Kennet Valley Hall) and consider the submission of a bid for the SSE power company fund in 2020.

Kennet Valley School has agreed to assist the Team in an exercise to test the emergency plan for which arrangements are now being made.

1. **DEFIBRILLATORS (JT & MD)**

The defibrillators have been ordered from SWAST under a 4 year contract which includes the on-going maintenance, insurance and annual training sessions. The confirmed locations are the Who’da Thought It in Lockeridge, St Nicholas Church in Lower Fyfield and the Kennet Valley Hall. Given the expense and difficulties of obtaining the correct power supply for the bus shelter in West Overton it was agreed the phone box should be designated as the fourth location. The Clerk agreed to obtain quotations from local electricians for installation. **Action Clerk**

The possibility of obtaining free electricity from BT for the telephone box in West Overton needs to be explored further. **Action Cllr J Turner**

*Please see full report attached.*

1. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (AM)**

Given that no further progress can be made, it had been agreed a letter should be written to Danny Kruger MP for Devizes to highlight the lack of mobile phone coverage in our Parish and request intervention from Parliament. **Action Cllr S Nichols & Cllr A Miller**

1. **PARISH ASSETS (GE)**

The repairs to the fencing at Taylors Green play area in Fyfield will be carried out shortly and the painting of the play equipment will be carried out in early spring.

1. **PLANNING (DW)**

The Dene – it was agreed the idea of using either Sarsen stone or Grey Wethers on the edge of the Dene would be an appropriate measure to prevent unauthorised parking and access to the Dene. Cllr S Nichols agreed to talk to the Swantons to see if they had any spare we could utilise. Once the stones have been acquired a site visit will need to take place with either Wiltshire Council or Idverde to establish where they should be positioned so as not to hinder the grass cutting arrangements. **Action Cllr S Nichols & Clerk**

ICO – The Council responded to the latest request for information on 13th December and now await the final decision from the ICO as to whether it is deemed necessary for the Council to comply with a Freedom of Information Request.

1. **RIGHTS OF WAY (LD)**

It was noted a tent was still in situ on a parish footpath, which does not appear to be currently occupied.

1. **WEBSITE (JT & SR)**

The website is now live and generic emails have now been created. Many of the key areas have been updated. It was agreed not to fully publicise the website until March when more of the updating will be complete.

1. **PEACOCK FIELD (MD)**

Progress on the purchase of Peacock Field has been slow due to our solicitor being ill. Another solicitor within the firm has recently taken over the case. It was agreed the delay was unacceptable and they should be given until the end of January to come back to us with responses and meaningful information.

1. **REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

**Marlborough Area Board (JT)**

The next meeting is on 28th January.

**Avebury World Heritage Site Steering Group (SN)**

The next meeting is on 4th February.

Cllr S Nichols provided an update on the Winter Solstice celebrations, which took place on December 21st 2019. The noise from the Ridgeway was apparent until the very early hours of the morning and a vast number of Travellers were parked well past the designated parking area. The group were in no hurry to leave after the celebration with many vehicles remaining for several days.

Cllr J Drew recently attended a World Heritage Site workshop regarding an access and sustainable transport strategy for consultation.

**Kennet Valley School (JT)**

Please see attached report.

1. **FINANCE (DW)**

The Parish Precept request of £19,000 for 2020/21 has been submitted. It was agreed a short explanation of the increase should be included in the Upper Kennet News. **Action Clerk**

The new Financial Regulations were formally adopted. *(Cllr S Nichols proposed, Cllr J Drew seconded)*

The accounts for the year to January 2020:

Balance carried forward from last year: £7823.00

Total receipts for the year to January 2020: £55753.49

Total payments for year to January 2020: £52567.10

The available cash book balance at 13 Jan 2020: £11009.10

Sign Cheques:

The following cheques and invoices were approved & signed:

Retrospective

1253 Innov8Sportz – November Youth Club £80.00

1254 Upper Kennet Churches – Winter Crisis donation £50.00

1255 Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group £50.00

1256 Over 60’s donation £50.00

1257 Lexis Nexis – Local Council Administration £103.99

1258 Geoff Emberlin – Glass for Lockeridge bus shelter £23.00

1259 South West Ambulance – Defibrillators contract £5760.00

Current

1260 Innov8Sportz – December Youth Club £80.00

1261 Kennet Valley Hall – Hall hire Jan – Dec 2019 £105.00

1262 S Roberts – Clerk salary Dec 2019 – Jan 2020

1263 S Roberts – Clerk expenses Dec 2019 – Jan 2020

1264 Kennet Valley Hall – Youth Club hall hire 12 months £150.00

1265 WALC – Audit training (Clerk) & Chairing Skills (JD) £198.00

1. **COMMUNICATIONS (AB)**

Items to be added to the next edition of UKN:

1. Precept explanation.
2. Details of the forthcoming road closure on Church Hill, West Overton.
3. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Advert for a new Councillor.
5. Details of the Wiltshire Council online survey to change the Parish Council name to Kennet Valley Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

This is the last page of the minutes.

**PLEASE NOTE :**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.