

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 18th October 2021 at 7.30pm
Held in the Main Hall, Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Present: Cllr A Davies, Chairman
Cllr K Gawler Cllr B Goringe
Cllr JW Parker Cllr Mrs M Goringe

In attendance: Mrs Ann Jacobs, Assistant Clerk.

Prior to the meeting the Chairman and Assistant Clerk had attended a virtual discussion group meeting with Cllr Hindmarch and Cllr B Waugh. Cllr Dyer and Cllr J B Parker had also made representations. The detail of these were reported by the Chairman during the meeting.

Public Open Forum: None present.

28. Pecuniary Interests: None declared

29. Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Lucas, Cllr Mrs Waugh, Cllr Mrs Marshall, Cllr Dyer, Cllr Hindmarch, Cllr JB Parker, Cllr R Bryan. Members considered the reasons for the apologies and noted the requirements of the 6 month rule and the possibility of a further lockdown which would then exclude some of the Members automatically from the Council. It was resolved to extend the period of leave of absence for each of the afore mentioned Councillors for a further 6 months due to the extraordinary circumstances as a result of the COVID pandemic and the health concerns to Members and their immediate families. The Members may return at an earlier opportunity if their circumstances permit. Proposed by Cllr J W Parker, seconded by Cllr Mrs M Goringe. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Cllr Mrs Lucas, Cllr Mrs Waugh , Cllr Mrs Marshall, Cllr Dyer, Cllr Hindmarch, Cllr JB Parker, Cllr R Bryan were given an extended period of leave for a further 6 months.

This will be reviewed prior to the 6 month expiry date.

30. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18th August 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr J W Parker, agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 pages 1-7, and the Extraordinary Meeting of the full Parish Council held on 18th August 2021, page 8 were signed and adopted.

31. Matters arising from the Minutes None

32. Correspondence to be noted:

1. Dorset Council are promoting a Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation which is aimed at helping DC prioritise its actions in developing and improving the network of Dorset pathways in the future. This is the link for the consultation <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rights-of-way-consultation> . The clerk will advertise this on the parish website and on social media. Noted. Cllr J W Parker

reported: It is hoped that the consultation will highlight some anomalies, so it is important to get as many responses as possible. All Members were encouraged to submit their own response individually. The deadline for responses is the 31st October 2021.

2. **Remembrance Day Parade.** All Saints church have invited the Chairman and members to the Remembrance Service at All Saints Church on Sunday 14th November and to lay a wreath. The service will start at 10.45am and should finish about 11.45am. If anyone who has not been before would like to see what happens, there will be a rehearsal for flag bearers in church at 09.30am on Saturday, 13th.

The church has requested an indication of numbers by 5th November. Members interested in attending please let the clerk know by end of October.

Cllr B Goringe, Cllr Mrs M Goringe, Cllr Gawler and Cllr Davies all indicated that they will attend.

Thursday 11th November, there will be a normal Holy Communion service at 10am with an Act of remembrance being held at 11am. Members and residents are more than welcome to attend.

The Clerk has ordered two wreaths for the Chairman to lay on both days.

33. Finance:

1. Internal Audit

1.1 **Members received** the report from the Internal Auditor, Fair Account for the half year to 30th September 2021. The recommendations were noted. The Assistant Clerk reported that Cyber Insurance had already been put in place. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr K Gawler. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To receive and accept the report from the Internal Auditor for the period 1st April, 2021 to 30th September 2021.

1.2 Review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit – Members consider the report and agreed unanimously that the system of Internal Audit is effective and meeting the standards required under the current Account and Audit Regulations. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr Mrs M Goringe.

RESOLVED: That the system of Internal Audit is effective and meeting the standards required under the current Account and Audit Regulations

2. Payment Schedules

2.1 Members agreed unanimously, to retrospectively approve the list of payments for April to August 2021 inclusive. Proposed by Cllr L Gawler, seconded by Cllr J W Parker.

RESOLVED: The list of payments and direct debits from EP0066 to EP00136 on the schedules provided were approved retrospectively.

2.2 Members agreed unanimously to approve the list of payments for September 2021. Proposed by Cllr Mrs M Goringe, seconded by Cllr J W Parker.

RESOLVED: The list of payments and direct debits from EP00137 to EP00154 on the schedules provided were approved.

3. Bank Reconciliations

3.1 Members agreed unanimously, to retrospectively approve the bank reconciliations from April 2021 to August 2021. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr K Gawler.

RESOLVED: The bank reconciliations from April 2021 to August 2021 were approved.

3.2 Members agreed unanimously, to approve the bank reconciliation for end September 2021. Proposed by Cllr K Gawler, seconded by Cllr Mrs M Goringe.

RESOLVED: The bank reconciliation for the end of September 2021 was approved.

3.3 Verification of accounts – Cllr Mrs Marshall verified bank statements with the bank reconciliation for 18th August 2021, all was in order. Duly noted.

34. Budget Vs Expenditure – Members received the budget Vs expenditure figures for the end of the second quarter. Duly noted.

35. Grants for Outside Bodies

Members noted - Grants for the current year have been paid under the delegated powers of the Clerk under Section 101 of the local Government Act 1972 in accordance with the Council sanctioned precept document approved on 27th January 2021.

Members considered the payments to be included within the precept for 2022/2023 for the following outside bodies: -

See attached report on Grants and Donations for precept 2022/2023
Greyfriars; Citizens Advice Bureaux – Purbeck and Wimborne and New Forest Youth Club; Age Concern; RBL wreaths; Ex Services Club Remembrance Day Event.

Members considered and agreed unanimously, the following grants for 2022/2023:-
Greyfriars agreed £600 - It was also noted that the organisation has adapted and met many additional needs during the pandemic and it is predicted that inflation will be high this year. The grant for 2021/2022 will be reviewed at the end of the current financial year to consider whether an additional payment may be made if resources permit.

RESOLVED: To grant the sum of £600 to Greyfriars for 2022/2023.

Citizens Advice New Forest and Citizens Advice East Dorset and Purbeck agreed £1,000 each

RESOLVED: To grant the sum of £1,000 to Citizens Advice New Forest and to grant £1,000 to Citizens Advice East Dorset and Purbeck for 2022/2023.

The grants for the Youth Club; Age Concern; RBL wreaths; Ex Services Club Remembrance Day Event will be left in the precept calculation as suggested but will be reviewed again prior to payment in 2022/2023.

Village Hall Grant for 2022/2023 – whilst the application had been received, due to the restricted numbers attending the meeting and from those two Councillors were Trustees of the VHMC, it could be a conflict of interest to directly consider the payment, with those Members participating. There would be insufficient Members for a quorum without them. It was agreed that the application would be deferred to a subsequent meeting prior to finalising the grant. A sum of £10,000 has been allocated in the precept calculation for 2022/2023 as that is the sum historically given. Authorisation of payment of the grant for 2022/2023 will be put to a subsequent meeting.

36. Precept for 2022/2023 –

A discussion document for the precept for 2022/2023 was circulated to Members input from Members not attending due to COVID risk was considered. Members agreed that whilst noting the suggestion to lower the increase, higher than normal inflation of over 3% was anticipated and the increase proposed was below 3%, the increase was justified. It was agreed unanimously, to submit a precept demand for 2022/2023 of £100,551 which equates to an increase of 2.962% on last year. It was also agreed that the resolution was subject to the proviso that no further exceptional expenditure arises between now and the end of January 2022. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr J W Parker.

RESOLVED: The Council will submit a precept demand of £100,551 for 2022/2023 provided nothing further exceptional arises before the end of January 2022.

The Clerk will submit the Precept demand as directed, by the deadline but bring the item back to Council for review if any matter arises which could cause exceptional expenditure.

37. Allied Irish Bank (AIB) Withdrawal of Banking Products in Great Britain

We have received notification that AIB intend to withdraw all banking products and services to commercial business customers in Great Britain. All accounts will be closed by 31st December 2021. The Parish Council will therefore have to transfer its funds held in AIB by 31st December 2021. It was agreed unanimously, to close the AIB account now and transfer funds to our Lloyds Bank and Santander Bank accounts ensuring that we remain under the £85k threshold set by the FSCS in both accounts. Proposed by Cllr B Goringe, seconded by Cllr J W Parker.

RESOLVED: To close the AIB (GB) account and distribute the funds to the Lloyds and Santander bank accounts.

38. Clerks Report

1. SID Damage and repair

Whilst the SID was in position outside Ashley Cottages on the Verwood Road it was broken into and the battery stolen. The metal banding securing the battery housing was cut and the padlock bracket snapped off. It has been reported to the police. A new metal banding strap has been purchased and the spare battery installed and secured. Operationally the SID still functions and it has been reinstalled on Woolsbridge Road. Another spare battery is now required at £55. There is a risk that the unit is broken into again and the battery stolen. If this happens then the viability of continuing to operate the SID will need to be discussed. The clerk is in discussion with the Dorset Council SID team to see if additional security measures can be taken.

2. Dog Bin theft, damage and repair

During a recent inspection of copse areas it was found that the dog waste bin at Jubilee Copse has been stolen. In addition, the dog waste bin opposite the post office on the Ringwood Road Service Road has the lid broken off due to rust. Both bins need replacing. The proposal is to replace the Jubilee Copse bin with the dog waste bin from Braeside Copse and the bin opposite the post office with the bin from outside the parish office. It is then proposed to install much larger dog waste bins fixed to posts at Braeside Copse and outside the parish office. DWP will supply the larger bins but ask that we pay for the posts and their installation. The cost for two posts plus installation is £500.

In addition, the dog waste bin on the pathway between Bracken Close and St Leonards Way suffers from very heavy usage and will often be full to overflowing when it is emptied. It is proposed that a new larger bin and post be installed here at a cost of £250. The existing bin can then be saved for reuse. This was discussed. Cllr Mrs Goringe reported that the dog bin between Sandy Lane and St Ives Park on FP19 was often overflowing and requested its exchange for a larger bin. The Chairman reported that the bin at the Grosvenor Close/trailway entrance was also often overflowing. It was agreed, unanimously, to approve the cost of four new bins total cost £1,000. Proposed by Cllr Mrs M Goringe, seconded by Cllr J W Parker.

RESOLVED: To approve the cost of £1,000 for new dog bins as requested.

39. Brief Reports from Dorset Council Members – circulated by email. Cllr B Goringe reported that a review of roles has been undertaken and many changes are scheduled. Noted.

40. Amenities:

1. Dog warden report. Nothing to report.

2. Play park. Since the opening of the new play park an issue has arisen concerning the gravel under the zip wire. The gravel was kept under the zip wire as it was considered a suitable and safe surface for it and replacing it would have increased the cost of the play park works. On several occasions children have taken gravel and spread it across the new rubber surfacing. This has the potential to damage the new surface and creates a slip hazard. This slip hazard has been commented on in the monthly asset inspections. A short-term solution is that the grounds maintenance contractor visits regularly, using his blower to clear the gravel. The Clerk's report was noted. It was agreed, unanimously, to approve the costs for replacing the gravel with Tiger Mulch. Costs were anticipated to be around £5,000 to £8,000 but a sum of £10,000 was agreed to be allocated to allow for a contingency sum. Proposed by Cllr K Gawler, seconded by Cllr J W Parker.

RESOLVED: To allocate a sum of up to £10,000 for the zip wire to replace the gravel with Tiger Mulch.

41. Climate Change. Concern were raised over the persistent removal of mature trees in the Parish without the requirement to replant. This would be discussed at a subsequent meeting further consideration of the Queens Green Canopy Project may be worthwhile. It was noted that the resources of the Tree Section of Dorset Council was stretched.

42. Exchange of information:

1. Next meeting date to be confirmed by the Clerk subsequently.

Meeting ended at 8.31pm,

Chairman