

St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council
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15th March 2022

PARISH COUNCIL – DISCUSSION GROUP

Temporary Cessation of Parish Council Meetings

As a result of Local Authority guidance on Council meetings in relation to Covid and the Omicron variant. The Parish Council has decided to return to virtual meetings until further notice.

This means in the short term there will be no further official Full Parish Council meetings. The situation will be reviewed monthly.

Parish Councillors will discuss business topics at a Parish Council Discussion Group and make recommendations on those topics to the Clerk. The Clerk will then make the necessary lawful decisions in line with their delegated powers.

JR ROSS

Jonathan Ross, Parish Clerk

Notes on the Parish Council Discussion Group held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7pm

The meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

In attendance: Cllr Davies, Cllr JB Parker, Cllr JW Parker, Cllr Bryan, Cllr Dyer, Cllr B Goringe, Cllr Mrs Waugh, Cllr Mrs Goringe, Cllr Mrs Marshall, Cllr K Gawler

1. Correspondence to note:

1. The Parish Council had previously approved a grant of £200 for a defibrillator to be installed on an external wall of the All-Saints church building. There has been some discussion on whether the unit will be installed externally and therefore available to everyone or installed internally where it would only be available to church users. The Parish Council has confirmed that the grant will still be available as long as the unit is installed externally.

2. Residents of Burton Close have requested a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prevent non-residents parking in the close and accessing the Castleman trailway. They consider the parking to be causing an unacceptable nuisance. One resident indicated that the privately owned footpath that gives access to the trailway from the close could be closed to non-residents. Thereby discouraging people from parking in the close. Members felt that as there was a solution to the problem of parking then they were minded not to support a request for a TRO.

2. **To review the minutes of the Council Meeting which took place on 26th January 2022.**
Members were minded to approve the minutes of the Council meeting which took place on 26th January 2022.
3. **Finance:**
 1. To review and approve the schedule of payments for January and February 2022. Members reviewed the schedule of payments for January and February 2022 and were minded to approve them. A copy is at Appendix A to these notes.
 2. To review and approve the bank reconciliation for January and February 2022. Members reviewed the bank reconciliations for January and February 2022 and were minded to approve them. A copy is at Appendix B to these notes.
4. **Climate Change** – It was noted that Stephen Ford has been appointed as the new Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability at Dorset County.
5. **Clerk's Report** – To receive a report to update Members in relation to:
 - a) Fire Alarm works – the works went ahead as planned.
 - b) Fire Extinguisher works – the works went ahead as planned.
 - c) New Accounts Software. The new accounts management software has been ordered and arrangements made to install it at the end of this financial year. The assistant clerk has attended some online training and will commence using the new package from the beginning of the new financial year. It will be run in tandem with the old account's software for 3 months.
 - d) Additional Parish Notice Board. The Clerk discussed the option of joint purchasing (with Homewatch) a new notice board for the Victory Oak estate. The cost is £1465 + VAT – to be split two ways. The board will be titled Community Notice Board and the Parish Council would have a section inside it for displaying notices and documents. Permission from the landowner is still to be sought and the need for planning permission to be investigated. Members were minded to approve the joint purchase of the noticeboard.
 - e) Signage. The Parish Council has received several requests for new advertising signs at the entrance to the Village Hall complex. The Clerk updated members on recent discussions with Home Watch and other site occupiers. The proposal is to relocate the existing Homewatch Community Noticeboard to the other side of the complex entrance. In its place will be installed a new sign split into four quadrants. The quadrants would advertise the Tennis Club, Nursery, Scouts and Guides. No commercial advertising would be permitted on the new sign. The existing white sign higher up on the fence would be removed. Members were minded to approve this proposal.
 - f) Data Security Improvements. Improvements to the security and resilience of data stored on the computer systems have been carried out. New external hard drives had been purchased and set up on the laptops. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will now update data on a weekly basis.
 - g) Paper Copies of Documents. Members discussed whether they wished to continue to receive paper copies of documents for meetings by post. Members were minded to approve to continue receiving paper copies of agendas and minutes for parish meetings.
 - h) Playpark Lighting. The Clerk briefed members on the proposed works to replace the two existing lighting columns and lights at the play park with new LED lights and lowerable

columns. The existing lanterns have been damaged beyond repair and need replacing. The lanterns can only be changed with the aid of a cherry picker. The Southern Electricity Board (SEB) now Eneveo must carry out the maintenance work to repair or replace the lanterns. Their recommendation is to replace the existing columns with columns that can be manually lowered. This will allow for easier maintenance in the future. The cost to replace both columns and install new LED lanterns is £3189.64 + VAT. Members were minded to approve the works.

- 6. Parish Councillors' Reports.** It was noted that improvement works to the Castleman Trailway have started. A considerable amount of debris from trees and the pathway has accumulated by the trailway crossing at Horton Road. Clerk to discuss with MVCP rangers.
- 7. Report from Dorset Council Members:** Members received a joint report from Cllrs Goringe and Bryan. The report can be found at Appendix C to these notes. One topic that was discussed was the continual speeding by motorists on Boundary Road. Information is being gathered to identify possible permanent speed restriction measures.
- 8. Amenities:**
 1. The Clerk explained that minimal tree damage occurred on parish owned sites resulting from the recent storms. Several residents contacted the parish council expressing concern over trees situated on Parish Council owned land near to their properties as a result of the storms. The Clerk met with a tree surgeon who carried out a visual inspection of the trees at Spinney Copse and Braeside Glade. It was his opinion that the trees appeared to pose no immediate threat to safety. It was recommended that a full documented survey be carried out on all forest areas under management of the Parish Council. The Clerk will commission this survey in July 2022.
 2. The Clerk briefed members on proposed works to clear all goat willows growing along both sides of the ditch in Braeside Glade and to completely remove the large dead tree near to the Ivy Close footpath. The cost of the works is £1400. Members were minded to approve the works.
- 9. Resumption of Face-to-Face Meetings:** Members discussed the format of future meetings. The next meeting on 6th April will be face to face. To allow members to attend virtually the Clerk was tasked with setting up a conferencing facility. This will create a 'hybrid' meeting where members can attend virtually and fully participate in the meeting but will not be able to lawfully vote and their attendance will not count towards the meeting being quorate.
- 10. The Youth Club.** Members discussed the current low number of children attending the youth club. After much discussion it was felt the parish council could not justify the cost of running the club with so few children attending. Members were minded to approve the closure of the Youth Club.
- 11. The Queens Platinum Jubilee.** Cllr Mrs M Goringe briefed members on plans by the Village Hall Management Committee to organise a community event celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee. It will take place on Fri 3rd June 2022. A request was made to all members asking for their support before and during the event. Members were minded to approve a grant of £500 towards the event.
- 12. Queens Green Canopy:** The Clerk reported on options for a species of tree, a preferred size, a suitable location for planting and a suitable plaque. Members were minded approving an English Oak, with a rough cost of £120 approximately 3m tall. To be planted near to the fence line on the recreation ground by Braeside Road. In addition, £200 of costs to plant,

stake and secure the tree were approved. Members were also minded to approve the purchase and installation of a suitable jubilee plaque at a cost of £145.

13. Planning. Members discussed recent planning applications that had been granted despite significant opposition to the proposals by the planning committee. Members felt their comments were being ignored. Cllr Bryan has agreed to invite the portfolio holder for planning, Cllr David Walsh, to attend a future planning committee and explain Dorset Council's planning policy and reasons for its decisions.

14. Exchange of information:

1. The Clerk informed members that a resident has expressed an interest in the vacant councillor role. It is intended to co-opt this person at the next meeting, subject to any additional applications.
2. Next meeting date is 6th April to be held face to face in the Russell Room.