

Twyford Parish Council Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held remotely on Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 7:30pm.

Present: Mr R Mantel (Chairman), Mr R Abeywardana, Mr M Alder, Mrs E Ashley, Mr J Bowley, Mr M Bray, Mrs B Ditcham, Mrs J Duffield, Mr J Jarvis, Mrs L Jarvis, Mrs T Ramsden, Mr C Wickenden, Mr T Winchester & Mrs S Wisdom.

In attendance: Mr S Conway, Borough Councillor, Mr J Clark (for item 17) and 1 member of the press.

Clerk present: Mrs L Moffatt (Clerk).

1. **Public Questions have been invited in advance of the meeting via email, telephone or in writing.** A resident asked for dogs in the parks to be kept on leads and under control throughout social distancing. Agreed to remind residents via social media and increase presence of Park Warden.
2. **Apologies.** Miss C Scull.
3. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda.** Mrs B Ditcham declared an interest in item 13.
4. **Dispensations.** None.

Finance & General Purposes Matters

5. **Internal Audit** – report circulated 05.05.20. Noted.
6. **Annual accounts & approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return & Accounting Statements** The figures had been circulated. Agreed to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** that the Chairman signs the accounting statements and annual governance statement 2019/20 as presented. Proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mr M Bray. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **To consider making grants to organisations helping in the current crisis** – to discuss whether there should be a change in procedure under Covid-19. Discussion took place and it was agreed to await feedback following the Wokingham Borough Clerk's forum.
8. **To approve list of regular payments** - Noted.
9. **Fete – decision as to whether to cancel for 2020 [21.08.21 for next year]**
Unanimously agreed to cancel the 2020 fete due to Covid-19. Agreed to rearrange activities for the 21st August 2021.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan** – no report.
11. **Twyford in Bloom** – Mrs B Ditcham reported that although the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom judging will not be taking place 83 hanging baskets have been ordered. Both businesses and residents have been very supportive in ordering baskets. Paul Cassidy from Twyford Together would like to run a virtual Twyford in Bloom and Mrs B Ditcham and Mr R Abeywardana will meet to discuss this.
12. **WBC CIL project – flooding defence** the clerk reported that Wokingham Borough Council are asking for CIL contributions and details of the project will be forthcoming.
13. **To consider rent waivers**
Mr T Winchester proposed and Mr M Bray seconded to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** to deduct rent for unused weeks due to Covid-19 from the next rent due for the sports clubs and Colleton School after school club. Motion carried unanimously.
Mrs S Wisdom proposed and Mr M Bray seconded to **RECOMMEND to Full Council** no change to the commercial rent charged for Twycombe Lodge. Motion carried unanimously
Allotments have remained open and any allotment holders that haven't had use due to Covid-19 can approach the Council on an individual basis.

Finance Committee items to note:

1. Receipt of Precept payments - £43,048.00 & £10762.00
2. Renewal of LCR subscription – 9 magazines ordered
3. April balances & quarterly budget & capital statement to 31.03.20 – carried forward

Full Council Matters

14. **Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th May 2020 (to be signed at a later date).** Approval of the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed Mrs E Ashley, seconded Mr M Bray, motion carried unanimously.
15. **Borough Councillor report** Mr S Conway reported.
 - Helping businesses to be aware of the Government grants available to them under Covid-19
 - New business scheme offered to small businesses who don't have premises and pay business rates
 - WBC have money to help and is awaiting Government guidance as to the process for distribution
 - Some businesses will still fall through the cracks
 - Helping tenants struggling to pay rent
 - First virtual planning meeting tomorrow when the application for land to the rear of 20-22 Station Road will be considered
 - Listed building consent application received for the library. Plans not yet received as they are awaiting a tree survey
 - Local plan is on hold – likely to be changes and a serious reduction on housing numbers and infrastructure due to economic downturn.
 - Residents have raised the issue of bonfires on allotments and residents would like the temporary ban to be made permanent

Mr R Abeywardana asked how much was going to be offered to businesses through grants and what would happen to the money not claimed.

No sums have yet been discussed but its likely to be modest amounts of money.

Mr Conway stated that WBC will be using the website to encourage businesses to apply for the grants. Its vitally important that the Council spends this money. The Parish Council can help communicate to businesses that this money is available.

Mr R Abeywardana asked how we can make using small local businesses socially acceptable [businesses that can carry out works whilst socially distancing]. Can the Borough promote that it is socially acceptable to use these businesses? Mr S Conway replied that public confidence is low and people are avoiding contact. We need to install confidence and the Borough Council do have a role in re-assuring people that this is possible.

16. **Clerks report** The tennis club will be opening two courts for single matches and double only permitted where players are all from the same household. The tennis club asked if the Council would approve that they would open for members only and members of the public should not have access at the moment. Proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mr T Winchester that the public should have the same access as members under the same rules. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk asked if more routine business could be considered on the agendas now that things were returning to a new normal. Agreed that the meeting structure may need to change in the future. Things to remain the same for the time being. To be reviewed in June.

17. Community Resilience program

15.1 Twyforward Arts and Crafts festival Mr Abeywardana reported on the festival and Mr J Clark presented his ideas for the marketing designs. The ideas were well received and approval for the design was agreed.

Mr Abeywardana reported on the plans for a new URL for the page. A quote had been received for the website contractors to carry out work in three phases. Agreed phase 1-£560 & 2-£840 would be carried out within the existing Community Resilience program budget. Funding phase 3 to be considered after completion of the first two phases.

15.2 Woodley foodbank & Wokingham Community Hub update – no report.

18. Communication & liaison with other groups within the Parish – A response to the 10 questions on business support is still awaited from Mr J Halsall. The clerk reported that the contact with managers of the facilities where older residents are living was well received. There were concerns for loneliness and isolation of residents.

19. Items to be discussed at the next meeting - no items.

20. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th May 2020

Full Council items to note:

1. Correspondence circulated by email:

1.1 John Halsall - Update 29th April 2020 (circulated 30.04.20)

1.2 Ruscombe Parish Council meeting agenda 06.05.20 (circulated 30.04.20)

1.3 John Halsall - Members update Thursday April 30 (circulated 01.05.20)

1.4 John Halsall - Members update Sunday May 3 (circulated 04.05.20)

1.5 WBC - Update on FAQ (circulated 04.05.20)

1.6 Trivoli grass cutting update (circulated 05.05.20)

1.7 Involve Wokingham Chain Newsletter (circulated 04.05.20)

1.8 Members update Monday May 4th (circulated 05.05.20)

Meeting closed at 21:09

Lucy Moffatt (Clerk), Twyford Parish Council, PO box 8250, Twyford, Berks, RG6 9SZ.

Telephone 0118 9345444. An answer phone is available, please be prepared to leave your name and telephone number as the Clerk's hours are flexible. Associated reports are available from the Clerk on request.