

Twyford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Meeting held remotely on Tuesday 2nd June 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 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.** No questions.
2. **Apologies.** None.
3. **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda.** None.
4. **Dispensations.** None.

Finance & General Purposes Matters

5. **To consider making grants to organisations helping in the current crisis** – feedback from Clerk’s forum – Wokingham Borough council are looking at their Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. One change may be that WBC approaches all of the Towns and Parishes – with no obligation – regarding funding for a group or organisation to avoid them having to put a bid in to each of us separately. More information should follow in the near future.
6. **Website** - to consider forming a health & wellbeing page, nominate a councillor to co-ordinate and to agree any budget for works (notes circulated 28.05.20) Agreed works could be carried out within the monthly website retainer funds.
Mrs L Ashley agreed to co-ordinate the page. Proposed Mr R Mantel, seconded Mr T Winchester to set up a Health and Wellbeing page with Mrs Ashley to co-ordinate. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Mr C Wickenden reported on a proposal to be circulated on how to move things forward. He has an update on funding and consultant charges.
8. **Twyford in Bloom** – 7 more basket orders have been received and a total of 92 baskets have been ordered and will be installed in the next two weeks.
9. **Covid-19 risk assessment** – revision dated 28.05.20 (circulated 28.05.20) Noted.

Finance Committee items to note:

1. April balances
 - Bank balances as at the end of April 2020. Nat West current account £32,800.47, Unity Trust current account £76,630.05, deposit account £96,942.43, income bonds £37,000, national savings account £3,128.31 and Twycombe Lodge tenants deposit account £3,019.01.
 - VAT return for April 2020 - £440.66.
2. Quarterly budget & capital statement to 31.03.20 – to be circulated
3. CIL report to 31s March 2020 (circulated 22.05.20)
4. Cheque list dated 28.05.20 (circulated 28.05.20)

Full Council Matters

10. **Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 26th May 2020 (to be signed at a later date)** Approval of the minutes as a true and accurate record proposed Mr T Winchester, seconded Mr M Bray, motion carried nem con.
11. **Borough Councillor report**
Mr S Conway reported.
- He and Mr L Ferris have been helping businesses to be aware of the Government grants available to them under Covid-19
 - Garden waste bags are available from WBC for home delivery
 - Twyford schools are opening for years 1& 6 from next week
 - Planning application for land to the rear of 20-22 Station Road was declined on basis of the report from the Conservation officer
 - Library plans have not yet been received
 - Local plan is on hold – likely to be changes and a serious reduction on housing numbers and infrastructure due to economic downturn
 - The Councils capital program is likely to be delayed
12. **Clerks report** - Miss C Scull has tendered her resignation. The vacancy will be advertised. If within 14 working days, 10 electors from the parish ward give notice in writing to the Returning Officer at WBC a by-election to fill the vacancy would have been held. At the present time, Section 58 of the Coronavirus Bill has postponed elections, including casual vacancies. Therefore, it will not be possible to run a by-election should one be requested. However, if a notice is received, the vacancy would be held until such time as legislation comes into force allowing postponed elections to be run. If no such notice is given to the Returning Officer, we will fill the post by co-option.
Request by the bootcamps to resume at Stanlake Meadow with small groups and social distancing. Unanimously approved subject to the Governments guidelines being adhered to.
13. **Community Resilience program**
- 13.1 Twyforward Arts and Crafts festival
To create a portfolio of memories from this time as part of a community resilience programme. To put together poems, art (any form, e.g. mosaic, tapestry, videos), photos, music and dance. Mr Abeywardana reported on the positive feedback where the initiative has been referred to as impressive and varied. He emphasised the importance of the Council being active throughout the pandemic. The facebook advertising has also been very successful. A Twyford photographer has offered doorstep portraits for charity as part of the Twyforward initiative -this idea has already created lots of interest.
- 13.1.1 Leaflet – budget & distribution – Quote for leaflets £49.99 plus delivery and checking on paper quality. Proposed Mr R Abeywardana, seconded Mr J Jarvis to approve £100 for leaflets. Motion carried unanimously.
Distribution to be carried out by volunteers.
- 13.1.2 Website – to consider approving costs of £840 for phase 3 of the Twyforward web page. Agreed not necessary at the moment as manual uploads are working well.
- 13.1.3 To consider agreeing an advertising budget for RG10 / social media. Proposed Mr J Jarvis, seconded Mrs B Ditcham, a whole page RG10 advert at a cost of £255. Motion carried unanimously.
Proposed Mr R Abeywardana, seconded Mr J Jarvis, £100 Facebook advertising Budget for two more months advertising. Motion carried unanimously.

13.1.4 Next steps – 2021 exhibition event and themes to keep the initiative going
Mr R Abeywardana listed the forthcoming projects such as the doorstep photos, virtual bloom and virtual pet / dog show. The working group would like to make plans for an open air cinema event to show a slideshow of the Twyforward submissions before the film. Costs would be £1,500 to be held in July or September 2021 and charge £5 per head.

- 13.2** Wokingham Community Hub update – Mr R Abeywardana reported that the group has 3 arms. Transport (which doesn't cover Twyford), Green and Tidy and their volunteer brokerage (which do both cover Twyford). Under Covid-19 they carry out 15-30 prescription deliveries per day. They would like the Council to advertise what they do and it was unanimously agreed to advertise their services on the website. Their staffing costs have increased and they would welcome increased funding. Agreed to be proactive and for Mr R Abeywardana to make contact again, request completion of the grant form (available on the website) and to enquire as to their difficulties and what they need. Also to find out how many Twyford residents are being helped by their service. To consider further next week.
- 14. Communication & liaison with other groups within the Parish** – no reports.
- 15. To consider, as an elected body, sending a formal letter to the Government following the recent action by Mr Dominic Cummings** (TW) After a lengthy discussion Mr T Winchester proposed and Mr M Alder seconded a proposal to send a formal letter to the cabinet office critical of Mr Dominic Cummins behaviour. Mr R Mantel to draft. 6 in favour, 6 against, 2 abstained. Mr R Mantel did not wish to use his casting vote to lead the Council where there was not a clear majority. Proposal fell.
- 16. Note of thanks to keyworkers** – a screen grab was taken of the Councillors holding thank you notes which will be circulated on the website and social media.
- 17. Items to be discussed at the next meeting** – Mr R Abeywardana asked for the Green Prescription to be added to the next agenda.
- 18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th June 2020**

Full Council items to note:

- 1. Correspondence circulated by email:**
- 1.1** The Wokingham Chain Newsletter (circulated 18.05.20)
- 1.2** Public Notice from Polehampton Charity (circulated 26.05.20)

Meeting closed at 21:08

Lucy Moffatt (Clerk), Twyford Parish Council, PO box 8250, Reading, 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.