

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting (Virtual) held Tuesday 26th May 2020 at 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor John Summers (Chairman)
Councillor Denise Hall
Councillor Steve Lapper
Councillor Phil John
District Councillor Phil Chapman CDC
The Clerk
Residents and Public - 0

Welcome and Introductions – The Chairman welcomed all present. Members are reminded that this is a meeting in public not a public meeting and all points, questions and comments should be addressed through the Chair.

Apologies for Absence – Received from District Councillor George Reynolds.

Councillor Huntbach has resigned from the Parish Council. In the interim Councillor Summers will look after the Playing Fields with assistance from Councillor Lapper at Orchard Piece playing field; Councillor John will look after Neighbourhood Watch and the Police; and Councillor Hall will look after dogs. We would like to thank Cheryl for her work as a councillor during the last couple of years, particularly in securing funding and equipment for the playing fields.

Declarations of Interest – Councillor Steve Lapper declared an interest in the Planning Application 20/01112/F because he lives adjacent to the site.

948 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters arising – Tuesday 24th March 2020
The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. They were agreed to be a true record of the Meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising – Government Legislation now dictated that Parish Council Meetings should be Virtual Meetings until Covid 19 legislation permitted otherwise

**949 Clerks Report
Financial Statement**

Clerk reported that 11 cheques had been raised during the 4-month period January to April 2020

581	Joe Bridson	Planned OP Playground Tree Cut	850.00
582	S Lapper	'20 is Plenty' Road Signs	223.92
583	Ability Northants CIC	Grant for new Local Bus Service	500.00
584	Joe Bridson	Spoilt Cheque	-

585	OALC	Annual Subscription	140.42
586	J Summers	Play Bark – Mollington Play Area	202.00
587	Joe Bridson	Storm - Emergency Tree Felling	1600.00
588	HMRC	PAYE	137.60
589	Clerk	Quarters Salary to March	549.90
590	J Summers	Print –Covid 19 Volunteer Leaflets	16.68
591	CDC	Dog Bin Collections – 6 Months	114.00

All payments are within Budget except the payment for tree cutting (cheque 587) which was for emergency tree work, caused by storm damage. There was £450.74 VAT outstanding at end of April which will be claimed back in due course.

During the last Financial Year 2019/20, the Parish Council received income of £11885, excluding all grants for playgrounds and the local bus, and the Council spent £11963. Consequently, the PC spent just £78 in general funds more than was received.

During March a payment of £500 was gratefully received from the Christmas Fair funds to go towards the OP Play Area development; this was added to the OP Play area reserves. In April an amount of £1166 was received from the Tesco Blue Tokens project, on behalf of OP Play area development, and this was also added to the reserves. These contributions brought the total reserves for OP Play area to £13,327. CDC have also awarded a Grant to the OP Play area project within their 50% of project funding scheme, which means that the project can go ahead. The play equipment has been ordered from Wickstead.

During April the Parish Council also received the Precept Payment of £5500.00 for the first half of this financial year.

Taking the above into account, at the end of April the expected bank balance was £41,136.02 which is reconciled to Bank statement sheet No.188 at 5th May 2020. This balance contains the reserves of £13,327.00 for Orchard Piece Play Area and £10,156.57 for Mollington Playing Fields Play area.

Resolved: To accept the Financial report.

950. To Consider the Internal Audit Report for 2019/20 from Arrow Accounting, previously circulated.

Resolved; To accept the Internal Audit Report

951. To Consider the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement.

The Parish Council resolved to accept the Annual Governance Statement and the Chairman signed the Statement. The Council then resolved to accept the Annual Accounting Statement and exceptions report and these were signed by the Chairman.

952. The Parish Council qualified for exemption from External Audit for 2019/20. The Certificate was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman; the Clerk will forward this to the External Auditors.

953 Planning Matters

Applications:

20/01112/F Erection of a single dwelling house on land North West of Old Farm House and adjoining Orchard Piece. The Parish Council have considered the application which appears to have a number of omissions and erroneous points that need to be resolved before proper consideration can be given.

1. Applicant's address is not declared on the application form, the address used is not a residential address it is the site address
2. The agents contact details are not shown on the application form despite the agent being the contact point
3. The application states that there are no trees on land adjacent to the proposed development site that could influence the development or might be important as part of the local landscape character. The Parish Council understands that this is not the case as the tree survey of 2015 identified trees of both category A and B with a material conservation value. The arboriculture report on this application confirms our view in that it requires an up to date BS55837:2012 tree survey.
4. The application states that the proposal is not within 20 meters of a watercourse, which is not the case as there is a stream on the south west boundary of the proposed development.
5. The application states that there are no protected and priority species likely to be affected by the proposal however there is no up to date ecological survey included with the application and without this it is impossible to consider the ecological impact. The 2015 survey concluded that the site or immediately adjacent areas contain habitat suitable for the following protected vertebrates; Bats; Badger; Nesting bird species; Great Crested Newts; and Reptiles.
6. There is no detail about the source of services such as electricity and water or the capacity of the existing utility networks to provide these. The disposal of sewage is specifically excluded from the application.
7. There is no Transport Appraisal to support the comments made in the Planning Statement. Access road are claimed to be well-established and provide ample room for large vehicles (e.g. refuse collection, emergency service and delivery vehicles) to manoeuvre. However, the photograph demonstrates that this is not the case showing a large vehicle negotiating around parked cars at a quiet time of day
8. The pre application advised the relocation of the access four meters to the south. Despite a note on the plan to this effect there appear to be no plans included in the application to relocate this access.
9. There has been no statutory site notice for this proposed development in the conservation area.

In the absence of much of the technical information required for a planning application Mollington Parish Council's view is that it is not possible to properly consider this planning application. Furthermore, the Parish Council consider that if this technical information is not available and publicised before the target decision date the application should not be determined.

In addition to the above Consultee response, the Parish Council are to ask the Planning Officers that if the technical details are received, the Council would want to extend consultation in order that all the details can be properly considered.

Planning applications received since the agenda was published. None

Decisions

- 20/00083/TPO Reduce poplar tree to ground level and replace with a lime; March House March Road. Application permitted
- 20/00684/TPO Crown reduction of Ash Tree at Little Fell 9 The Mead. Application permitted

954. Councillors Points of Information

Installation of the new playground equipment for younger children is to go ahead in Mollington Playing Field from 1 June. It will be necessary to close the playing field for 1 week or so from that date. The play equipment will not be available for use until the current Covid 19 restrictions on playground equipment are lifted.

Village Hall Treasurer has applied to CDC for funding for Village Hall developments. In the meantime, the Village Hall remains closed due to Covid 19 regulations.

Thomas Fox have been contacted regarding grass cutting schedules and the potential cutting of Thacker Way. A reply is awaited.

955. Dates of Future Meetings The next scheduled meeting date of the Parish Council is Tuesday 23rd June 2020 at 8.00pm. This may be a Virtual Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting finished at 8.38pm

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council

Public Participation Session – No Public present