

***draft* Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 July 2021**

Present: Cllrs Spencer (Chairman) (CS); Gibbons (MG); Corbin (DC); Gray (JG) and Patch (AP).

Also In attendance at the meeting held on Village Hall car park: Parish Clerk and Village Hall booking secretary.

Apologies: Cllr d'Ambrumenil and Cllr Hole-Jones.

Welcome to new councillor: Before the formal proceedings started, the Chairman welcomed Cllr Patch to her first meeting following her recent co-option onto the council. The Acceptance Form was duly signed and it was witnessed by the Clerk.

Declarations of any interest: None

10 Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 18 May 2021 : It was proposed by JG, and seconded by DC that the minutes of the meeting presented a true and accurate record of proceedings: all councillors were in agreement.

11 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

- Zeals Youth Trust and Green Pastures: DC's presentation later (item 12) gave an up to date assessment of progress in all areas connected with the site.
- Village Hall W-Fi provision: Topic to be discussed at the next meeting of the Hall's Management Committee and a final decision made by that group.
- Allotment Hedge: One Ash tree and three Elm trees have been felled and the Holly tree has been much reduced in height.
- Portnells Lane Notice Board: Concrete support posts have been added to strengthen the wooden legs and the board is now very secure indeed.
- Wiltshire Council contacts: Responding to our requests, the County Council say that the road drains have been cleared and their contractor has been asked to complete the build out repairs as soon as possible.
- Barbara Moodie: Has been sent an official letter by the Clerk on behalf of the parish council to thank her for her regular attendance and great support on the parish council for the past five years.

12 Future developments at the Green Pastures playing field.

Cllr Corbin, speaking in his capacity as being the Chairman of the Zeals Youth Trust (ZYT), had previously raised this issue at the May meeting of the parish council (refer to item 5c), and the up to date report he presented to councillors at the meeting is summarised below.

The one hectare site at Green Pastures has been rented by the ZYT, Charity number 1064296, from Zeals Parish Council for over a 12 year period. The charity is now planning for the future. He is now able to confirm that, under the Chairmanship of Wiltshire County Council Cabinet Member, Councillor Bridget Wayman, and with the support of our local County Councillor, George Jeans, ZYT have just received the approval from the County's Area Board for a grant for the purchase of a 60 feet by 20 feet wooden pavilion to be sited on Zeals Green Pastures. The charity is seeking approval from Zeals Parish Council for all aspects of this proposed development, and, if possible, consideration for any future Wiltshire Section 106 grants that may come available to be allocated to youth activities at this site.

For the past 12 years an adult football team, Zeals Spitfires, has used this site but they have opted to leave, and this coincides with the intention of ZYT to be incorporated within the larger Seeds4Success organisation, charity number 115141 based in Mere, of which DC and Ross Coad (the ZYT Treasurer) are Trustees. The site has a large grassed area

together with a tarmac area on which are container storage, 2 cabins with changing rooms, a kitchen and toilet area which have all been in place from 2002 onwards. There are many hard car parking spaces on the site.

The new pavilion is to known as the Zeals Green Pastures Youth Centre and it will provide the essential weather-proof area for young people to use the open spaces but also have an indoor place for tuition, instruction or even just for shelter in inclement weather.

The site is used from time to time by Leaping Frogs Kindergarden and the Zeals After School Club organisation is wishing to use the site and its buildings in the future, instead of having to use a site in Mere after their stay at Whitesheet was terminated. Several Duke of Edinburgh Award groups have already enquired about using the site as a base, and Seeds4Success wish to use the site for several of their activities which they sponsor, and they will be able to use all the facilities and storage containers for activities such as Forest School and cycling for example.

The intention is to use this safe, secure and open space, with its electricity, water and sewage provision to the best advantages for local youth, with adult supervision by qualified leaders and volunteers. They already have a generous donation for the annual upkeep of the site and its facilities, but there is always a need for income to supplement this for future additions. When space will allow, the plan is to encourage organised village activities including weddings, private parties, caravan rallies and other organised games and events. The pavilion could be booked for other local instruction, training or teaching. In addition it is hoped that our young people would be able to play 5-a-side soccer and they plan to install outside exercise equipment for young and old around the site.

The Trustees are keen to hear directly from any suitably qualified leader in our area who may wish to make use of the site and its unique facilities for their specific activities or clubs.

Comments: CS thanked DC for his detailed report, and reminded him of the support that the parish council have already agreed to give to this new development, although it does mean that the Tenancy Agreement will need to be looked at. Action: Next meeting

13 Financial matters: To consider for approval the following payments:

- a) Parish Clerk: (i) £373.44 salary payment for June and July. (ii) £16 for Office payment , (iii) £32.50 printing ink (iv) £15 removal and disposal charges of several bags of weeds from playground.
- b) Elite Playground Inspections: (i) £78 (65+13 vat) for annual safety inspection. (ii) £600 (500+100 vat) for essential repairs to all swing seats and all swing chains
- c) Community First Insurance £413.66 re Village Hall Insurance renewal.
- d) Mr G Poynton £200 contribution for essential felling of trees alongside pavement at allotment gardens
- e) Bourton Fencing Ltd £208.80 (174+34.80 vat) for essential repairs to notice board.
- f) Nick Gatehouse Forestry: £215 for work done cutting back hedges and undergrowth that were blocking two public footpaths, and for work done when cutting the long grass around the commemorative trees.

JG proposed that the payments are approved, seconded by MG with all cllrs in agreement.

14 Planning matters: Site Meetings have taken place at:-

- Russet House Wolverton ref PL/2021/ 04541 for garden room extension: supported
 - Longcross Cottage ref PL/2021 04792 for rear extension: supported with conditions.
 - High View Forge Lane ref PL/2021/05357 for loft and rear extensions – supported with conditions.
- NB All comments are now recorded electronically and are available to view on Wiltshire's planning website.

15 Communications with Wiltshire Council on various matters:

- Bells Lane: Will be closed to through traffic during the first week in August to allow verge reclamation to take place and some carriageway repairs to be completed. (All residents have been informed via a letter from the Clerk and the details are also in the Village News and shop) Some resurfacing will take place at a future date where budgets will allow.
- Sunken Lane from Zeals Row to the Pen Selwood Lane: the long stretches of deep potholes have been filled in. This work was carried out to a requisition Wiltshire's Area Highway Engineer issued some time ago.
- Blocked road drains within the conservation area: reported using the online reporting system and the Clerk has been informed that the matter is now closed.
- Zeals Rise roadways: a resident had complained directly to Southern Highways (copy sent to Clerk and then distributed to councillors) about the poor condition of some stretches of road surface along the Zeals Rise estate. In reply, the Technical Officer reported that Wiltshire Council had inspected the road this year on the 22 April, and said that there are currently no plans to resurface the road. However, the road has been added to the Future Funding List to be undertaken when the budget becomes available.

16 Westfield Playground: a) Weed Clearance: The Clerk has thanked Seeds4Success for organising a weeding gang that cleared the weeds from the surface, and he has also thanked the local youngsters involved. The weeds filled four 'builders bags', and a local contractor has removed the bags of weeds on behalf of the parish council. b) Annual Safety Inspection: A team from Elite Playground Inspections visited the site in June. Following their advice, all seats have been replaced and new chains have been added to the cradle swings and the flat swings.

17 Any other business: a) Hedges overhanging pavements and roads: CS reminded the meeting, in response to complaints from a Wolverton resident, that it is the responsibility of the home owner to cut back any problem hedges. Action: JG agreed to speak to the owner. b) Allotment plot 11A: a resident mentioned that this particular plot is not up to the expected standard, to which the Clerk in response agreed, but explained that he is working with the tenant who is recovering from illness and he hopes that the tenant will be able to rectify the problem, otherwise the tenancy will have to be terminated. Action: on-going. c) Wooden roadside fence leading from Westfields to Zeals Rise: MG reported that this fence is very unstable and will definitely need attention to make it a safe road barrier again. Action: Clerk to report it. d) Our local M.P. Andrew Murrison will be present on Thursday 29 July from 9.00 am in the Hall to speak to any resident who wishes to discuss matters with him. Action: Clerk will be in attendance.

18 Date and time of next meeting: At 7pm on Tuesday 21 September 2021 in the Village Hall, after the Village Hall Management and Trustees Meeting which is due to start at 6.45 pm.

Closure of meeting: 7.55 pm

Signed:Chairman Date: