

Minutes of the Meeting of Sydling St Nicholas Parish Council held on 7th September 2020 by Zoom conferencing.

This meeting was held under the terms of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Members Present:

Councillors:

C Legg (Chairman), P Davies (Vice Chairman), G Durack, S Durack, M Hole, A Newman, D Tucker

Members of the Public: None

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

None

3. Minutes of previous meeting 6th July 2020

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Issues arising from the last meeting

Covered by the minutes below

5. Update from the Chairman

There were no issues requiring an update.

6. Democratic discussion period

There were no members of the public present.

7. To receive reports from the County & District Councillors

A written report had been circulated by Cllr Haynes.

8. To receive a finance report and to agree action in response to proposals and payment approvals

- i) The following retrospective expenses were approved:

Signed

Chairman

Date

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Method</u>
12/08/2020	Elite Playground Inspections	£ 240.00	Zip wire work	BACS
24/08/2020	Trevor Jameson	£ 23.26	Mower petrol	BACS
26/08/2020	Safety Signs (playpark sign)	£ 16.43	No cycling sign	DEBIT
27/08/2020	Zoom US	£ 14.39	Zoom fee	DEBIT

- ii) A pay rise for the Clerk in line with a National agreement was approved

9. Tree survey proposal

The Clerk had obtained three quotes for a tree survey, the best value quote was from Dorset Council and it was RESOLVED to ask Dorset Council to proceed with this survey as soon as possible. The Chairman commented that this would then be used as a basis for a tree management strategy going forward.

10. New secure website proposal

The Chairman commented that as a statutory body the Council ought to have a secure website. The view was expressed that the existing website does provide necessary basic information and it was not certain that additional expenditure on a wholly new site was actually necessary at this stage. It was RESOLVED to request a secure website from the existing provider as soon as possible. Cllr Newman will contact the hosting company and make the necessary arrangements.

11. To receive a report on the following matters in the parish and to agree action in response to any proposals:

Planning

The refusal by Dorset Council in relation to the planning application concerning 28 High St Sydling St Nicholas was noted.

Play Park

Cllr G Durack reported that necessary repairs to the zip-wire had been completed. It was agreed that jet washing of the Play Park was not necessary at this stage in the season and it would be looked at again in March 2021. The Clerk reported that the Play Park inspection had been undertaken and the report is awaited.

Footpaths

Cllr Tucker reported no major issues.

Highways

The Chairman has reported a damaged manhole cover. Cllr S Durack reported that Wessex Water would be repairing a sewer main cover under Section 81, and that potholes were being monitored. There is some silting of drains following a recent storm, but Dorset Council are behind with this work at the moment.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Trees

Cllr S Durack reported that she was still waiting to hear from SSE regarding trees at the church. A number of quotes had been received for work to a sycamore at the Play Park. It was noted that a resident may be planning to construct an extension next year which will necessitate the removal of some branches; in addition, the sycamore branches may possibly be impeding the zip wire operation. It was RESOLVED to await the results of the tree survey before proceeding with this work, and to discourage any residents from taking their own unapproved tree trimming

Cllr Durack had sought advice from the Dorset Council arborist in relation to a report that some beech trees were a topple hazard, and had been advised that they were not a danger.

Cllr Durack proposed that a number of trees around the Play Park should be given Tree Preservation Orders to dissuade any repetition of the incident involving the goat willows earlier in the year.

Cllr Durack reported that a number of hedges need cutting back and had sought quotes from a number of contractors, although only two quotes have been received to date. The Chairman suggested that any action in relation to these should be deferred pending sight of the tree survey.

The Spinney

The Chairman noted that it had been suggested that this area be developed for wildflowers with a cut path. Cllr S Durack reported that grants were possibly available for wildflower seeding. Cllr Hole advised that the cost of seeding this area would be between £1500 and £3000, or possibly more, and would be a very complex process involving scarifying, hand weeding and would require the planting of expensive grass and seed mixtures. It was noted that similar projects elsewhere had looked impressive in the first year but had declined rapidly from year two onwards. It was RESOLVED to maintain the trimmed nature of the Spinney.

Cllr Durack reported the issue of sumach roots growing at the site and had been advised that these would spread rapidly if untreated. It was agreed that further guidance would be sought concerning the requirement to obtain planning permission before removal of these roots.

Flooding

Cllr G Durack reported he had met the Flood Risk Management engineer and the Environment Agency to discuss silt removal, but was waiting for a further update as to when this work would proceed.

12. Correspondence

Further to recent correspondence, the matter of the maintenance of the Poor Lots woods was discussed. The Chairman had obtained a copy of the original lease with the tenant, dated June 1977. This made no mention of any tree maintenance requirement, but a concern was raised that the agreement, which appeared to be for a three-year period, was very out of date. The Clerk would request guidance in relation to this matter from the DAPTC.

10. Items for Next meeting

Signed

Chairman

Date

Budget proposals

11. Date of next meeting(s)

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7.00 p.m. by Zoom conferencing

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.07 hours.

Signed

Chairman

Date