

Remote (Zoom) Meeting of Modbury Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7.00 PM
MINUTES

Apologies: Cllrs Cole & Rosevear. (Apologies also received from Cllr Taylor, Ms Turner).

Present: Cllrs Watts (Chair), Middleton (Vice-Chair), West, Whybrow, Keel, Coates, Woodcock, Keohane, Harvey. (Also present: Cllr Gilbert and 4 x members of public).

Open Forum:

- Update from Mr Weeks on **Footpath 5:** Despite the DCC trying to absorb all the costs, the proposed diversion to Footpath 5 will not be going ahead as the owners of the land have decided that they do not want to proceed so it cannot be taken any further. This can however, be revisited if there are any further instances involving the police. Mr Weeks thanked the Clerk for all of her hard work and attentive responses to communications, as she is retiring at the end of the month.
- **Planning items 274/275:** The Agent for the applicants of this application was in attendance in case anybody had any questions.
- **Parish Council Website:** One of the residents pointed out that when he goes onto the Parish Council website he is met with a message telling him that the website is not secure and wanted to know what the Council are going to do about this. The Clerk confirmed this message does not pop up when she enters the website and no councillors present recollected seeing this, but the Communications Committee are planning on updating the website (which was originally commissioned from Oliver Pritchard-Barret) in the near future.
- **Casual Vacancy:** A resident was querying the advertisement for the Casual Vacancy as he had contacted the Returning Officer at SHDC and apparently there had been 23 requests for a bi-election in May 2021. The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the requisite Notice on 16th June which had a deadline of 14 working days from then which expired on the 8th July. She had not placed the advertisement until received any notification of the requests from SHDC, so would contact the Returning Officer in the morning, and if necessary would remove the Advertisement from the website/noticeboard.
- The **Modbury Messenger** requested that where copies of the Devon Councillor's and District Councillor's Reports have been circulated by email, could these then forwarded to the Messenger Editor after the meeting. The Clerk will forward this month's reports after the meeting and will add a note to this effect to the handover notes that she has prepared for the new Clerk.
- **Cllr Cole** had asked the Clerk to notify the Council that the Old Fire Station Store no longer has room to store some of the P3 and Millennium Meadow Machinery so could the Council please consider purchasing a new metal storage container. This will be considered at the September meeting (quotes needed).

Devon Councillor's Report: (Sent to councillors by email prior to the Meeting and inserted below (*in italics*) for information)

- **Covid-19: Devon is 146th out of 150 areas at risk in England. So at present very low risk.**
As at 30th June there were now two positive cases per week. The government has placed responsibility for local Covid-19 outbreaks with upper tier authorities. Devon (DCC) has an advanced 'Local Outbreak Management Plan' LOMP in place, should it be necessary.
- **Economy:** *About 30% of workers in Devon have been furloughed or made redundant, with up to 90% in tourism. Tourism = 5.5% of Devon's economy and employs 12% of the workforce being about 63000. DCC Economy (my portfolio) is working hard to restart, regrow and reset the economy with the main sectors being Tourism, Retail, Construction and Agriculture food & drink.*
- **Broadband:** *Mobilisation of new CDS Devon and Somerset contract set for early 2021. There are six lots to tender individually or as a group. There is plenty of interest with contract completion by December 2024. BT Gainshare has provided £6Million to date which has allowed an additional two thousand hard to reach properties to be connected. The take up has been 65% as against the national average of 61% which has improved the Gainshare monies.*
- Cllr Gilbert asked for confirmation of the status off "No Waiting" signage by the Co-op. Cllr Watts confirmed that the signage was in place but the yellow lines were still required.
- Cllr Gilbert thanked Clerk for having been an efficient and excellent Clerk to work with.
- Cllr Watts asked for an update on the road at **Edmeston:** Cllr Gilbert had sent the Structural Surveyors letter by email a couple of weeks ago. He will forward again.
- **Unmetalled Road near Harbertonford:** The Clerk had that day found herself in a scary situation down a lane which ended up being more of a track and almost got stuck. On exiting, she was advised by the owners of a property on the lane on which this track ended, to write to Devon Highways as this track should have a no access sign and does not. Apparently several vehicle have got stuck there and had to pay to be towed out. Cllr Gilbert said that this was

just outside his Ward but if the Clerk emailed the details over he would ensure this was directed to the relevant person.

District Councillor's Report (sent by email and read out by Clerk):

- SHDC have to date paid out £8790 of the **discretionary grant** and there is still £1780 left if this is not taken up by new applicants it may be used to top up the grants already paid.
- The SHDC's financial situation is not as bad as first feared, the government has promised 70% of the 95% income lost for the car parks and other direct income.
- **Planning:** The government has made a promise to extend starts dates by 1 year where reserved matter plans have not been submitted, but this cannot be determined until after September when the legislation has been changed.

20.51. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllrs Whybrow and Middleton both declared an interest in the Appendix 1 Payments & Receipts as they were both recipients of listed reimbursement payments.

20.52. The Council considered the following applications:

274	1537/20/FUL	Land at Friday Hill SX 664 515	Provision of agricultural storage building	After a lengthy discussion with Standing Orders being dropped (and subsequently reinstated) in order that the Agent could clarify/elaborate on details of the application, Cllr Keel proposed that the Council Object on the basis that there was no agricultural justification appraisal submitted with the application. Cllr Coates felt that that the as there had been no negative community responses, the Council should not be objecting but could submit comments to say MPC had No Objection SUBJECT TO: a) an agricultural use only condition being imposed upon the new building; b) that an Appraisal is carried out to justify it is required for that site for agricultural purposes; and c) that the existing Nissan Hut is removed. Cllr Middleton felt these could be submitted as "No Comments to make save for....." the same conditions. Cllr West proposed Cllr Coates suggestion, which was then seconded by Cllr Coates, with 5 in favour of this proposal and 3 against.
275	1678/20/FUL	Land at SX 702 535 , Colmer View Farm, PL21 0SG	Provision of a farm shop and cafe known as 'The Ring Feeder'	Cllr Keel proposed that this application should be supported. Cllr West Seconded and all were in favour.
276	1549/20/VAR	Development Site At Sx 655 515 Church Lane Modbury	Removal of condition 13 following grant of planning consent 1377/18/VAR to allow glazing to be clear and opening on north elevation	Cllr Keel proposed that MPC should Object on the basis that there had been no change of circumstances since the original application to justify the removal of the condition that had previously been imposed. Cllr Whybrow seconded and all were in favour.
278	1926/20/FUL	Chappel Cottage, Brownston, Modbury PL21 0SQ	Erection of Steel framed agricultural barn	Cllr Keel proposed that MPC should Object on the grounds that the plans are not clear and the quality of the plans is poor and it is hard to make a judgement. Further if consent was given to this application the MPC would require Agricultural use only conditions to be imposed on the building to prevent future Class Q applications. Cllr Whybrow seconded and all were in favour.

20.53. Minutes of Meeting 9th June 2020

- a) The Council considered the **draft Minutes** (distributed earlier). Cllr Middleton proposed, seconded by Cllr West, and all were in favour they be approved as a true and accurate record.
- b) The **Appendix II Action Plan** had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk updated councillors about the old Lloyds Bank Building as Cllr Whybrow had received confirmation that the building would not be ready for a while yet.
- c) Cllr Middleton reminded Cllr Rosevear that she was still waiting for the Schedule of events for the flag pole.

20.54. Finance and Human Resources

- a) The payments as listed in **Appendix 1** were considered. Cllr Whybrow and Cllrs Middleton abstained from taking part as they were both recipients of reimbursement payments. Cllr West proposed, seconded by Cllr Keel and all were in favour (bar above abstentions) that all payments detailed should be **approved**.
- b) Some amendments/additions had been made to the lists of councillors on some working groups had been made to the **Committees and Working Groups, and Sub Committees** document. Cllr Whybrow proposed, seconded by Cllr West and all were in favour that these amendments be **ratified**.
 - i. Interviews for a new Parish Clerk had taken place on 30th June and Councillors had appointed Sally Smale as the new Clerk. It was **generally agreed** that this appointment should now be announced and ratified.
 - ii. Owing to clashes in availability for the new Clerk to attend Modbury Parish Council's monthly Parish meetings, (as she is also Clerk for Diptford and Ringmore), councillors considered **changing the monthly meeting day** from the second Tuesday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month. It was **generally agreed** that this change should be approved. The current Clerk will update the website to reflect this change.
 - iii. It was **generally agreed** that the current Clerk's final working day will be **31st of July**, but as she is owed (a maximum) of 19 hours of leave up to her final notice date, she will receive payment for this with her normal wage at the end of July.
- c) As the Clerk is the only holder of the "**Equals** (formerly Fair FX)" prepaid payment card it was generally agreed that this account should be closed, and if desired the new Clerk can arrange a new account in due course.
- d) A discussion took place on the subject of opening the **Parish Office**; and normal **resumption of Parish Meetings** at the Pavilion, and when this should commence. There were lots of pros and cons. Some councillors felt the office should open sooner than others. It was felt that before the office can properly open to the public, protective measures need to be put place so this needs further thinking and investigation. (*Cllrs Whybrow and Middleton will complete a risk assessment and advise on any recommendations*).
- e) Government guidelines (as communicated by SHDC) still advise working from home where this is possible. On the question of when meetings should resume at the Pavilion, councillors were reminded that there is no meeting in August as it is summer recess. But it was generally agreed that, subject to clarification of government guidelines on this subject, that the Council should try and plan for the next Parish Meeting to take place at the QEII pavilion on the first Tuesday in September (1st September). It was suggested that in order to measure the amount of public presence at the meeting, the Clerk should request (in the Agenda) that members of the public wishing to attend please email the Clerk to confirm, with their questions before the meeting.

20.55. Neighbourhood Plan update: Confirmation of the date of the start of the consultation period is still awaited from SHDC. They have apologised for the delay due to the backlog of NP consultations caused by the Covid 19 situation. They should confirm the date soon. Copies of the Plan are already on the Council's website for the public to peruse. But as the Parish Council will have to provide and pay for the hard copies of the Plan, there will only be limited numbers printed, will be made available for members of the public to inspect them at the Parish Office. For those who genuinely do not have any access to the internet, or some other type of genuine need, (ie. a relevant disability) copies can be collected from the Parish Officer, or in special cases, a copy can be hand delivered, again where there is a genuine need. It was also suggested that a question and answer session could be set up via zoom during the 6 week consultation period.

20.56. Memorial Hall Play Areas Update:

A zoom meeting of the Memorial Hall Play Park Committee is taking place tomorrow. This is open to the public and the zoom invitation has been put on the Council's website with the Agenda. The Committee is now looking how it can take things forward into phase 2, once the play park consultation period has expired on 31st July. The Committee has so far, received 25 responses, including some constructive challenges.

It is anticipated that there will shortly be an open question and answer session, (but the forum has not yet been confirmed, but this may be via Facebook or further Zoom meeting), to stimulate more engagement from the community and give residents a proper chance to engage with the Parish Council.

20.57. Correspondence:

- a) Councillors considered Modbury's stance on **Equality and Diversity** and the "Black Lives Matter" movement; and the proposed draft **Equality and Diversity Policy** documentation prepared by the Clerk. It was suggested that rather than be Non-discriminatory, the Council should be presenting itself as an Anti-discriminatory council. It was felt that in order to really understand the prejudices that some minorities encounter, it would be useful to consult parishioners and get their viewpoint on the kinds of problems faced, particularly as statistically, Modbury has only a small proportion of a "minority groups", this would enable the Council to find out if this was something

that was a problem in Modbury. It was generally agreed that Cllr Keohane would prepare an article for the September issue of the Modbury Messenger, to inform parishioners that the Council is currently updating its policies on equality and diversity and is inviting people to respond with any issues they had experienced. Consideration of the policy itself will be postponed until responses have been received from the public.

- b) **Telecommunication/broadband problems in Shearlangstone** – Cllr Harvey had been asked by residents to highlight the problems experienced in Shearlangstone and Wonwell for many years now. BT have been called out on numerous occasions and engineers have admitted to residents that the lines need replacing as they were installed 33 years ago. It was generally agreed the Clerk will email Cllr Gilbert to highlight the issue with landlines/mobile reception/broadband to ascertain what works are planned for the future and if he might be able to push this issue further.
- c) The Council considered the South Hams District Council consultation on **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) – Dog Control Articles** which ends on 31st July. After identifying the areas presenting the most problems, (Millennium Meadow/Park Orchard (Galpin Street), Scalders Lane, and the QEII Recreation Ground, it was generally agreed that in addition to asking for PSPO's in these areas, that the Council should be more proactive in encouraging people to be more responsible and not just pick up their dog waste, but take the bags home with them and place them in their own bins (if council bins were full or not present in locations). Modbury was successfully plastic bag free, it should now aim to set the standards of being Dog waste free. Cllr Middleton volunteered to take on this project with Cllr Woodcock. Together they will draft an article for the September Messenger and prepare a response for the Clerk to forward to SHDC regarding areas to be covered by a Dog Control PSPO'

20.58. Committees and Working Groups: To receive updates (if any) from Working Groups and Committees and any groups not dealt with earlier (as required).

- **Bus Shelter** – This had been put on hold because of Covid 19 but the donation had now been received so plans were underway to get this completed. The delivery date will be between 3 weeks and 1 month. The Clerk is placing the order and is also applying for District Councillors locality funding in the sum of £850.
- **Allotments** – There was a report of a minor water leak. The meter has been checked, and the number has not changed so it appears this was a false alarm and the water must have come from another source. Cllr West is monitoring this.
- There was a **water leak** in the Church car park. This is not straightforward as the water main going to the sewage treatment works crosses Trust land managed for the Church. It was decided to renew the pipe and divert as opposed to repairing it. South West Water (SWW) embarked on this and realized they had sought the landowner's permission (Diocese of Exeter) and this is still awaited. However, it is possible that the Vicar and Warden may be able to give authorization and then consult the Diocese retrospectively. Cllr West will compose an email for the Clerk to send to SWW about the length of time this has taken, and copy this to the Diocese.
- **Emergency Support Group.** Cllrs Middleton and Whybrow were both thanked for all of their hard work and efforts to arrange pedestrian safety in anticipation of local retailers re-opening their businesses. Cautionary temporary Traffic/speed signage and cones had been purchased to create temporary safe pedestrian access, whilst ensuring social distancing can be maintained, even when there are customers queueing on the pavements outside retail outlets. Most business had also been supplied with hand sanitizer to assist them to provide safe opening for trade. Modbury's Highway's Officer had, however, queries the use of the newly purchased 20mph speed restrictions signage as he felt that from a Highways perspective the Council had no permission to place these signs on the highway. Cllr Whybrow explained that SHDC had provided a grant to Modbury (and other towns) for this very purpose. The Highways Officer is now looking into this. Cllr Middleton had seen that **Loddiswell** now has a **VAS**. The Clerk has twice tried to obtain the requisite permission from Highways to purchase and use one of these in the past but the necessary permission was denied. She has contacted the Clerk and is trying to find out the situation in Loddiswell.
- **Maintenance** – The tarmacking of the surface of the new car park is going to plan. Cllr Whybrow has received confirmation from the Managing Director of Bloor about this, including the complete removal of the gabions, so residents will no doubt be delighted. Cllr Cole asked the Clerk to highlight that the Old Fire Station store is full to the brim with road mending equipment, therefore he would like the Council to consider purchasing a new metal store to be sited at the rear of the garage to house the lawn mowers etc. for P3 and Millennium Meadow. Costings need to be provided for this but this will be considered at the September meeting.

Meeting Closed at: 9:21 pm