

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council, Yaxley Parish Council
held by Zoom on 13th October 2020.**

Present:- Councillor R Butcher – Chairman;
Councillors E Gilchrist, K Gulson, S McMullon, G Needham, M Oliver, P Russell, S Sanderson and A Wood.

In attendance – County Councillor M McGuire, District Councillor E Butler and Mrs H Taylor – Clerk.

FC73. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received and accepted on behalf of Councillors B Doncaster, J Lusted and D Paice.

FC74. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

FC75. MINUTES

Councillor P Russell proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 8th September 2020. This was seconded by Councillor E Gilchrist and **RESOLVED**.

FC76. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman drew attention to correspondence received from a resident regarding speeding along Broadway. Social media posts had called for average speed cameras similar to those in nearby Stanground and Officers at the County Council had referred the resident to the Parish Council suggesting that any measures would fall under a Local Highway Improvement Bid (LHI). In the discussion that ensued, County Councillor M McGuire explained that average speed cameras are expensive and any enforcement would be down to the Police, the LHI was there to support local communities deliver small highways improvements and average speed cameras would not fall under this scheme. He explained that the County Council supports alternative speeding treatments to reduce road speed including vehicle activated signs (MVAS) and the engagement of Community Speed Watch Volunteers. He advised that the Parish Council could apply to the scheme to purchase such devices or may be able to buy them outright perhaps jointly with another local parish council and he would forward any information he had regarding this to the Clerk. Councillor McGuire also suggested that some devices can read and record the number plate of speeding vehicles. In concluding, Members recognised the importance of involving the Police and the local Community Speed Watch in any initiative.

On an unrelated matter, Members were advised that the Clerk was actively seeking to get the bus shelter opposite Broadway Shopping Centre repaired. The shelter was the responsibility of the District Council and District Councillor E R Butler confirmed that he was pursuing the matter as well.

FC77. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FC77.1 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Property Committee held on 22nd September 2020 were received and noted. With regard to Minute No. PR23, replacement of lights in Austin Hall with LEDs, it was proposed by Councillor R Butcher, seconded by Councillor E Gilchrist and **RESOLVED** that the cost of installing the LED lights be funded from the Carbon Neutral Energy Efficiency budget.

FC77.2 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members received and noted the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 22nd September 2020.

FC78. RECYCLE OF LITTER

Attention was drawn to correspondence received from a resident (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), which raised the issue of recycling litter. It was considered by the resident that there was a high percentage of recyclable waste mixed with all manner of waste in the public litter bins in the village and a trial recycling bin should be introduced in an appropriate location.

The meeting was advised of the challenges associated with recycling given that on average 1 out of 5 items placed in a recycling bin is not correct, the logistics of separating these items and health and safety aspects of doing so as well as the additional work this would create. Although Councillors expressed their support for the request, there was some call to understand what Huntingdonshire District Council, who have a bigger set up for recycling, were doing to introduce public recycling bins. Councillor K Gulson reported that he had visited the recycling facility at Waterbeach, where Huntingdonshire District Council takes the collected household recycling, and was disappointed at the high amount of contamination making its way into the collections. He referred to the three bins each household has and suggested that the time would be better spent promoting awareness to encourage residents to take their rubbish home and to make a conscious effort to change their habits and do their bit for the environment. Having acknowledged that children have a big part to play in promoting recycling and sustainability, it was proposed by Councillor E Gilchrist that the Community Facilities Committee be asked to oversee a campaign to educate residents about recycling, encourage everyone to take their litter home with them and contact the local primary schools with regard to them being involved in competition to design a poster showing the benefits of recycling. This was seconded by Councillor K Gulson and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

FC79. MIDDLETONS ROAD RECREATION GROUND HABITAT RESTORATION SCHEME

Further to the report to the last meeting, the Clerk advised that she had met with representatives of the Yaxley Countryside Volunteers regarding the creation of a wildflower meadow next to Willow Pond in the Recreation Ground. Members noted that an area for the meadow had been agreed and a number of bulbs had been planted on the banks in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk explained that she was exploring the options for signage and an information board for the area, the design of which would come under the Community Facilities Committee.

FC80. REFORM OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Following a meeting of the Working Group and on the proposal of Councillor K Gulson, seconded by Councillor M Oliver, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council's response to the consultation questions set by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on the package of proposals for reform of the planning system in England be approved.

FC81. SECTION 137 BUDGET – AWARD OF GRANT

Councillor P Russell proposed that an award of £218.28 be made to Gemma Hearts towards the cost of replacing the electronic pads and batteries on the public defib at the Doctor's surgery. This was seconded by Councillor S Sanderson and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

PR82. ACTION PLAN

Members received and noted a schedule of the Council's projects included within the Action Plan, the schedule would be used as a basis for the budget setting in December.

FC83. BUDGET V ACTUAL

Members received and noted a budget monitoring report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) showing the position of the budget as at 30th September 2020 compared to that agreed.

FC84. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Councillors received and noted the contents of the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30th September 2020 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

FC85. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of payments made since the previous meeting, which included details of the purchase ledger cheques requiring payment, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was proposed by Councillor P Russell, seconded by Councillor S Sanderson and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to be paid.

FC86. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

The Chairman reported on arrangements for Remembrance Day. The meeting was advised that there would be a memorial service in the church which will be invitation only with 2 attendees from the Parish Council. It would not be possible to lay a wreath as part of the service this would have to be done at the war memorial privately either before or after the service. Councillors felt it was important to lay a wreath and the Clerk undertook to make the necessary arrangements and to advise the Yaxley Branch of the British Legion that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would be attending the service.

Offering some good and bad news, the Chairman reported that he had met with the new Neighbourhood Police Officer for the area, P C Russell, and had discussed with him areas of concern whilst taking him on a tour of the village. Disappointingly, the P C Russell's patch covered the whole of Oxmoor in Huntingdon as well as Sawtry and Yaxley and all the villages in between.

The Chairman referred to a local news story regarding the rolling out of free public wifi in St Neots, CambWifi provided by Cambridgeshire County Council with support from Huntingdonshire District Council. Councillor Butcher advised the meeting that the free wifi service was also going to be set up in the central areas of St Ives, Huntingdon and Ramsey. Councillors expressed their frustration that a previous promise in 2015 from the District Council to supply free wifi in the Recreation Ground as part of the CCTV cameras had not come to fruition. Councillor Gulson said the CambWifi scheme had no link to the CCTV cameras and was part of the Connecting Cambridgeshire Project.

Councillor K Gulson thanked all those helping with the Community Fridge which was distributing food weekly to 35 families.

On behalf of St Peter's Church, Councillor P Russell reported that Sunday service had resumed starting with a trial of 32 people all seated at a safe distance, anyone wishing to attend has to prebook a place but it was hoped to accommodate 40/42 people next Sunday.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R G Z" followed by a flourish.

Signed

Chairman.