##### LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held by conference call at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26 January 2021.**

Attended by Mr J Sharp (chairman), Mr D Fereday, Mr B Porter, Mr P King, Mr P Ralph, Mr G Jones, Mr M Hinchliffe, Mrs A Oliver, Mr R Husband, Mr N Cresswell, Mr P Hawkins

Cllr P Tuthill (WCC), Cllr S Rouse (MHDC), Cllr P Whatley (MHDC) (All part meeting)

Three members of the public (Mr N Deen and Mr J Barwick (Bromford), Mr S Hall), J Barker (clerk)

55/20 Apologies - none

56/20 a) Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda (personal and prejudicial) – Mr P Ralph declared an interest in the Bromford item to be raised in the open forum and took no part in the discussion.

b) Notification of any changes to the Register of Interests – None

**The meeting was closed at this point to allow members of the public present to speak.**

Representatives of Bromford outlined a proposed second phase to their current development on Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton, consisting of 24 affordable homes adjacent to the existing site. It is expected that a formal planning application will be submitted within 8 weeks and they requested the opportunity to attend a parish council meeting in person or via video link to present further information. The parish council agreed to consider holding the next meeting by Zoom. Mr Deen agreed to provide the parish council with an accommodation schedule detailing further information on the proposed dwellings.

A resident from Sandlin reported the problems caused by a recent diversion of traffic down Sandlin Lane due to work by Severn Trent on Suckley Road. The road is single track in places and too narrow to accommodate the number and size of vehicles diverted. The diversion resulted in damage to verges, drains and some front gardens. Work needs to be done to repair and preserve the verges, provide proper passing places and signs are required to indicate that the road is single track in places. Large vehicles should be directed to an alternative route. It was agreed that the parish council would raise the issue with WCC highways.

Mrs Oliver noted a deep rut and standing water in Coles Green which she will report on the hub.

**Meeting reconvened**.

Cllrs Rouse and Whatley joined the meeting.

57/20 Minutes

The minutes of the conference call meeting held on 24 November 2020 had been circulated. Proposed by Mrs Oliver, seconded by Mr Husband, approved unanimously.

58/20 Reports from representatives of other bodies:

MHDC - Councillors Rouse and Whatley reported news from Malvern Hills District Council. The focus recently has been supporting residents and businesses through the current lockdown. Work to Malvern Splash is almost complete and improvements to Priory Park will soon commence. The five-year plan has been agreed and the district currently has a seven-year land supply. Work on the revised SWDP continues.

On behalf of the parish council the chairman expressed gratitude to the district refuse collectors for their work throughout the pandemic and during the recent snow.

WCC – Councillor Tuthill gave an update on county council matters and county health and fire services.

The chairman thanked Cllr Tuthill for his £600 contribution towards the installation of roundels in Leigh Sinton and Bransford. He also outlined the issues raised in the open forum caused by the diversion down Sandlin Lane and requested a site visit and survey of the damage caused.

59/20 Progress reports on ongoing issues

* A meeting had taken place between the various parties who might use the proposed community amenity area off Hereford Road – see item 60/20c.
* 30mph roundels will be installed in Bransford and Leigh Sinton.
* The play area is open and being well used.

Planning committee chairman Mr Fereday took the chair for item 60/20

60/20 Planning

a)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | MHDC ref | Proposal details | Location | PC  Recommendation |
|  | 20/02033/CU | Siting of 7 portacabins for use in  Association with the school, for a temporary period of 12 months  (part retrospective) | The Orchard  Bransford  Worcs, WR6 5JE | Approval  Proposed RH  Seconded AO  Unanimous |
|  | 21/00016/FUL | Erection of building for storage  In association with fishery,  agricultural and forestry use. | Riverlands Farm  Teme Lane  Leigh, WR6 5JY | Approval  Proposed JS  Seconded PK  Unanimous |

b) Planning decisions received

21/01653/FUL The Fold Greenhouses Approved

c) Neighbourhood Planning

NP group chairman Mr King reported that Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning group representatives had a conference call with developer’s agent (PlanIT) of proposed site adjacent to A4103, opposite Stocks Lane. The other stakeholders included MHDC (S106/ sports officer), Football Association (who will deal with all sports on the development), Stuart Bill (Primary School Headteacher). Peter Whatley (MHDC Cllr). MHDC explained to PlanIT that their proposal for an accelerated application for planning permission was unlikely to be accepted until the revised SWDP is adopted late 2022/ early 2023. In addition, the FA indicated that they would not provide the necessary funding (c £880k) for the proposed football pitches and community facilities unless there was an identified wider community need; the Badgers alone would not be sufficient need.

MHDC have appointed a consultant to carry out a playing pitches strategy (PPS). The PPS will show distribution, quality, and local needs for recreational areas. The evidence must be available before determining layout of pitches and needs for specific sports and providing funding. The proposed facility will be a joint asset and available for use by the whole of the local community. Stakeholders such as the Football Club will only use the facility at specific times; it is vital there is a clear utilisation plan for the wider community to make full use of the opportunity and make the most of any funding received.

The Neighbourhood Planning group have been offered a Housing Needs Survey by the South Worcestershire Councils. This will come just in time as the NP is nearing completion and the previous surveys are about ten years old and no longer valid. It must be appreciated that the survey may indicate a higher need than the proposed allocated site would provide. The NP group is working with the survey team and hope to include some questions of our own to finalise the NP information. Importantly, the questions will include a section about the community’s requirements for recreational and sports facilities.

We are waiting for more comments on the draft NP from MHDC. Previous comments have been addressed.

Mr Sharp resumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

61/20 To consider a parish council grant application for the purchase of a Speed Indicating Device

Mr King had circulated information outlining a possible application for grant funding from The Police and Crime Commissioner’s Local Policing and Community Ambassador’s Fund to purchase an additional radar speed sign and comparing devices from two suppliers – Westcotec and the Evolis radar speed sign from Elancity. The options were discussed, and it was noted the Evolis device has a larger, more eye-catching display, and being different to other devices installed locally may be more noticeable to drivers. It is also able to record speeds in both directions. Mr Jones proposed that a grant application be submitted to purchase the Evolis radar speed sign, Mr Fereday seconded, and it was agreed unanimously.

62/20 Finance

1. To approve the precept request for 2021/22

The proposed draft budget of £22,290 was approved at the November meeting. A precept request of £22,000 was proposed by Mr Fereday, seconded by Mr Jones, and approved unanimously.

b) To approve accounts paid

NEST Clerk pension £55.18

Play Safety Playground inspection £474.00

Ludus Ltd Play equipment – final payment £20,152.20

R Wilks Lengthsman – November £288.00

J Barker Clerk – December £763.14

R Wilks Lengthsman – December £230.40

WCC (Highways) 30mph Roundels (Bransford & Leigh Sinton) £600.00

J Barker Clerk – January 2021 (inc HMRC Q3 £34.08 and £846.86

Office 365 £59.99 reimbursed)

Approval proposed by Mr Husband, seconded by Mrs Oliver, approved unanimously.

Bank Balances

Current account (at 24/11/2020) £23,483.97

Savings account - balance transferred to current account on 07/12/2020 £0

63/20 Reports of committees and working groups – No further reports.

64/20 Councillor reports and items for future consideration

* Since the road resurfacing in Leigh Sinton vehicle movement has scattered gravel over the footways, particularly in the area around the bus shelter. Cllr Rouse agreed to arrange for it to be swept.
* A grit bin in Coles Green that was destroyed many years ago still needs to be replaced. The chairman agreed to follow up with WCC.
* It was suggested that the next meeting be held by Zoom. All councillors agreed in principle and agreed to check if their equipment would support this.

65/20 Date and time of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 23 March 2021, 7.00pm, to be held by Zoom or conference call.

Chairman............................................. Date...............................................