

There were no apologies.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 20th January were approved and duly signed.

Matters Arising

The clerk confirmed that the Precept increase had been actioned and that other matters would be raised under the agenda items.

Open Forum

Parishioners raised the matter of potholes. A discussion ensued about how they could be dealt with effectively. The clerk would put the URLs for pothole and gully blockage reporting in the next newsletter and forward details to councillors.

The clerk confirmed that £1,000 had been received from Solihull MBC as their contribution to the £1044 cost of hedge trimming. He also confirmed that we had received £5mm under the transparency fund. Cllr. Read asked what the payment covered. The clerk replied that it covered the cost of a basic PC, printer, scanner and internet connectivity costs. The clerk asked the meeting to support a proposal that would see internet connected to his office at a cost of £35. It would also entail a monthly line and broadband cost circa £30 per month going forward. The proposal was approved. The clerk also proposed that we adopt Internet banking, which subject to pre approval of payments by councillors, was also approved. The clerk's salary and expenses were approved and four cheques signed in respect of Heritage & Sons, Mike Lynn, HMRC and Ken Flood.

Planning

The Chair asked if Dean Biddle had communicated following his planned visit to Eastcote Nursery. In the absence of receipt of an update, the Chair requested the clerk to follow up the matter with Mr. Biddle. A discussion took place regarding Ridding Yard and the trade in motor vehicles from that property. The Chair asked the clerk to check the parish council's responsibilities in relation to being proactive in this and other similar circumstances where home working creates or suggests planning consent.

Highways

The clerk reported that he had a meeting with Tom Rogers two weeks ago. None of the agreed priorities had been actioned. The reason given was that Balfour Beatty have lost the contract and he has had to reload all identified work with newly appointed contractors. He also stated that recent flooding emergency pressures had diverted resources. Oak Lane, and Winterley Hill were long standing overdue priorities. The clerk stated that he would meet again with Tom Rogers in two week to review progress and that might call for escalation. On a more positive note, Barston Lane/Ryton End was scheduled for resurfacing in early April. If no progress is evident at that point, the matter will be escalated appropriately.

Discussion took place regarding blocked gullies and flooding. The clerk confirmed that he had reported directly on the website, the gully problems in Hampton Road and Wood Lane/Barston Lane. He undertook to resend members the URL for the reporting website.

Airport

Cllr Read informed the meeting that CAA had reached a determination regarding the two Options 5 & 6 and would be meeting with BAL and Caroline Spellman on 13th March. Their determination would then be published before 25th March. Cllr Lyon proposed that given the timing in relation to

our next meeting on 11th May, we should pencil in a meeting for either 23rd or 30th March. Cllr Bates seconded that. Some discussion ensued about options relating to appeal and judicial review if the decision goes contrary to our preference. Cllr Lyon undertook to do some research and take some soundings from other parishes in the interim.

Development Plan

Cllr Harman reported that she needed to postpone the planned meeting for personal reasons. With Cllr Bates, they had made some progress in finding support from parishioners. They are focused on devising a questionnaire as a first step and need help to collate and interpret the results. The decision was made to ask again in the newsletter for parishioner support. The clerk confirmed that Ian Sharpe would assist. David Elliott and Roger Derwent offered support as did parishioners Cheryl and Emma Tynsley Evans of Solihull MBC.

AOB

Discussion ensued regarding the defibrillator. Cllr Harman stated that Brad had agreed to site the unit at the Bull's Head. Two training sessions had been organised for April. There was discussion about the opportunity of getting units from BAL and perhaps funding. Cllr Harman said that she expected a contribution from Barston Association.

A discussion took place about our cash flow and the need to prioritise projects from April. Cllr Harman undertook to clarify the options and contributions in the coming weeks.

Cllr Read raised the subject of trophies for 'Best Kept Garden'. He proposed that the two trophies be gathered in.

There being no other business, the meeting was brought to a close at 10.35pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 11th May 2016.