**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY** **4th JANUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CALL**

**Part I**

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors T Hodges, M Litton, T Smith, A Ross, P Cobley, P Walker, K Hodgkinson, P Kelly, L Kelly and M Venables.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** L Sandison, Clerk.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 1 member of the public, 1 Community Centre rep (MG) and 2 Planning Applicants for Topfloors Ltd.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The planning applicants for TopFloors Ltd (20/04578/FUL) introduced themselves and spoke about the business and how it has changed over the years, with the building no longer being fit for purpose. The proposed plans for the site would be a change of use, part demolition and conversion of existing building to 6 residential apartments.

A member of the public raised privacy concerns, advising that the apartments would look straight through their property on Smithy Lane. The resident asked the applicants to consider swopping a bedroom and bathroom round with one window being opaque with limited opening and another window (2nd floor kitchen) currently opaque to remain as is.

The applicant advised that they would speak to their architect and report back whether this is an option. The applicant briefly mentioned that they had never seen any bats at the site although the local resident mentioned seeing bats regularly in the area on their CWAC planning comments.

The Parish Council will await an update regarding the above before submitting comments on the planning application. The Clerk will request an extension from CWAC planning until 2nd February.

MG informed the PC about a Facebook post warning of nitrous oxide canisters and possible drug usage at the Lostock Gralam Community Centre Play area and on Wells Avenue. The Clerk advised that the PCSO had been made aware of the findings and has agreed to increase patrols.

Cllr P Cobley informed the PC that the PCSO, had been seen patrolling the park, prior to the PC meeting.

Cllr K Hodgkinson made the PC aware of two complaints she has received, one being about dog mess, in the church yard and the other about the Greenman staying on, at the Hall Lane traffic lights. Cllr K Hodgkinson also passed on thanks from Lostock Events for the Winter Wonderland grant and that the group have some ideas for future events.

The Clerk will liaise with the dog warden regarding dog fouling in the Church yard and along School Lane.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr M Stocks.

##### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

-Chairman T Hodges also sits on the Lostock Gralam Community Centre Association Committee.

**MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th December 2020.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

-CDP Marshalls arranged a litter pick and will be appointing a Managing Agent to look after the overflow carpark area.

-A rocking manhole near the traffic refuge on Manchester Road has been reported to United Utilities.

-Pavements have now been swept to remove leaves along Hall Lane, Gibbon Drive and Wilson Crescent.

-Cllr T Smith has responded to the Wild Flower Consultation.

-The Clerk has written to the CWAC Chief Executive regarding a red-light camera – awaiting response.

**PRECEPT BUDGET REVIEW 2021/2022**

**-**The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the 2021/2022 proposed precept budget resulting in a 0% increase on last year. The Clerk will arrange a precept request of £25,441.

-The current payroll service provider is due to cease service from next quarter. The Clerk is in the process of trying to negotiate a new contract with Disability Positive for quarterly payroll.

-The Clerk asked the Cllrs to consider planting a live Christmas tree to save on costs for future years. The Clerk will investigate the matter further and report back at a later date.

**POLICE**

**ASB**

LOSTOCK GRALAM- 3 incident (s)

Report of youths kicking a charity walk sign. Spoken with kids involved and enquiries still on going.

Vehicle ASB, cars doing donuts and skids in carpark. Could not find vehicles involved and no CCTV in area.

Youths banging and kicking on the back door of Banardos. Could not find said youths, however I spoke with kids in the area to deter any further instances. Advice also given to Banardos.

**SHOPLIFTING**

LOSTOCK GRALAM- 1 incident (s)

Male came into store and took 4 cans of cider. CCTV obtained however cannot identify the male.

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

LOSTOCK GRALAM- 4 incident (s)

Vehicle driving, looking at all houses. Passengers got out of car and looked down passageways and then looked at caller’s son’s car. Caller hasn’t seen these people since.

Report of males seen pulling the car door handle. No further reports.

Reports of a suspicious hand print found on the outside of an upstairs window. No crimes were identified and advice given.

Suspicious vehicle parked outside of address for 15 minutes, driver walks down caller’s driveway, then drives off the estate very slowly. Search made no trace for the vehicle. 3x reports came in for this.

**PCSO Update**

Thank you for the warm welcomes to the area this month, it’s been nice to get to know everyone and the local areas. We have had a few issues regarding the youths in Lostock Gralam this month, Please could I ask that any issues regarding the local youths are reported straight to us.

I will continue to increase my patrols around the antisocial behaviour hotspots to try to deter future incidents that have been notified to me. I will also continue with speed monitoring and enforcement on the key speeding roads. Further to this, I will focus on parking issues in the local area due to complaints that have been made.

**Weekly PCSO surgeries** with the current guidelines regarding COVID-19, I have been advised to hold my PCSO surgeries online. These will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 6th January 15:00-16:00

Saturday 16th January 15:00-16:00

Tuesday 19th January 11:00-12:00

Friday 22nd January 11:00-12:00

Saturday 30th January 10:00-11:00

All welcome to contact me via email or private message to discuss any worries or concerns.

**PCSO Chris Flanagan**

**Shakerley Police Beat Team**

**MARK STOCKS**

Cllr M Stocks was absent for the meeting, he did however phone the Clerk prior to the meeting to discuss the latest COVID lockdown and breaches.

Chairman T Hodges invited suggestions for how the PC can communicate the importance of the latest lockdown measures. Suggestions included Facebook and Next Door social media posts from the Parish Council.

**PLAY AREA**

-The bongo drum lid is on order with Schoolscapes.

**FOOTBALL PITCH:**

-A drainage design has now been received from Your Environment.

-The Clerk has submitted the relevant information to CWAC Planning to discharge the conditions at a cost of £58.00. The Executive Committee is awaiting the CWAC Planning decision.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

-The Chairman spoke positively about three Zoom virtual training sessions he attended through CHALC.

-The Chairman welcomed comments from Cllrs in their key area, Cllr K Hodgkinson advised that she is looking into the practicalities of planting a wild flower meadow.

-Cllr P Kelly raised the following concerns:

* Lorries parking at the Cheshire Business Park entrance on double yellow lines / bumping up onto the curb.
* Footpath needs sweeping from opposite Gibbon Drive round to Subway.
* Cllr M Stocks is awaiting a response regarding the litter picking.
* No Serious Accidents seem to have occurred at the Sandiway lights after talking to longstanding local business owner at the Sandiway lights.
* Lands End 64 bed retirement block comments include:

-Site security/protective fence along Manchester Road has now been removed however the wooden fence posts have been cut above ground level leaving a trip hazard.

-Unsecure manhole cover before the overflow carpark entrance on Cheshire Avenue.

-The building does not appear to be a mirror image as shown in the original plans.

-Insulation and hardboard have been left and need removing.

-Removed trees need reinstating now that the site is completed.

**CLERKS REPORT**

-The PC’s current payroll provider (Cheshire Community Development Trust) has written to advise that they will be ceasing to provide a payroll service from March 2021. They currently charge £70 pa for quarterly payroll. Disability Positive is another charity which provides payroll services at a cost of £18.50 per month, the Clerk has asked whether they can provide quarterly payroll for a reduced fee.

-The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 April 2020. The Clerk is currently on pay scale SCP 12. The PC considered and **RESOLVED** toback pay the Clerk to 1st April 2020 an increase from £11.22ph to £11.53ph.

-The Clerk met with the Community Centre Association on 21/12/2020 to discuss the Community Centre lease quotes. A McEllin (AM) advised that she hopes to relocate to the Lake District within the next 12 months, meaning that there are a couple of options for the Community Centre Association going forward. One option is take on new volunteers at the AGM in February, another option would be to hand over the Community Centre to the PC, AM will speak with the Charity Commission to see how viable this is. In light of this, it seems prudent to hold off writing a new lease. The PC **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should obtain a quote to make two lease amendments as per AM’s recommendation to protect both the PC and the Community Centre Association when the MUGA is built.

-Suggestion box, the Clerk and Cllr P Cobley have been looking at the possibility of installing a weather proof suggestion box at the Parish Council Noticeboard. The PC was positive towards the idea, however further research is required and investigation as to whether the defib location may be a good location. The Clerk and Cllr Cobley will conduct further investigations and report back to the PC.

-The defib has been dispatched twice in the past two months. The PC **RESOLVED** to purchase a set of pads with a puck which gives CPR feedback. The cost of the pad will be £90.00 from Zoll Medical.

-The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the Northwich Town Council quote of £240.00 to twice yearly plant the two planters with bedding plants, this includes replacing the compost and removing existing plants. The PC confirmed that they would be happy to pay a further £120 should the school planter be relocated to the Hall Lane traffic lights.

-The latest Shakerley Covid cases from 11th December to 30th December is 19 cases / 377.88 per 100K.

-The Winter Wonderland Walk was another well organised community event organised by volunteers. The weather added complications to the event although the team worked hard to deliver an enjoyable time for all.

**PLANNING**

The Council considered the following planning applications and **RESOLVED** to respond as below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APPLICATIONS | |
| 20/04578/FUL | **-**280 Manchester Road Lostock Gralam.  -Change of use, part demolition and conversion of existing building to 6 apartments.  -Comments by 25th January  *The Clerk will seek an extension to allow this planning application to be discussed at the next PC meeting on 1st February to allow for further investigation and to receive a response to matters discussed in the Public Forum.*  *Cllr M Venables raised concern about the carpark not having a turning circle and whether this would result in cars reversing onto Manchester Road.* |
| DECISIONS | |
|  |  |

**FINANCE**

-The current account bank balance is £8,882.59, the deposit account balance is £60,045.14 as at 04/01/2021.

-It was **RESOLVED** to accept payment of the following accounts.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chq no.** | **Payee** | **Amount** |
| Lyndsey Sandison | Salary + Expenses October to December | £2449.47 |
| HMRC | NI & TAX | £5.79 |
| Northwich Town Council | Christmas Tree | £2970.00 |
| ASH Waste | Bin Hire & Collection | £98.82 |
| CHALC | Training Course x 3 | £75.00 |
| Royal Mail | PO BOX Renewal | £360.00 |
| Freeola | Website fees | £12.56 |
| Schoolscapes | Bongo Drum lid | £93.00 |
| Mr Simon Roberts | Cllr Poster Printing | £10.50 |
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**COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Sarah Morgan from Mid Cheshire Rail will be joining the next PC meeting to introduce herself to the PC.

The meeting finished at 8.47pm

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 7.30 p.m via Zoom.

