**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th November 2020**

This was a Zoom meeting held in accordance with new temporary regulations in existence up to April 2021.

If you have a question for the Council please contact the Clerk, Andrew Berry 01792 390 140.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Deb Vine, Dan Dyson, Sue Ashelby, Margie Bond, the Internal Auditor Paul Sizer and the Clerk Andrew Berry.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Jennie Clements.

1. **APPROVAL OF CHAIR:** Cllr. Deb Vine was appointed chair for this meeting and chair of the Council, Cllr. Dan Dyson was appointed vice chair for this meeting and vice-chair of the council. Both were unanimously approved being held over from the previous annual meeting in September.
2. **POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR CO-OPTION:** Earlier that evening the Clerk had received a phone call from a local member of the public who wished to take part in the meeting but subsequently hadn’t. A name was circulated of a person who might have been interested in serving on the Council. The Council cannot co-opt until hearing from democratic services on the eleventh. This will be held over until the next full council meeting in January. See AOB.
3. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:** The Chair suggested that these would be taken as they arose during the meeting. This was agreed.
4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** These were approved after a few typing corrections and will be signed and dated by the chair at the earliest opportunity.
5. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Keith Daniels had been volunteered as a possible councillor by Cindy Williams. Cllr. Bond will contact him before the next meeting. The Internal Auditor Paul Sizer mentioned the bench in Robins Lane. Rob Vine has taken the missing plank away in order to get a tanalised replacement. Gower Timber do not do this so it was suggested that either Hancock and Brown or Tim Morris might know. Rob Vine will get the size of plank for the replacement and Cllr. Bond will contact Tim Morris.
6. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Vine mentioned again the idea of a war memorial, she suggested that perhaps a plaque could be fitted to the Millenium Stone on the Lower Green. Paul Sizer volunteered to have a word with Matthew Isaac to ask for advice. Cllr. Ashelby said that it must also include the name recorded in the chapel and not only those in the church. Cllr. Dyson asked ‘why now?’ and Cllr. Vine said that it was due to the 75th Anniversary of the Second World War. Cllr. Ashelby pointed out the difficulty of affixing a plaque to a stone that wasn’t flat. Bronze plaques could be stolen.

Cllr. Bond mentioned the deteriorating and dangerous state of the verge near Arthurs Stone at the top of Cefn Bryn. Could the Council ‘nudge’ Steve Heard to put pressure on to complete the work at the top of the hill? The Clerk has had mention of the fact that cars do sometimes drive into the culvert at the side of the road going up Cefn Bryn.

There is still a problem with the road surface at the western side of The Higher Green. This is a private track. The Clerk said he would contact Bob Griffiths to see if they had any objection, and did the Somerset Trust / Badminton Estate have any objection to the Council organising repairs so that residents could get on and off the Highway? There was some discussion as to whether the Community Council should be repairing a private road. The situation had got worse since repairs were done to the road at the top of the Higher Green last year. Cllr. Dyson said that in his opinion it is usually the householders on a private road who are liable in their deeds to repair such a road.

1. **GRANTS:** The Clerk said that this was the time of year when there was usually a grant to the church of £1,000 for the upkeep of the community burial ground and £100 for a Christmas tree. Both grants were approved unanimously by the council. The Clerk also pointed out the need for a new cheque signatory. Cllr. Dyson volunteered to replace John Mahoney otherwise Cllr. Ashelby who had previously been a Lloyds Bank signatory volunteered to do it. Cllr. Vine will contact John Mahoney to organise this between them. The Clerk has the bank details.
2. **VILLAGE GREENS AND HIGHWAYS:** Cllr. Ashelby had not had a reply from Highways about the path at the lower end of the Applegrove Estate. Cllr. Bond will ring Welsh Water to find out what works are being carried out beyond the blue netting. The Clerk read out an email from Highways in response to his query about the possible need for planning permission for the two village name plates erected in March. The Highways Department were of the opinion that the signs were just big enough to require retrospective planning consent. In a separate email to planning the clerk asked for advice when asking for the decisions notices to be sent as well as the applications notices. He was told that the Area Two Planning Team would get back to him with regard to the village signs. The Clerk has subsequently emailed the Badminton Estate to let them know that this was ongoing.
3. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** There had been none of particular interest.
4. **VILLAGE MAGAZINE:** Cllr. Ashelby will organise the Community Council information in the magazine. It will include repairing the bench in Robins Lane, and the election of Cllrs. Vine and Dyson as Chair and Vice Chair. The Council is still looking for two new Councillors.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk had completed forms for the pensions authority regarding his not getting a pension from the Community Council. There is a letter for the Chair that confirms that this has been done. There has been a request from a national charity. Above mentioned correspondence with Highways and Planning as well as the Badminton Estate regarding the village signs is ongoing.
6. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** The Clerk said that his pay for the last four months would be £714.83 gross. This includes an uplift from April 1st according to NALC pay rates. The Clerk’s next pay in March 2021 will be £696.11 gross.

The current balance on the Treasurers Account is £11,777.78

The Business Instant Account Balance is £77.64

Bills for payment are Clerk’s Remuneration (see above)

Grant to the church for maintenance of the churchyard £1,000

Grant to the church for the village Christmas tree £100

1. **AOB:** Cllr. Vine asked that the idea of cheap tablets for council business only could be purchased for councillors that want one. This will be discussed again at the next meeting with a cost per tablet of about £100. Cllrs were urged to have a separate email address for council business in future that would be used on the website. These were the consequence of a virus that had come from one laptop on to other councillors personal machines.

Councillor Vine also suggested that the website needed updating away from the village site to one for the Community Council only. The Clerk said that there were new regulations that asked for council websites to be as fully accessible as possible and this would aid this. The current website had been paid for the next three years. Cllr. Vine said that a working group would be set up a with the aim of creating a new fully compliant and up-to -date website from the January meeting onwards.

Paul Sizer asked about the rules for other family members being members of the council. The Clerk said he would find out the rules about this before the next meeting of the council.

1. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:** There will be a budget meeting on January 5th. The location will depend on rules in force at the time.

The next full public meeting of the council is scheduled for 7.30pm on Tuesday January 12th in The Village Hall rules allowing.