

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Whatton Parish Council held on
Tuesday September 22, 2020, via the ZOOM on-line system, at 6.30pm**

Present: Councillors Chris Grocock, Jane Morris,
Julia Faulconbridge, Georgia Elms, Steve Ball, Carol Dunn

In attendance the Clerk Mike Elliott. and Rushcliffe Borough Council member Coun. Maureen Stockwood.

1 Appointment of chairman Coun. Julia Faulconbridge was appointed chairman and would sign the necessary acceptance of office form in due course when appropriate.

2 Apologies for Absence There were none

3 Declarations of Interest There were none

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on August 25 2020 were accepted as circulated and would be signed by the chairman at the appropriate time.

5. Clerk's Report – The council were advertising the casual vacancy and because no one within then 10-day stipulated time had sought an election to be held, the council could now co-opt. Members were asked to put forward any name of a person who would be willing to serve.

6. Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan

Members discussed the report presented by Rushcliffe Borough Council which dealt with proposals for future development for the whole of Nottinghamshire. A response was agreed and a copy of that, appended to the minutes, was to be sent to the Borough officer Richard Mapletoft the following day.

7. Verbal report from the Borough and County Councillors

Coun. Stockwood reported on the continuing work of the Borough council in the current difficult circumstances. She said they were again offering both parish councils and individual families free trees, with ten being available for a council and two for a resident. It was agreed to advertise the scheme on the village notice boards.

8 Correspondence

Robert Jennrick MP wrote and gave thanks to the council and residents for their support during the coronavirus pandemic situation.

E-on, advised of the need to agree a new Fixed Business Plan and Contract for the electricity supply taken by the council in connection with the Christmas tree lights on the Green. The clerk was to check with an alternative source in regard to charges.

The Midlands Rural Housing survey carried out in the village had found a need for 14 properties, including five affordable rented ones. The Housing group would be negotiating the position with Rushcliffe Borough Council in due course.

Former chairman Mr Gregg Redford explained he had been carrying out work on the council website free of charge during his term of office but now wished to submit a quote for the required work. The clerk was asked to negotiate with him and another provider. Rushcliffe Borough Council said they were again to offer the free community tree scheme with 10 free trees to the council and 2 to residents. The clerk was to advertise the scheme on the website and on notice boards.

NatWest Bank advised of a scheme of switching accounts to other banks for them to follow Government advice on monopolisation by the Big Banks NatWest provided the names of seven banks who the council could consider moving their accounts to. The clerk said if a change was to be made it seemed the Co-op bank might be the most appropriate but they had only one branch in the whole of Nottinghamshire and that would have to be visited in the centre of Nottingham to set up signatories etc. The clerk was asked to progress the question of a possible change and to obtain further details. If a switch was made the council would receive a payment of £1500 by any new bank.

9. Playing Field

Coun. Grocock reported the contractors had completed the work that had been due and payments had been organised.

He reported on the complex structure of the Playing Fields Trust as it affected both Whatton and Aslockton Parish councils and suggested a separate meeting involving the two councils to look at the matter in detail. The council chairman commented on the very complicated structure involving the Trust and supported a separate meeting being held to look at possible changes.

10 Planning Matters

Rushcliffe Borough Council Planning decisions

20/01621/ful. Liam Chapman, 18 Dark Lane, demolish conservatory, and erect two storey side extension and single storey front extension Grant.

20/0081/CONARE The Old Granary, Reduce oak tree closest to extension by 2m. Grant

20/01315/Ful. Len Tyler, 14 Smite close. New dormer on front elevation and single storey side extension. Grant.

Rushcliffe Borough Council applications

20/01843/ful. Nicola Butler, extend detached garage. Do not object.

11 Finance

Accounts for Payment were approved as per the circulated list.

12 Environment ---Queen's Wood

Coun. Faulconbridge said some of the intended work had been delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic and it was planned now that it would be tackled in the Spring. They were investigating the question of grass cutting in the Wood. The meeting was told that a fence in the Wood was totally down and needed restoring. Coun. Ball offered to liaise with the contractors the clerk would seek to be appointed.

Coun. Dunn said the Hawthorne tree on the Green needed attention because of its age and condition. The clerk was asked to contact the tree officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council or a tree surgeon.

It was agreed that Streetwise be contacted and asked to carry out a bulb planting exercise in the Queens Wood.

13 Agenda items for the next meeting on October 27, 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.