

# Butterton Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 at 7pm Butterton Village Hall.

Before the meeting commenced a Covid Risk Assessment was read to all Councillors and duly signed.

**1. Apologies for absence-** None as all Councillors present.

**2. Minutes** from the previous meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were signed as correct.

It is to be noted that due to Covid 19, the meetings scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June were not held. All business during this time was conducted via email and phone.

**3. Matters arising**

\* Rent for the Malbon Piece 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 has been paid.

### Business Items

**4. Lengthsman Update-** The Lengthsman has cut back some shrubs at the Ford. From the Ford up towards Grindon, Pothooks Lane is in an overgrown state making vision difficult for drivers and pulling into the verge to allow vehicles to pass virtually impossible. Although technically the responsibility of Grindon parish, the Lengthsman will be asked to do some strimming of the verges. Some overhanging trees and shrubs are also becoming a hazard on the lanes in the Middle of Town in particular. A message will be put in the Newsletter asking householders to please trim them back. If Highways decided they are that much of a hazard then they will sort which might incur a cost to the householder.

An invoice has been sent to Alliance Environmental Services for the £400 grant towards the Lengthsman Scheme.

**5. Swainsley Tunnel-** Inspector Mark Thorley visited the area of the Tunnel and Wetton Mill following some anti- social activity and the 'invasion' of the area by careless visitors as some Covid restrictions were lifted.

Emails sent in June between Chris Snook and Gill Heath and Staffordshire Police have been forwarded to all Councillors. The PC has not been informed of an outcome so we await that hopefully for it to be dealt with at the next meeting. The PC is unhappy with unsatisfactory road clearance and tree and fence repairs supposedly carried out by Amey near the Tunnel. All problems have to be reported online and the time it takes for some repairs is frustratingly lengthy and sometimes non- existent. This case has been closed.....

**6. Footpaths in the Parish-** Recently queries regarding some of the Footpaths/tracks have been brought to the PC attention. Ownership and responsibility are the key questions. With this in mind SCC ROW officer Paul Rochfort is to be invited to attend a meeting to look at the Parish map and advise. Unofficial closure of Footpaths is unlawful and could result in prosecution.

Cllr Land reported the Bridleway bridge will be repaired as soon as the crayfish have 'moved on' and stepping stones will be re- set.

**7. Planning Applications-** The PC is concerned that although we are asked to give responses in great detail either for or against an application, seemingly our views are not being taken into consideration. The recent application re 3 Hailor's Croft demanded a lot of time and effort researching and reporting back to Peak Park. The fact that not once were councillors invited to an on- site meeting seems to show a total disregard of the views of the PC who keep a watching brief and who are appointed to give the views of this Parish.

**8. Dog Poo-** Again, a reminder to be put in the Newsletter. The PCC have recently reported that not only has dog poo been found in the churchyard but also there has been evidence of human 'debris'.

**9. Website Accessibility-** Cllr Stone explained the NALC regulations regarding accessibility to the website for those with any type of disability. He has prepared a statement which will appear on the website. All Councillors supported and agreed to the wording of the statement.

### **10. Finance**

**a. Payments received-** Pinfold rent-£20: Precept 1-£2460.00: Malbon rent-£80

**b. Payments requested-** Councillors were alerted to the fact that the following payments were necessary during Lockdown and prior to this meeting. All Councillors agreed to payments being made via email/phone.

Came & Co insurance- £340.11: PPPF subs-£12: UBE Website- £159.00: Lengthsman payment-£310.

A further Lengthsman payment presented at this meeting- £270.00

c. The Cllrs were advised of the balances in both bank accounts.

d. The Clerk presented draft accounts to determine income and expenditure figures necessary in order to complete the Exemption Certificate. Elizabeth Thompson has agreed to internally audit the accounts and following her report, the Accounts will be presented in total. As the deadline for the accounts to reach Mazars is 31<sup>st</sup> August, an emergency meeting will need to be convened.

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## Correspondence

**11. PDNPA- General-**Nothing to report. **Planning-**The outcome of the application re 3 Hailors Croft is awaited. The Clerk is to send an email to the Planning officer Steve Coombes outlining the PC concerns as mentioned above in item 7.

A new application for Leach Lane Cottage has been received. The PC has no objections to this application as it will vastly improve the existing building.

**12. Severn Trent-** Nothing further to report

**13. Highways-** Nothing extra to add to the business as mentioned above

**14. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council-** Nothing to discuss

**15. Staffordshire County Council-** Nothing to discuss

**16. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association-** Nothing to discuss

**17. Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly-** Nothing to discuss

**18. Other Correspondence-** None of any importance. All emails forwarded to Councillors as and when.

**19. AOB.** \*The bus shelter now contains donated items of bric a brac, books, dvds etc. A collection box for donations for items taken has been put in the shelter. All money going towards a new defib. The original defib had to go for major repair and we have been given a back up defib. The life expectancy of this one is unknown.....

\* Ideas needed for a project to use some of the funds. ? Possibility increasing the Lengthsman's hours, a Trail map.....[Clerk to put request in Newsletter for ideas from the Parishioners.](#)

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. 7pm at the Village Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend PC meetings. Future meetings... 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

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