BOLD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Bold Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th March 2021**

**(Due to the pandemic the meeting was held virtually)**

**Present:** Councillors A. Makin, D. Hawley, P. Gerrard, C. Gerrard, C. Hughes,

C. Foy, P. Fishwick, C. Smith, S. Hull, A. West and D. O’Keefe.

**20/143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All council members were present.

**20/144 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**20/145 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th January 2021**

There were no matters of accuracy raised.

There were no issues raised which had not been included on the agenda.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2021 be approved and signed as a true record.

**20/146 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were three members of the public in attendance who did not raise any issues directly.

**20/147** **CLERK’S REPORT**

The clerk reported on the following:

1. Benches

The benches have arrived at the Local Authority and are due to be installed at the end of March.

The gentleman from the Local Authority who is responsible for installing the benches has had an operation on his hand and will be returning to work at the end of March

1. Census

I was contacted by the local census team and asked if we could publish some flyers about the census, which was actioned. They will be in touch later in the month to see if we can help in any other way.

1. MALC

Letter received:

**Merseyside Association of Local Councils (MALC)**

Dear Colleagues,

I am grateful for the opportunity to have this correspondence shared at your Town/Parish Council meeting. My name is Cllr Ken Dalton and I am the Acting Secretary for MALC in addition to my role as an elected member at Halewood Town Council.

I am writing to all councils to ascertain the interest in continuing with our representative body MALC (the Merseyside Association of Local Councils). This body – a satellite of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils – has drifted over the past 18 months due to the ill health and the subsequent passing of its former secretary, Ken Cleary. Ken had been a champion of MALC for many years and was known to many.

Historically, MALC has provided a forum for small councils across Merseyside to raise the profile of our area at both a Lancashire-level and through NALC. However, it has very much been a member-led body (rather than clerk-led) and we must therefore decide whether there is sufficient interest among Town Councillors in maintaining it as an outside body.

Daniel Wilson, Town Clerk at Prescot Town Council, hosted a short but useful meeting for interested members on Wednesday January 27th. There were 6 elected members present (5 from Knowsley and 1 from Sefton) with one apology. As a next step, it was proposed that an Acting Secretary was appointed who would formally write to Parish/Town Councils to ascertain interest and either convene a meeting schedule for 2021/22 or disband the body. I have the dubious pleasure of being appointed into that role.

What are we requesting of your Town/Parish Council?

I ask that you consider this issue and provide me with a response in writing by 20th March 2021 (I appreciate some agendas will already be closed for meetings in February). Depending upon the response, we will aim to schedule a further meeting for interested members and then set an AGM for the election of officers etc.

A Future Purpose of MALC

Our meeting on 27th January discussed the opportunities and priorities MALC might consider. There were positive suggestions about renaming the body to reflect the LCR (Liverpool City Region) rather than Merseyside and where/how influence could be brought to bear on principal authorities with respect to local government finance. As Acting Secretary, I am persuaded that MALC would represent a good use of Town Councillors valuable time and offer an opportunity to raise the profile and increase the influence of the small councils’ sector.

If any members would like to discuss MALC or know more of its history I am happy to chat over the phone or Zoom. My contact details are at the top of this communication.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Ken Dalton

Any responses please let me know and I will forward them on.

**Resolved** the Chair will respond to Mr Dalton showing our support

1. Bank Account

Almost there with the new bank account. The clerk has sent over all information requested so just waiting on NatWest now to finalise the new account.

1. Signage

The Clerk was contacted by Cllr Foy to ask Highways for a new sign ‘Welcome to Bold Parish’ at the Travers Way entrance. The clerk has emailed Highways requesting this but as yet has not had a reply. The Clerk will chase this up.

Cllr Gerard asked if he could read out a report from Ward Councillor Fishwick at this point. The report was as follows:

Work continues at Colliers Moss to pathways & signs and will be ongoing after the lockdown.

We continue to work with the Forestry Commission on the issue parking on the Dream site, and surrounding areas.

Repairs to the external walls are planned, along with the repainting of the gates. Litter picks are ongoing.

New sites are being looked at for extra tree planting,

We are also looking at the need for additional dog & litter bins in all areas.

Environmental Works is ongoing on Clock Face Country Park and Colliers Moss to pathways & signs and will be ongoing after the lockdown.

There are ongoing repairs happening in Griffin Wood to bridges and site damage caused by lockdown. Including an existing bridge repaired from a local donation.

North West Miners continue to do their litter picks and have launched their guide for miners walks on the Dream.

Additional information on environmental issues

Residents are suffering during the pandemic with lots of mental health issues, we are liaising with the local community on antisocial behaviour on the Field Road Estate, and about access on the Farm Road entrance to the site. There have been complaints from Sorrel Way regarding this issue.

Training new teachers with an additional qualification on sustainability and the environment with Liverpool John Moores.

Working on Green University education plan, to work in local schools, coming soon. Meetings are ongoing.

Additionally, our front-line staff including health care workers need more than a 1% pay rise.

**Recommended** to monitor this

**20/148 POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

There was no police attendance at the meeting, and no statistics had been provided for discussion.

**Resolved** to note the above

**20/149 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Proposals for Consideration**

There were no new applications for consideration at the time of compiling the agenda. The Clerk will report verbally on any new applications which have been received in the interim

**Committee’s Actions**

*No comments on the following:*

P/2021/0090/HHFP 19 Japonica Gardens, Bold St Helens

Part two storey / part single storey rear and side extension.

**P/2021/0147/FUL 466 - 468 Clock Face Road, Clock Face St Helens**

Retention of single storey rear extension

**P/2021/0150/S73 Bold Ward Plot 1 And 2 Bargyloo Farm Warrington Road Bold Heath St Helens**

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) on approval P/2020/0346/FUL for the repositioning of plot 1 by approximately 4m

back into the plot and 600mm closer to the western boundary; Raising of ridge height by 220mm and eaves height by 150mm on both plots 1 and 2 along with a glazed enclosed balcony at first floor on both plots 1 and 2

**P/2021/0151/FUL Bold Ward Land to Rear of Bargyloo Farmhouse Bargyloo Farm Warrington Road Bold Heath St Helens WA8 3XL** Redevelopment of site of previously developed former golf club green keepers store building and yard to provide a detached residential dwelling, associated curtilage and to extend the residential curtilage on one consented dwelling on adjoining land

**P/2021/0145/HHFP Bold Ward 21 Daffodil Gardens Bold St Helens WA9 4LP** Single storey rear extension.

It is recommended that the above is endorsed

P/2021/0213/FUL Bold Ward The Smithy Manor Jubits Lane Sutton Manor St Helens WA9 4BB

Conversion of ground floor of former public house into office accommodation and changing rooms to serve outdoor 5 - a -side football pitches with new perimeter fence

A discussion was had about the Smithy Manor planning application as various suggestions such as car boot sales and charging for parking had been circulating. It was agreed that comments would be logged against this application noting the above concerns.

Resolved the clerk logged comments with the planning department noting concerns for over crowded parking facilities, busier roads, and asking for clarity on car boot sales and parking charges.

Decisions

*Approvals:*

**P/2020/0891/HHFP Bold Ward 2 Cranshaw Avenue Clock Face**

Two storey side extension, single storey rear

08-Dec-20 01-Feb-21

**Granted**

**P/2021/0151/FUL Bold Ward Land to Rear of Bargyloo Farmhouse Bargyloo Farm Warrington Road Bold Heath St Helens WA8 3XL** Redevelopment of site of previously developed former golf club green keepers store building and yard to provide a detached residential dwelling, associated curtilage and to extend the residential curtilage on one consented dwelling on adjoining land

**Granted**

**Resolved**

**20/150 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. Following the payment of accounts approved at the last scheduled meeting, the bank balance currently stands at £28,207. Details of payments and the total spend per budget item are shown on the statements signed by the Chairman.
2. Accounts for Payment

**It is recommended** that authority be granted for the payment of the following amounts: -

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Amount£ | Cheque Number |
| Clerk – Income Tax deducted in error (Paid as an urgent action) | 99.29 | 000781 |
| S Gaskell – training and transfer arrangements (2 hours x £15) | 30.00 | 000724 |
| St Helens Council – Christmas Illuminations installation | 800.00 | 000725 |
| A Makin – reimbursement of litter pickers | 42.00 | 000726 |
| Clerk – Salary Reimbursement & Expenses | 1604.97 | 000727 |

**Resolved** all payments agreed

**(c) Assets Register**

The Parish Council is, as part of its financial management controls, required to maintain an up-to-date Assets Register. A copy of the current Register has been circulated for information and approval. This will be checked as part of the Internal Audit process.

**Resolved** the Asset register was approved and the clerk will update the register to include the allocation of a Laptop to Cllr Fishwick and a telephone kiosk that will contain a defibrillator.

**(d) Budget and Precept 2021/22**

The attached schedule sets out the original estimates and forecast outturn for 2020/21 along with estimates of expenditure for 2021/22.

1. **Forecast Outturn for 2020/21**

The Parish Council’s precept for 2020/21 was set at £13,422. This included provision for a war memorial (£5k), which currently remains unspent. The precept rate for the year was set at £12.07 per band D equivalent property.

The forecast expenditure outturn for the current year is £16,751 (excluding contribution to Election Reserve), which is just £627 above the original estimate. The forecast assumes that expenditure relating to the war memorial will not take place in the current year. However, this is almost offset by planned expenditure on defibrillators and benches. VAT of just over £506 is also included, which will be reimbursed in 2021/22. The overall value of reserves / balance carried forward is projected to be £21,116 (including earmarked election reserve of £2,412 – see (i) below)

Comments on forecast outturn:

1. The forecast outturn assumes that the Parish Council will set aside £1000 to contribute to the election reserve in accordance with its original plans. This would bring the earmarked reserve to £2,412 at the end of 2020/21
2. Section 137 expenditure includes significant support to the local community for food parcels and other local initiatives.
3. **Draft Proposed Budget for 2021/22**

The attached schedule shows a draft estimate of expenditure of £16,757 for 2021/22, plus £1,000 contribution to election reserve. This includes provision for significant one-off /non-recurrent costs of £5,000 (war memorial) which are effectively funded from reserves rather than the annual precept (see below). The tax base for band D equivalent properties in 2021/22 is £1,094 (2020/21 level was £1,112). At its meeting on 8th December 2020 the Parish Council resolved to keep the precept level for 2021/22 at the same level as the current year i.e., £12.07. This will generate a precept income of £13,205, which, due to a fall in the tax base for band D properties represents a slight reduction against 2020/21.

Comments on the draft proposed budget:

1. An allowance of £1000 has been assumed as a contribution to the Election Reserve.
2. Salary costs assume no increase in NJC salary scales.
3. General provision for Section 137 payments is set at £2,000, based on expenditure levels in 2020/21.
4. The Environmental budget makes provision for the proposed war memorial
5. If the proposed budget is agreed in accordance with the attached schedule, the total reserves at the end of 2020/21 are estimated to be £18,064, which would include £3,412 provision for future elections. Therefore, the general level of reserves i.e., excluding the earmarked election reserve, would be £14,652

**Resolved** the budget was approved

1. **Precept Proposals 2020/21**

The above assumes that the precept rate would remain unchanged from 2020/21 at £12.07. Given a notified tax base of £1,094 for Band D equivalent properties, this would generate precept income of £13,205. Members may wish to consider other options

**4. Recommendations**

1. that the draft proposed budget 2021/22 as set out in the attached schedule is approved;
2. that the 2021/22 precept rate is set at £12.07, generating a precept income of £13,205.

that the Clerk inform St Helens Council of the agreed precept level as soon as practicable following this meeting

**Resolved** all recommendations were agreed

**20/151 ANNUAL REPORT**

It was agreed that under new restrictions that the Annual Report could be produced and distributed. The clerk and the chair added some extras to the report left by previous clerk.

The clerk then sent to Triprint for printing.

**Resolved** to deliver to the Chair once printing is completed

**20/152 CLOCK FACE RECREATION CLUB – COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORK**

This was included as a standard item. Due to the pandemic, progress in acknowledging the above work remains extremely difficult and hampered.

Cllr Hughes informed the parish councillors that an end date on restrictions is in sight so planning has started on organising an event to present the awards towards the end of the year.

**Resolved** to continue to include this as a standard agenda item until such time as the Parish Council can formally and properly acknowledge the community support work undertaken later in the year.

**20/153 DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillor Hughes confirmed that the defibrillator case at the Maplewood had been installed and the Doctor suppling the Defibrillator has confirmed that it will be delivered this month. The next defibrillator to be installed is at Clock Face Recreation club. The Chair thanked Cllr Hughes and Mersey Medical Services.

**Resolved** Councillor Hawley will order the Defibrillator box for Clock Face Recreational Club.

**20/154 OMEGA PLANNING APPLICATION**

The clerk was asked to contact Ward councillors to obtain any evidence they were hoping to submit to the enquiry so that the Parish Councils’ evidence did not duplicate theirs.

Cllr O’Keefe had some evidence regarding falling job numbers.

Cllr Wiseman & Cllr Preston would not be submitting any evidence until after the inquiry, due to mixed views from the local parish. Cllr Wiseman informed the clerk that a percentage of the parish were hoping new employment may come from the Omega planning being given the go ahead so felt that it was wise to wait and see what the outcome of the inquiry would be.

Cllr Makin read out the following email from Kath O’Dwyer:

Dear Mr Makin,
Further to our recent email exchange, I can confirm that I believe that my last email dealt fully with all of the issues you have raised, and hence I would seek to rely on the contents of that email to address your matters of concern.
The above being said, you will recognise that it is incumbent on the Council to fully set out its position to the Secretary of State at the Inquiries taking place in relation to the proposed developments at the Parkside, Haydock Point and the Omega sites. The Council has submitted all of its evidence relating to the Parkside and Haydock Point inquiries and will submit its evidence on the Omega proposal by 30th March. I would confirm that all of this evidence will be published on the Council's website.
Finally, I would advise that should you have any remaining queries in relation to this matter, I would invite you to contact Mark Fisher who is the Head of Legal & Democratic services at the Council who is coordinating the presentation of the case of the Council to the Omega inquiry.

Thanks & regards

Kath

**Resolved** it was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Mark Fisher in regards to this matter.

**20/155 LALC TRAINING**

In response to the training plan provided by LALC it was agreed that no courses were relevant at the present moment. The clerk expressed an interest in a course offered by SLCC – an introduction to Parish clerking.

**Resolved** it was agreed the clerk could attend the training offered by SLCC

**20/156 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Parish Council listened to Jim and Joanne present a short speech about why they would like to be on Bold Parish Council.

JIM HOUSLEY

I feel I can bring a wealth of experience to the team that will enhance and benefit the Bold parish residents. From starting my working life as an electrician in the Royal Navy, where teamwork, discipline and many other life skills was part of my education, I left with an exemplary conduct rating. I’ve worked on a coal face which again the importance of teamwork was at the forefront. After that I qualified as a Financial Advisor. The last few years up to my retirement I managed a large team in the social care sector, delivering training courses, rostering work and carrying out risk assessment, I’ve sat on a risk management boards. I was also chair of a local school PTA.

Over the years I’ve attended numerous courses, first aid, time management etc.

Since I retired, I’ve done a lot of voluntary work, helped to set up and run Northwest Miners Heritage Association. Organised numerous trips to the mining museum for residence and children, annual reunion for past miners and families.

I assisted to organise the Dream 10th anniversary along with the council. For the last few years, I have been participating in usually weekly litter picks. This Christmas I and colleagues arranged and provided a Father Christmas that toured the parish and beyond giving chocolate to the youngsters and providing picture opportunities for parents. I’ve assisted with the delivery of hot food from the recreational club. And helped to replace the lost Sutton Manor Banner, organising and also painting the middle section, the banner is now complete, and we hope this for many years will help to bring the communities together.

I also organised and helped to light up the Dream as a mark of respect for our veterans and the NHS. I’ve enjoyed helping the community in many ways, and would love to carry on this work as part of the Bold Parish team.

I’m currently working in association with Catherine Mills from Stirling university, to map and narrate miner’s heritage walks across the parish. The first one is under construction and can be downloaded on the Coal app from the website landscape legacies of coal.

JO SHAW

A little bit about me, I have been a resident of New Bold for 17 years but I was born and lived in Burtonwood up to being 25 years old.  I lived in Clock Face at the top of Gorsey Lane with my parents for a couple of years before I briefly moved to Ashton, until buying the house I now live in on New Bold.  (I couldn’t stay away for long).

I have always liked to be involved with community events and issues.  I was part of the New Bold Community Group when it was active, as Secretary for 4 years, helping to organise and run events, generating profits to be used for future events, supporting local issues, applying for funding & helping to get defibrillators installed on the estate.

I am also the Event Director for St Helens junior parkrun which was, until 2 years ago held on Bold Forest.  This did help to raise awareness of the forest to many people.  The only reason we had to relocate was due to the vast work and remodelling of the area being carried out – which led to us having no access to the course.  However, I do keep in touch with Paul Nolan and Carl Smethurst – always with a positive view to junior parkrun returning to Bold Forest sometime in the future.

I think there is a lot of potential within the area, especially on Bold Forest, Colliers Moss and The Dream sites.  There is huge potential for the land to be utilised well and to improve facilities for visitors.  The pride and passion of so many people across Bold, Clock Face, Burtonwood and Sutton is something to be embraced and never ceases to amaze me and renews my faith in good people.  When I heard there was a vacancy on the parish council, I wanted to put myself forward as a candidate, not because I have loads of experience but because I believe I am passionate enough about local causes and issues to be motivated enough to actually do what I can to help out.

I took time out of work and all responsibilities from 2019 to early 2020 to help look after my Dad - who had vascular dementia - until he passed away early last year.  However, I am in a position now to help out wherever I can and commit to this role properly - if I am successful.  If I commit to anything, I will do what I say I will do (or at least my very best) to get a result.  I may need to ask a lot of questions but I’m not afraid of asking them (there’s no such thing as a stupid question is there?).  I’m not afraid to voice my opinion but am level headed and rational about things too.  I don’t have a political agenda; I really do just want to help out if I can and show my support in helping to look after and improve things for our community and localities.

After the presentations each councillor voted for which candidate, they thought should join Bold Parish:

Paul Fishwick – Joanne Shaw

Carole Gerard – Jim Housley

Paul Gerard – Jim Housley

Chris Foy – Joanne Shaw

Dave Hawley – Joanne Shaw

Chris Hughes – Joanne Shaw

Stuart Hull – Joanne Shaw

David O’Keefe – Joanne Shaw

Collette Smith – Joanne Shaw

Alex West – Jim Housley

**Resolved** it was agreed to appoint Joanne Shaw. The clerk will organise all necessary paperwork to be sent to Joanne.

**20/157 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

A discussion was held about the Netwise company and it was agreed by all that this company could offer everything the Parish Council was looking for with regards to the new website.

**Resolved** it was agreed to go with Netwise for the website. The clerk will process the order.

**20/158 ELECTORAL REVIEW**

There will be no substantial changes to the parish after the review.

**Resolved** this was noted.

**20/159 DREAM/SORRELL WAY**

There have been more complaints regarding the construction vehicles around this area and flooding on to the street. Cllr Gerard had contacted Melanie Hale in the Local Authority to ask for an enforcement officer to attend the site as planning regulations had been broken. An enforcement officer attended the site and hopefully everything will be sorted now.

A discussion was held about the owners of the construction company as no one can contact them via the telephone or email and its possible that the company has gone bankrupt.

**Resolved** to monitor the situation.

**20/160 DOG FOULING AND LITTER PICKING**

Cllr Foy reported back to the Parish Council that over 70 bags have been collected over the past week and would to thank the community on an outstanding effort. A discussion was held about why some much litter was around and what services they Local Authority are offering to help with this situation.

**Resolved** to note the above and continue to attempt to source a more regular service.

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**20/161 BOUNDARY SIGNS**

A resident has reported that we are missing a ‘Welcome to Bold Parish’ at Travers Entry. The Clerk has emailed the Local Authority to ask if we can have a sign at this point.

**Resolved** to note and continue to monitor the above

**20/162 VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

As the current regulations end a discussion was had about returning to face-to-face meetings. It was agreed that all guidance shall be followed and virtual meetings will continue until it is safe to return to the Church Hall and meet in person.

**Resolved** to continue virtually for now.

**20/163 BOLD FOREST PARK**

This was included as a standard item.

**Resolved** to continue to include this as a standard agenda item.

**20/164 GARDENING EQUIPMENT**

Cllr Hawley would like some money to be allocated to buy planters, seeds, gardening tools etc to decorate several areas in Bold Parish.

Cllr Gerard has some areas towards Clock Face that he will be planting seeds and plants in but wouldn’t interfere with Cllr Hawley’s project.

A discussion was held about limitations regarding cutting back bushes and twigs regarding Health and Safety and it was agreed tat this would be left to the professionals.

Queries were raised on the possibility of setting up a company who could provide such services and additional services such as litter picking, as the litter picking contract on the Dream site is coming to an end. Cllr Makin said he would look into this.

**Resolved** Cllr Hawley & Cllr West will meet to decide on where the planters will go and make a list of items required. This item will be put on next agenda.

**20/165 COLLIERS MOSS**

It was suggested that provisions need to be put in place at Colliers Moss ready for the better weather arriving. Last year it was used as a social gathering place for many people and the litter left was problem. Lots of people were drinking and people were swimming without supervision.

Cllr Hughes will contact the police to see if we can put anything in place and Cllr Makin will contact the Woody Wombles to liaise with them regarding the litter picking.

Signs have been placed warning against swimming.

A question was raised about whether the Anglian Association had been taken over and Cllr Smith volunteered to find out.

A discussion was held about the car park not being used to its full extent.

**Resolved** to add this to the next agenda

**20/166 REMIDAL WAY- MINERS WAY**

Cllr Fishwick has met with Dave Kelly in the Local Authority regarding Miners Way.

The cost quoted was £2700 originally but increased after a second look at the problem. The Local Authority are going out for another look and will report back.

**Resolved** to monitor this situation.

**20/167 REPORTS**

Cllr Smith asked if anyone had not received their invitation to Safer Days Training and everyone had except Cllr Makin & Cllr Hughes.

Bold War Memorial – The original site at ST Michael and All Saints Church will not be going ahead. Cllr Makin asked for other suggestions:

Cllr Hawley – New Bold in the middle of the Green

Cllr Gerard – Entrance to Bridge Road or on top of the Banking in Clock Face.

Cllr Gerard reported an incident of Anti-Social behaviour and confirmed the police are dealing with the situation.

Cllr Hughes has had a report of someone almost falling through a Manhole cover. Cllr Hughes will go and cover with a traffic cone and report the problem to BT who own the manhole.

**Resolved** to note the above.

**It was resolved** that the next meeting take place at 7:15 pm on Tuesday 6th April 2021 - to be held virtually via Zoom platform.

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Chairman Date