

Minutes of the Virtual Covington Parish "Budget Setting" Meeting to be minuted as at Wednesday 28th October 2020

CLERK'S NOTE

On 23rd March 2020 the UK Government declared "lockdown, and self-isolation rules" in the face of the rapid, worldwide spread of the Coronavirus, COVID-19. It was extended in varying degrees of strength until November 2020 and top officials reported that it could go on for a further six months

It was clear that the Parish Meeting to be held on 28th October 2020 to agree the budget and the Annual Precept could not take place

The virtual meeting was arranged as follows.

1. On 6th October all households on the residents' email list were emailed with a notice, extended agenda and relevant minutes. Hardcopies were delivered to the remaining households.
2. Residents were asked to reply by 19th October to enable any other business, not on the published agenda, to be notified and discussed.
3. The Statement of Account (Item 3) is normally circulated at the actual meeting. This was separately circulated to all household on 17th October 2020
4. Also circulated was the item referring to water running down Cross Street.
5. We received 17 responses (this includes myself and The Chairman) The virtual meeting was quorate.
6. All responders expressed agreement with all Agenda items, many offering to propose or second approval.
7. As there was unanimous agreement on all items, I have not shown individual proposers and seconders.

Reponses were received from: Karen Barley, Rex Bigger, Mo Brown, Warren Brown, John Fells, Glyn Clark, Gill Holmes, Stephen Holmes, Linda Lockhart, Karen Luscombe, Michael Mathews, Simon Peck, Sarah Schofield, Ted Triance, and Marilyn Turrell.

The Chairman and Clerk would like to open the meeting with a sincere thank you to all members of our village community for the help and support they have shown for each other during the international Covid19 crisis.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** No resident refused to take part, therefore all non-responders are considered as apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of interest in matters on the Agenda.** There were no such declarations
- 3. Minutes of Virtual Parish Meetings 22nd April and 3rd August 2020**
These were attached to the email and delivered with the notice.
These were taken as approved and will be signed at an actual meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising from Minutes.**
The following items were left for consideration at a future "actual" meeting. It was agreed to leave until an actual meeting to consider.
 1. Item 6 Planning Committee
 2. Item 7 Appointment of Representatives

3. Item 9 Meeting Minutes and Matters arising
 4. Item 14 Reports
 5. Item 17 Gorse Road resurfacing
- This will be raised under Item 9 on this Agenda

5. Finance.

1. Report on Audit

The Clerk was notified by email dated 22nd September 2020 that Covington's submission was received and logged and no further action was required.

2.a. Retrospective Approval of payments

1. Zurich Insurance - £257.60 - Agreed

2.b. Approve Payments

- i) Covington Amenities Committee - £420 - Agreed
- ii) Clerk for Zen costs - £64.68 - Agreed
- iii) Balfour Beatty - £57.60- Agreed

3. Statement of Accounts to October 2020 and Budget 2020/21.

These were circulated on 17th October 2020

The accounts showed low spending for the year so far.

However, the Clerk will need paper and ink very shortly c.£142.

We may need to pay an annual fee for our domain name c.£8.

We may also decide to spend something out of the "Village Societies" budget to celebrate the easing or end of lockdown whenever that may be.

With these things in mind it is proposed to stick to the annual precept request of £1300.00 (Item 5.4. on the agenda)

The accounts were approved

4. Precept 2020/21

It was agreed to seek a precept of £1,300.00

6. Reports of Representatives/Officers.

No written reports were received

1. Footpaths – Carole Ludford
2. Neighbourhood Watch – Michael Mathews
3. Tree Warden – Mo Brown
4. Amenities Committee – Sarah Schofield formally applied, post meeting, for the annual grant of £420 – agreed under Item2.b.i)

7. Report of Special General Planning meetings and Planning Committee.

There have been no meetings

8. Correspondence.

The Clerk has circulated, where appropriate, any information received on "Covington Residents", on the Village Web-site or on the village notice board.

9. Any Other Business.

1. Condition of village roads

Simon Peck and the Gorse Road – throughout the summer we have received various notifications about road surfacing – none has yet referred to the Gorse Road Covington.

2. Motor Bike noise and road safety on B645

As a result of pressure from neighbouring villages and our own Linda Lockhart a weekend of surveillance by Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire police forces took place in the summer. The Clerk circulated the Northants police report and several residents commented on "Covington Residents"

3. Ted Triance sought reassurance that the salt bins at the Pentelows and Cross Street junctions with Keyston Road would be refilled before winter

4. The Clerk was asked to add, to Any Other Business, the issue of water running from Cross Street into Keyston Road, particularly considering the approach of winter. The Clerk is making further enquiries into the matter .

10. Date of next meetings.

Annual Meeting 14th or 21st April 2021

Budget Setting Meeting 20th or 27th October 2021