



**COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Present:**

**Cllrs Marsh, Fenner, Verner, McArdle, Hanks, Clark, Adams, Silsby & Jaques**  
**Clerk L Randall**

**In Attendance:**

District Cllr G Simpson, 2 residents from Cold Ash Parish

**Public Participation**

- There was no Public Participation

**218516 Apologies for Absence**  
**Cllrs Le-Cornu**

**218517 Declarations of Interest**  
There were no Declarations of Interest.

**218518 Minutes**  
Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 were approved unanimously as a correct record. They were duly signed by the **Chairman** outside the meeting.

**218519 Matters Arising**

- **Clerk** advised she had made a start on a suggested agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 via Zoom. No suggested subjects had been received from members of the public as yet. **Clerk** would arrange for the advert to go into the Newbury Weekly News.
- **Clerk** reported that the removal of the twin oak tree adjacent to the Acland Hall had been further investigated and there were some issues concerning the possibility of heave being caused. **Cllr Silsby** had investigated the proposed company who would organise removal; **Cllr Hanks** had approached insurers of the Acland Hall. It was agreed that the **Clerk** would contact the neighbouring resident and instruct the removal date to be postponed so that more information could be gathered. This would be added to the next agenda.
- **Cllr McArdle** gave a brief update on the progress of the new field in the Wildlife Allotment Garden; this had been a previous agenda item. He was hopeful to have the new area opened by the end of April 2021. With regard to the installation of the benches, water butts and bridge repairs, a different contractor may be used due to workload. He advised the sculptures previously agreed may be slightly more expensive but this would not affect the budget as savings had been made elsewhere. Councillors were in agreement with plan.

**218520 Report from District Councillors**

**The District Councillors' report** had been circulated before the meeting. Items covered were Budget, COVID 19, Education, Newbury Showground, Libraries Transport & Census 21. **District Councillor Simpson's** report included: Minerals & Waste and Workload A copy of the report can be obtained from the **Clerk**.

**218521 Clerk's Report**

- **Clerk** advised she had received details that the electricity contract for the Parish Office was renewable from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It was agreed to investigate alternative suppliers. **Cllr Silsby** offered to assist the **Clerk**.
- **Clerk** advised she had received a request from Cold Ash Boys and Girls Football Club to ask for extra evenings to be used for matches. **Clerk** would ask which evenings and if this would be for a temporary time to enable the club to catch up. She would bring back to the Parish Council for agreement.
- Details of the Cricket Club matches for 2021 had been added to the diary. The Club had asked if the square could be rolled as it had become quite bumpy. **Clerk** would seek a quote for this from the contractors.
- **Clerk** advised that a resident had asked for details, with a view to becoming a Parish Councillor. She would keep members posted.

**218522****a) Planning Applications**

*If members of the Public would like to comment on an application, they should check the advice on our website:*

<https://coldashpc.org.uk/the-council/planning/>

**21/00232/FULMAJ ADJACENT TO PARISH** Land at Lawrences Lane - *Conversion involving 'change of use' from self-service livery stable (sui generis) to form live/work unit (C3) with ancillary Office and associated works* **No Objections 7 members in favour, 2 abstentions.**

**21/00375/CERTE** Davelaine Stoney Lane Ashmore Green - *Change of land use to residential garden* **No Objection - Unanimous**

**Planning Matters**

- b) WBC (West Berks Council) Planning Decisions** Members noted following decisions:

**There were no Decisions**

- c) Appeals**

**There were no appeals.**

**218523 Finance**

- 1. Items for payment.** Members agreed Items for Payment on Sheet No 12/2020/21.

Summary of sheet:

Waste - £53.75

Litter Picker - £65.00

Playground Inspections - £220.80

Electricity Office - £113.09

Supplies for WAG project - £435.67

Labour in WAG project £ 959.80

Telephone & Broadband - £374.46

Tree works - £650.00

Maintenance in Parish £ 142.56  
Dog & Waste bin emptying £722.52  
Stationary £111.26

2. **Bank reconciliation** – Members noted the Bank Reconciliation Statement at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021
3. **Payments against Budget** – Members noted the Analysis of Payments Against Budget to March 2021.

#### 218524 **Footpaths**

**Cllr McArdle** gave a report on the state of footpaths within Cold Ash Parish. Due to the pandemic, footpaths had been used far more than usual causing areas to be in a poor state. Complaints had been received from members of the parish. Most complaints had been passed to West Berkshire Council, but due to limited resources it was suggested that the Parish Council could carry out some maintenance. **Cllr Clark** suggested a subcommittee be formed with a view to speaking to land owners to see if maintenance issues could be addressed. **Cllr Jaques** agreed that speaking to land owners was a good idea. **Cllr McArdle** advised there was currently a budget of £500 for maintenance of footpaths. An update was given on Footpath 25 that a formal request had been submitted to re-route this footpath to WBC. Footpaths would be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

*Standing Orders were suspended at 8.28 pm to allow District Councillor Simpson to comment on the state of footpaths.*

*Standing Orders resumed at 8.29 pm*

#### 215525 **Annual Parish Maintenance Contracts 2021/2022**

Members received the proposed maintenance schedule for approval. The recommendations were approved. **Clerk** would write to all contractors

#### 218526 **Insurance Renewal**

The insurance renewal was discussed and, although the Parish Council had entered into a three-year agreement, there still was a slight increase in premium. **Clerk** had been advised this was due to the new for old option and was an inflation percentage. **Cllr McArdle** would re-read the policy to ensure this was correct before a final decision was made.

#### 218527 **Strategic Housing Site in Thatcham**

**Cllr Clark** asked the Councillors if they were happy for him to investigate the area of Newbury Showground to ascertain whether this could be available as an alternative site to THA20. **Cllr McArdle** felt the area was accessible to the M4 and Newbury bypass. **Cllr Jaques** had concerns regarding infrastructure. All members were happy for **Cllr Clark** to investigate further

#### 218528 **NDP Workload**

**Cllr Adams** reported from the NDP steering group. He advised that workload has increased significantly and we are at a crucial stage in the Programme, but resources were at the lowest with some members having left the committee; so prioritising on upcoming deliverables is vital, requiring some other items to be progressed by the Parish Council directly. **Cllr Adams** advised that traffic-related work would now be overseen by **Cllr Silsby**, wildlife sites would now be included under the Environment umbrella and these would be overseen by **Cllr McArdle**. **Cllr Marsh** reminded the

committee that the recent Groundworks grant would expire at the end of March.

*A resolution was agreed to continue after 9.00 pm.*

**210529**

**Committee Reports**

17<sup>th</sup> Feb & 4<sup>th</sup> March - NDP Steering Group – **Cllr Adams**. This had been covered under the previous item.

**218530**

**Meetings with other bodies** – *It was agreed the following items would be discussed at the next meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021*

23<sup>rd</sup> February – NALC Local Council matters – **Cllr McArdle**

24<sup>th</sup> February – BALC AGM – **Cllr McArdle & Cllr Fenner**

3<sup>rd</sup> March – Climate Change- **Cllr McArdle**

5<sup>th</sup> March NPPF – **Cllr McArdle**

**218531**

**Councillors' Questions**

- **Cllr Silsby** asked if details of booking Tennis Courts by the public could be placed on the Parish notice board by the Acland Hall.
- **Cllr Adams** advised that children had been playing football in the Tennis Courts. **Clerk** advised that the code for the lock had now been changed

**281532**

**Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received and sent since the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 had been circulated as Information Sheet no 12/March 2021 and was noted by Members.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12pm

Signed..... Date.....  
Chairman