



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LICKY & BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL VIA ZOOM - MEETING ID 879 618 6156.  
MINUTES NO 1, 2020/2021**

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs R Deeming and S Webb.
2. **PRESENT:** Cllr N Forknell (Chair), Cllrs J Harvey, A Boehm, S Nock, A Luckman, P Harvey, B Kumar, L Winterbourn (Executive Officer), County Cllrs P McDonald & 2 members of the public.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGISTER:** 3b Disclosable Pecuniary interests 3c Other Disclosable interests.

No interests were declared

*The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question time.*

S Hughes of Lickey Community Group asked Council if they were aware of current events on Marlbrook Tip, there has been activity on site which has been reported to Ruth Bamford of Bromsgrove District Council who confirmed that no lorries should be visiting the site.

K Woolford of Lickey Community Group thanked the Council for their swift action in organising a C19 support group.

4. **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES, COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:**

Cllr Peter McDonald reported that County Hall is closed, WCC employees working from home/not working without PPE, although contractors are still out working eg. Ringway on highways. He has written to Bromsgrove District Council to request that they defer Council Tax payments for furloughed workers etc. as Birmingham City Council have done.

Cllr J King reported that the Artrix has declared insolvency and most Council members were unaware of the difficulties it was facing and council members are in discussions to help save the Artrix.

5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> March 2020:**

It was unanimously agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

5. **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES**

- 5.1 The payment of bills was unanimously agreed.
- 5.2 The Bank Reconciliation for the end of the financial year (end March 20) was agreed unanimously.
- 5.3 The draft Annual Return was unanimously agreed.

6. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 Planning Committee minutes were approved, and Cllr Nock gave a report on current issues including 2 refused applications that requested appeals

7. **HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT**

- 7.1 Cllr Forknell provided a report on highways issues. There will be road closures happening in the parish in coming weeks and Lengthsman scheme has been suspended, although we will continue to employ our Lengthsman as we have money in the budget for this (as long as he is safe to work).
- 7.2 Cllr King reported that there was some uncertainty whether we should continue with the Best Front Garden competition due to current C19 emergency, she will ask Councillors to decide in the coming

days. Our footpath warden has arranged for new steps on footpath at end of St Catherine's Road. Bulb planting is taking place around the parish.

- 7.3 Cllr King reported that the environment working group continues to work towards a new environment policy. Allan Postgate the footpath warden has been busy having improvements made to paths including cutting back vegetation. It was suggested that the Council may wish to organise a tree planting event for National Tree Day on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Best Front Garden competition has been postponed until the autumn.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS GROUP REPORT**

- 8.1 It was reported that the Annual Report newsletter will be available later than expected and will be published online, with only 50 hard copies being printed as delivery would not be welcome to homes at this time.
- 8.2 Cllr Harvey gave a report on communications matters – the Litter-pick on 28<sup>th</sup> March was cancelled due to the C19 emergency.

## **9 TRAINING MATTERS AND DIARY DATES**

- 9.1 Cllr Kumar's planned new councillor training may take place online. If rearranged, then Cllr Luckman will also attend.

## **10 ADMINISTRATION:**

- 10.1 The EO reported that the group for C19 support within the Parish for vulnerable residents has been set up and is doing well. Flyers were distributed to every household in the by volunteers. EO reported that our contractors are continuing to work with careful consideration of social distancing measures. Internal audit will be happening differently and 100% electronically. Government have extended the deadline for audit to be completed. There have been complaints about fly tipping and it is a concern as garden waste bins are no longer being collected, we will be writing to BDC to suggest possible solutions.

## **11 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 11.1 there was no correspondence to report.

## **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May for Annual Meeting 7.30pm online via Zoom meeting ID 879 618 6156.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.20

Signed

Chairman