



*Berkeley Town Council Meeting held on
Monday 15th March 2021 at 7pm
Via Zoom
Local Authorities have been handed new powers
to hold meetings virtually by using video or telephone*

MINUTES

Present by Video/telephone link:

Councillor P Stevenson (Chairman)
Councillor E Carter
Councillor P Hall
Councillor G Harcourt*
Councillor D Howell
Councillor J Sealey
Councillor Q Somerset
Councillor T Tucker
J Hopkins (Clerk)

1.	<p>Public Discussion</p> <p>Four members of the public were in attendance, along with Stroud District Councillor Gordon Craig and Gloucestershire County Councillor Brian Tipper, who all shared information with us. Councillor Tucker asked Councillor Tipper if any of the reported extra funding towards buses may help our transport links. Councillor Tipper will make some enquiries on our behalf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">We welcomed Andy Bates and Angela Presdee from STEP (a group working together to put in an 'expression of interest' nomination to design and build a prototype fusion power station at the Berkeley/Oldbury site). After the presentation it was agreed to write a letter of support. Cllr Somerset discussed engaging with them in the future with regard to our Town Improvement Plan.
2.	<p>Apologies and absence (all members, clerk and members of the public will be in attendance for the purposes of 'The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020' if they are in remote attendance)</p> <p>Councillor Palmer gave his apologies.</p>
3.	<p>To receive declarations of interests and consider requests for dispensations</p> <p>Councillor Harcourt arrived and declared an interest in item 15.</p> <p>Item 15 was brought forward and discussed next.</p>
4.	<p>To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 15th February 2020 via Zoom</p> <p>It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th February and it was agreed that they can be signed at a later date.</p>
5.	<p>To receive draft minutes of the Canon Park Committee meeting on 1st March and to discuss the location of the MUGA and secondary sports areas (see item 9)</p> <p>(since the Canon Park meeting the Football Club has measured the area and now agreed that the 7x7 pitch can overlap the main pitch, so the location and planning application do not need to</p>

	<p>change, however the secondary sports areas will need to be located on the east side, which means that the pathing needs to be extended and extra funding required).</p> <p>Councillor Sealey discussed the project and confirmed that the Football Club have now agreed that the MUGA/AGP can stay in its original location, as the planning application. The amount put in the budget for next year will be used for the extra pathing and mounding. We have received some queries from a couple of neighbours and a meeting on site is to be arranged to discuss their concerns. All committee members will be invited. The fitness equipment has been installed and a Covid19 Risk Assessment and signs will be completed prior to opening on the 29th March.</p>
6.	<p>To authorise GAPTC subscription (£518.39) for 2020/21 It was resolved to authorise the subscription.</p>
7.	<p>To recommend that the Council adopts the 2020 version of the model Standing Orders (amendments made in s.18 ss f & g) It was resolved to adopt the 2020 Standing Orders.</p>
8.	<p>To note an increase in Town Hall cleaning contract by 2% This was noted.</p>
9.	<p>To set a date, and discuss the format, of the Annual Town Assembly – This has to be held between 1st March and 1st June. We can hold this virtually on or before 6th May. The legislation allowing remote meetings is due to expire on 7th May (NALC continues to lobby on allowing for remote meetings to continue). It was resolved to hold the ‘Annual Town Assembly’ on 19th April at 7pm (the Full Council meeting will be held after). This is will be advertised in the Flyer, on the website and on facebook.</p>
10.	<p>To note that Town Council Elections will take place on Thursday 6th May and that nomination forms are now available from the Clerk (due to Covid, Stroud District Council have asked for one person to deliver the completed forms-the Clerk has an appointment to do this on 25th March) This was noted.</p>
11.	<p>To resolve that the Bank Reconciliation dated to 31st January 2020 be authorised and signed at a later date It was resolved that the Bank Reconciliation be authorised and signed at a later date.</p>
12.	<p>To confirm that the Annual Town Council Meeting will be held on Monday 17th May 2021 In an election year the Annual Meeting shall be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the Councillors elected take office, which is 10th May. This was noted.</p>
13.	<p>To review and discuss the Allotments: Councillor Howell reported that the allotments are not financing themselves and we need to consider a rent rise. It was agreed that Cllr Howell will work with Cllr Palmer on a working party meeting (including others from the allotments). They will discuss allotment associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent increase-it was resolved to increase the rent by 20%. • Tenancy agreements-A new agreement is to be considered, after a letter to tenancy holders, explaining the reasons for the rent rise (water usage, repairs, admin etc). • Order a Skip-Declined, due to over spend. • Camera to prevent Spring/Summer thefts-Request made to Stroud District Council mobile unit (they are assessing the area for power).
14.	<p>To discuss Berkeley Burial Committee and to receive the 2019/20 accounts Cllr Stevenson was pleased to report that the Burial Committee have agreed to digitise the burial records and are in the process of getting quotes. They also have been trialling opening up the gate</p>

	<p>at the Howmead entrance to help less able residents visit. In the future there are plans to open the Lych Gate as a Visitor Centre and to update the Lodge.</p> <p>The accounts were noted. It was agreed to ask the Burial Committee clerk to explain the large balance on the accounts and if it will be used to improve the cemetery or if the council contributions could be reduced.</p>
15.	<p>To discuss complaints regarding debris and redundant items blocking the pavement, outside a shop in the Market Place</p> <p>Councillor Harcourt explained that the items outside the shop are gradually reducing and he agreed to remove everything, apart from the planters, within the next 2 weeks (by 29th March). The members of the public present offered their help, and so did some of the Councillors. The shop will not open until the Environmental Health agree that it can.</p>
16.	<p>Sharing Information</p> <p>Councillors took this opportunity to share information. It was agreed to arrange a staffing meeting.</p>
17.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next Full Council meeting will be on Monday 19th April at 7pm via Zoom.</p>