

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TARVIN PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE USING ZOOM SOFTWARE ON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor E Lush (Chairman)
Councillor R Ford (Vice Chairman)
Councillor D H Cotgreave
Councillor B Dean
Councillor S Dutton
Councillor H Flynn
Councillor M Pochin
Councillor P Ryan
Councillor S Wiley

IN ATTENDANCE:

No Members of the public
Cheshire West and Chester Council – Councillor H Tonge
Parish Council Clerk – Mr M Hassall

APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor J Norrie (work commitment), Councillor P Twigg (family commitment)
Cheshire West and Chester Councillor J Leather

20/023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND DISPENSATIONS

20/023.1 New Written Requests for Dispensations

There were no new requests.

20/023.2 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest in any item of business on the agenda and, if necessary, leave the meeting prior to discussion of that item. No such declarations were made.

20/023.3 Members Declarations

Members were reminded that they should check that their Members Declaration of Interests were up to date.

20/024 OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the Council meeting be adjourned for the Open Forum.

20/025 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Council meeting be reconvened.

20/026 REPORT ON OPEN FORUM (This minute was not reported to Council in the formal meeting. It is a record of the items raised in the Open Forum)

Borough Councillor Tonge had provided a Cheshire West and Chester Council update which had said that:

- a. they were looking to open a branch of the Cheshire West Foodbank in Tarvin and were working with Rev Adam Friend to establish it. That service would be linked in with voluntary agencies who issue foodbank vouchers. There were not many calls requesting that type of help yet, most of the volunteer time was being spent on shopping or collecting medicines.

- b. several helplines had been established including mental health and financial and benefit help.
- c. resuming committee meetings, but online.
- d. supporting approximately 14,000 shielded people across the Borough many of whom were receiving food parcels.

20/027 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH APRIL 2020

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2020 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a correct record.

20/028 REPORT ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH APRIL 2020 NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA

There were no items under this heading.

20/029 PLANNING MATTERS

20/029.1 Planning Applications

There were no applications for consideration.

20/029.2 Notices

20/00329/FUL - Single storey rear extension and demolition of existing extension – Olaf, Shay Lane, Tarvin - **PERMISSION**

20/00624/OUT – Erection of two office buildings – Apex House, Chester Road, Tarvin - The development straddles both Ashton Hayes and Tarvin parishes. – **REFUSAL**

20/00944/FUL – Change of Use of first floor from A3 to 1 residential unit – The Manor House, Church Street, Tarvin - **PERMISSION**

20/00639/FUL - Two storey extension to side, addition of balcony to side elevation and external alterations – Oscroft Hall, Cross Lanes, Oscroft - **PERMISSION**

20/00687/FUL - Single storey rear and first floor side extension – 11 Heath Drive, Tarvin - **PERMISSION**

19/03575/FUL – Change of use of land for the creation of new residential access and drive – Well House, Weetwood – **REFUSAL**

20/030 KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Twigg had provided a written report which was noted by the meeting. The main points were as follows:

a. COVID-19

Following the Government's revised emphasis to encourage exercise and liaison with a friend in public spaces provided that social distancing was maintained, the latest position with regards to the field was as follows:

- Gates remain taped up into the junior play area.
- Hazard tape has been put on the items of play equipment located on the field, as these are out-of-bounds and not to be used.
- Notices are placed on the field advising that none of the equipment is sanitised and use of the field and equipment is at the individual's own risk.
- Tarvin Tennis Club has re-opened their courts but under strict booking conditions. The car park will remain closed to prevent mass gatherings and to encourage locals to cycle/walking to enjoy the playing fields.
- The Bowling Green remains closed – although the green has been maintained to allow them to re-start as soon as they are authorised to do so.

b. MAINTENANCE

- It was reported by a member of the public that a protruding piece of metal had emerged near to the basketball court. A Tarvin resident had kindly removed it and a letter of thanks had been sent.
- the minor maintenance tasks following receipt of the External Annual Report could not be undertaken during the pandemic. However they were low risk tasks, and as the play area was closed, low risk was presented to users of the field.

c. LITTER PICKING

- Thanks were expressed to Councillor Lush who had been covering litter picking duties

The meeting noted that the Community Amenity Operative had returned to work.

20/031 FOOTPATHS

20/031.1 The meeting considered the following report from a local resident and noted the response from the Rights of Way Officer:

Report from resident. "Because of "lockdown" and the warm and dry April I have walked - in most cases for the first time - every footpath in the pre-2015 Parish of Tarvin. I thought it might be useful to set out the problems which I noted while they are fresh in my mind so you can circulate this to Parish Councillors and inform the appropriate officials at Cheshire West and Chester Council for the time when remedial works can start again.

I refer to the official footpath numbers as recorded on the Cheshire West and Chester interactive map on the internet using all the rights of way data layers; and for some of the points that I make you will need to zoom in to the maximum scale on the map. It zooms in to a very large scale.

Footpath 4 - although there is a stile at each end of the relevant field, the course of this footpath from the road to Tarvin Mill across the field to the junction with Footpath 35 is obscure. I think the landowner probably wants to discourage use, taking the view that people can easily walk in front of the 8 industrial units at the back of the Mill. But that should not be the point. The course of the footpath over the field is taped off and near Footpath 35 there is a pile of manure blocking the obvious line of the path. This needs investigation and action.

Footpath 6 - this is the very short path which continues the alignment of Footpath 5 and forms the base of a small triangle where Pool Lane and Barrow Lane join. The stiles at each end are complete inaccessible because of very dense brambles. I concede that it is not at all far to walk around the point of the triangle on the metalled roads but again that is not the point. It needs attention.

Footpath 19 - this is the path joining Old Moss to the Tarporley Road across several fields. The stile at the halfway point of this path, and some surrounding fencing, has completely collapsed and needs to be re-erected. Also there should be a metal sign where the footpath leaves Platts Lane in Old Moss--and that could make it abundantly clear that the path runs in the narrow space between the two hedges.

Footpath 30 - and it becomes Bruen Stapleford Footpath 7 -linking Platts Lane, Old Moss with Old Moss Lane. There is a metal sign in the correct place where the path leaves Platts Lane and also where it leaves Old Moss Lane. And there is a stile at the boundary of the two relevant properties--the Nurseries to the north and Rose Cottage on Old Moss Lane to the south. But the course of the footpath across the Nurseries has been totally defaced. There is a low wire mesh fence almost immediately after leaving the road, which can be surmounted with a little care. But then the course of the path is totally obscured by poly tunnels, long beds of plants and various debris. It is impossible to make out the course of the path. Similarly, at the other end, there needs to be more signposting so that walkers are assured they are not trespassing as the path now cuts right across the open

plan garden of Rose Cottage. The landowner of the Nursery needs to be contacted to see whether he will agree to another route for the footpath being marked out.

Platts Lane, Hockenhull - you know all about this most irksome interference with what, for Tarvin residents, is a very attractive circular walk. Is there any word from CWaC as to when this might be sorted?

In fairness, I must add that the great majority of paths are well signed and well maintained.”

The Rights of Way Officer who was working from home and self-isolating had reported that:

- before lockdown the route at Okell’s nursery was much improved, the hedge had been cut back and the surface cleared. He had agreed with the nursery to remove the stile as it was no longer needed and in a poor condition. He had said that he would install a waymark post but he had not managed to get round to this as yet but it was on his long list of practical jobs.
- in terms of the other route through the nursery, the historic obstruction was still on his to do list.
- the everyday issues seemed to take up the time as there were only two officers, so historic issues always seemed to get pushed back due to the day to day issues.

20/031.2 Platts Lane

Councillor Ryan reported that further work had been carried out along Platts Lane and that walkers were able to walk along the whole lane

20/032 LIST OF OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The report was noted.

20/033 CLERK’S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

20/033.1 E-Mail Correspondence

The following e-mail correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors who were provided with an opportunity to comment on them.

- a. Cheshire Association of Local Councils E Bulletins
- b. Update from the Information Commissioners Office.
- c. Invitation to sign up to Eddisbury Parliamentary bulletin
- d. Cross Lanes, Oscroft resident regarding cycling. A copy of the Neighbourhood Plan had been forwarded to the resident following receipt of the correspondence.

RESOLVED (20/033.1.1): to wait for Cheshire West and Chester Council to reach a decision regarding the application to add the footpath between Church Street and Cross Lanes to the Definitive Map before approaching the landowner.

RESOLVED (20/033.1.2): not to support any request for Cross Lanes to become a one way route.

It was considered that making the road one way only would:

- increase the speed of vehicles as drivers would not be expecting vehicles to be travelling towards them.
- Lead to vehicles having to use the busy A54 road to travel between Tarvin and Oscroft or Tarvin and Kelsall.

The meeting also noted that traffic using Cross Lanes appeared to be moving slower over the last two months, probably due to the increased usage by walkers and cyclists.

20/033.2 The meeting noted that the Clerk had written to the owner of the property next to Duckers Well thanking him for cutting back the overhanging hedging on the north side of Duckers Well.

20/034 FINANCIAL MATTERS**20/034.1 April 2020 Payments**

Councillor Ford had confirmed in writing that the April 2020 payments authorised at the Council Meeting had been made by the Clerk as approved by Council and that the payment between meetings was as stated below.

20/034.2 RESOLVED: that the following payment made since the April meeting be approved.

Payee	Detail	Amount to be Paid
VAT	Net Amount to Charge against budget	Budget available before payment
Sage UK Ltd	Payroll Software – Annual Licence – Year to Apr 2021	234.00
39.00	195.00	525.00

20/034.3 RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised, and that payments be made by internet banking:

Payee	Detail	Amount to be Paid
VAT	Net Amount to Charge against budget	Budget available before payment
Groundforce Landscape Ltd	Grass Cutting King George V Playing Field April 2020	358.09
59.68	298.41	3,239.24
Mrs P Twigg	Re-imburement of Expenditure - Red Hazard Warning Tape for Playing Field	9.99
0.00	9.99	1,500.00
JDH Business Services Ltd	Internal Audit Year to 31st March 2020	178.80
29.80	149.00	450.00

20/034.4 RESOLVED: that the Clerk run the payroll and make the appropriate payments as soon as the software would allow and before the end of May 2020.

20/034.5 Internal Audit Report

The report completed by the Internal Auditor was examined and agreed.

20/034.6 Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

The Annual Governance Statement was read, completed, and signed by the Chairman of the meeting and the Clerk.

20/034.7 Accounting Statements (Section 2)

The Accounting Statements for the year ended 31st March 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting and by the Clerk confirming that the return represented fairly the financial position of the Council.

20/035 TOPICS FOR TARVINONLINE

RESOLVED: that articles be written on footpaths and finance. An article would also be written on Platts Lane if there wasn't a recent one on Tarvinonline.

20/036 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 22nd June 2020 – 7.15pm