

DOWNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Virtual¹ Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26th October 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Mace (Chair) and Cllrs Brentor, Cornell, Hall, Pearce, Roberts and Randall.

In attendance: Mrs Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk

Also present: Two members of the public.

180.20 Public Question Time:

A member of the public thanked the Council for arranging for the drains to be cleared by Wiltshire Council's contractor.

181.20 Apologies

Cllr Watts was unable to access the meeting due to a technical computer issue. Cllr Mace proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apology and the reason for it be accepted.

182.20 Minutes

Cllr Hall proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 12th October be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

183.20 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

- a. **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.**

Cllr Brentor declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in planning application 20/08433/TCA and did not speak or vote when it was discussed.

- b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.**

No dispensation requests were received.

184.20 Business Raised During Public Question Time

Cllr Mace proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that following a brief discussion on the capacity of the drains in The Borough that the Clerk to raise the matter with the Highways Engineer with the suggestion that some of the older drain covers be changed.

¹ In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

185.20 Planning and Tree Works Applications

20/08433/TCA 19 Church Leat Downton - Fig Tree – Fell: Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to leave the decision on this application to the Tree Officer.

20/08943/TCA 34A High Street, Downton - Fell 1 Horse Chestnut Tree: Downton Parish Council RESOLVED to leave the decision on this application to the Tree Officer.

186.20 General Reserve Policy

Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Brentor seconded and it was RESOLVED that the General Reserve Policy be approved with one amendment to include the sentence:

‘The current level of General Reserves to be held by the Council is set at equal to between three and six months of predicted expenditure’.

187.20 Budget and Precept 2021/22

A lengthy discussion was held on the draft budget submitted by the Clerk for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. The Council had yet to receive the Tax Base from Wiltshire Council on which the final figure for the precept could be calculated. It was therefore agreed that the budget and precept be brought to the December meeting for approval when the tax base was known.

Cllr Hall proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that there should be no increase in the Band D figure for the precept for 2021/22 and additional reserves should be used to maintain the 2020/21 amount. It was also agreed that a press release be issued once the budget is approved to make residents aware of the agreed level of precept.

188.20 Allocated Reserves

Following a discussion, Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the allocated reserves as amended be approved.

189.20 Budget 2020/21

Cllr Mace proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the proposed virements be approved.

190.20 Date of next meeting

Cllr Mace confirmed the date of the next meeting as Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.30 pm and that it will be held on Zoom.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.