



Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 1st December 2022 at Bury Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Councillors Champness (Chair); Davis; Daykin; Labarte and Whyles

Apologies from: Councillors Driver, Marconi, Morrison and Rudd which Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept.

Also in attendance: Mike Simpson (Clerk) and two members of the public

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest, Notification of Changes to Members' Interests and consider any requests for a dispensation.

Councillor Davis declared an interest in planning application SDNP/22/05151/TCA and excused herself from any discussion and vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the Council Meeting held on 7th November 2022

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 7th November 2022 as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to five minutes at the discretion of the Chair)

One member of the public asked a question about the Gigabit Broadband Scheme. The Chair responded saying that, although it is not on the agenda, he would provide a quick update and advised works had commenced in the village and hopefully should be finished in a few months.

5. Planning Applications

SDNP/22/05069/HOUS: Burton Manor West Burton Lane Bury West Sussex RH20 1HB
Proposal: First floor infill extension to replace existing balcony.

Councillors **AGREED** to remain neutral on this application on the condition that the proposed glazing is changed to match the existing.

SDNP/22/05151/TCA: Bury House Cottage The Street Bury Pulborough West Sussex RH20 1PF
Proposal: Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Silver Birch tree (quoted as T4).

Councillors **AGREED** to support this application

SDNP/22/04958/TCA: White Horse House The Street Bury West Sussex RH20 1PF
Proposal: Notification of intention to crown lift by 3m (above ground level) and reduce by 2m north east and south east sectors lower lateral branches.

Councillors **AGREED** to support this application

6. Budget and finance

(a) To consider adopting a budget for 2023-24

The clerk presented the draft budget which Councillors had reviewed in advance of the meeting. The current proposal would result in an increase in precept of 10% in line with inflation. However, the clerk suggested that the parish tree survey may not cost as much as initially thought and could bring the precept increased down to around 7%. Councillors **AGREED** to defer any decision until the meeting on 9th January 2023.

(b) To consider purchasing a marquee tent

Councillors considered purchasing a marquee tent for future Council events at a cost of £667.99 (inc VAT) and **AGREED** that Squires Cottages Charity should fund the purchase as it related to Bury Green and would help to keep the precept down.

7. Village Hall Refurbishment

To receive a statement on the public consultation regarding the village hall refurbishment

Councillor Whyles informed the Council that the consultation had been running for three weeks and they had received about 70 responses, most of which were in favour except for four or five which said they would like to support but required further information. In response, the working group asked residents to write to the clerk with their questions and had already held some meetings which had been constructive. The communications resulted in identifying three main problems with the current plans. Firstly, the size of the kitchen was no better than the existing one so the architect had revised the plans to provide a bigger one. Secondly, was the impact of the upstairs office space on the car park, which was already busy enough, so it was suggested that the Council revise the plans to provide a two-bedroom flat which was more likely to obtain planning permission, reduce demand for the car park and provide a revenue stream. The last concern was whether the parish needed such a large project during the current economic climate to which Councillor Whyles said it was too early on in the project to determine. However, he did suggest that a phasing approach may address these concerns so the whole project was not achieved at once but did warn this route could lose impetus and reduce motivation. He added the Council had decided to delay the public meetings and drop in sessions with residents scheduled for 8th and 9th December to allow further dialogue with residents and planned to have them in the spring 2023. The Duke of Norfolk Estate had donated £1,000 towards the project and that some additional expenditure might be required for the designs in next year's budget.

8. Police Liaison

To consider appointing a police liaison to attend Monthly Inspector Meetings

The Chair advised that the Council had been invited to monthly 'Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector & Parish council meetings' and asked if anyone would like to attend or whether it could be delegated to a resident. The Clerk said he would check if a resident was able to attend but, if not, he would attend the first meeting on 9th December.

9. The Link

To discuss future Council contributions to The Link

The Chair suggested that the Council needed to make future contributions to editions of The Link to be properly represented as, in the past, the editors had used meeting minutes to provide updates which was not ideal. He advised that Councillor Marconi has volunteered to provide the content.

10. Village Hall Request

To consider a request from Dorset House school to use the village hall in an emergency

The Chair informed Councillors that Dorset House School had asked if they could use the village hall in case of an emergency. Whilst Councillors were happy to accommodate the school, they requested further clarification on what constituted an emergency and also suggested it was a chance to discuss the Council's Emergency Plan with the school. The clerk said he would respond to the school and arrange a meeting.

11. Policies

To review the Council's communications policy

The Council agreed to defer this discussion until the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm