

BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Broomfield Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

20/138.	<p>Members attending Chairman Cllr Barnes Councillors Blake, Daden, Faulds, Hubble, Hance, Howell, McKie, Mercer, Steed, Thomson. Also present The Clerk, County Councillor Aldridge, City Cllrs Knight & Steel and five members of the public.</p> <p>Resolved. Apologies for absence from Cllr Need were accepted. Proposed Cllr Faulds seconded Cllr Steed and carried unanimously</p>
20/139.	<p>There were no Declarations of Interest from Councillors.</p>
20/140.	<p>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council's Meeting 19th August 2020.</p> <p>Amendment. Minute 91 to read 'that no evidence was provided that the surveyor was instructed as per the council's agreement.' Proposed Cllr Daden. With no seconder the amendment failed.</p> <p>Amendment. Minute 92 to read 'advised the Council that the vote to uphold a Freedom of Information decision taken without members viewing supporting documents.' Proposed Cllr Daden. With no seconder, the motion failed.</p> <p>Resolved: The minutes of Full Council Meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr seconded Cllr Barnes Faulds and carried one abstention.</p>
20/141.	<p>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council's Meeting 30th September 2020.</p> <p>Amendment. Minute 106 to be amended 'air quality monitoring will be commencing 2021' Proposed Cllr Daden seconded Cllr Hance and carried unanimously.</p> <p>Amendment. Minute 106 to be amended 'City Council is considering opening a drop-in centre to help youth in the city.' Proposed Cllr Daden seconded Cllr Faulds and carried with one abstention.</p> <p>Resolved: The minutes of Full Council Meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Blake and carried with six in favour.</p>
20/142.	<p>To approve the minutes of Broomfield Parish Council's Meeting 21st October 2020. Cllr Steed confirmed that he did send his apologies in advance.</p> <p>Amendment. Minute 133/20, add Cllr Daden reminded the council that the Clinical Commissioning Group required a minimum of 10,000 patients and open space would be sacrificed. Proposed Cllr Daden, with no seconder the motion failed.</p>

	<p>Resolved: The minutes of Full Council Meeting are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Blake and carried with one against and one abstaining.</p>
20/143.	<p>Public Question Time.</p> <p>Two residents wished to speak about the cycleway and one was attending to listen in on the proposal for a new demountable building.</p>
20/144.	<p>Receive report from County Councillor for items not on the agenda.</p> <p>Essex County Councillor Aldridge gave an update on CoVID infections stating that the infection rates have dropped, but the situation changing rapidly. The County Council is hoping that the statistics will justify returning to tier one after lockdown but remind everyone to follow the rules. There are still outbreaks in care homes and the winter season will bring higher demand for medical services.</p> <p>The school summer camps were successful and will be repeated in all holidays if possible. A Parish Councillor noted that the local camp required attendees to bring their own lunch and pay to attend. Cllr Aldridge will check to see if this was a different programme and report back.</p> <p>Funding is being sought to provide laptops for children and the County Council has made a request for people to donate their surplus laptops. Old laptops are acceptable, but equipment that is too old to run the necessary software will be stripped for spares which will be sold.</p> <p>A Parish Councillor asked if the Parish Council could approve an amendment to the Broomfield Times article on Broomfield Place to confirm that the land may still be for sale? Cllr Aldridge confirmed that the land could be purchased by anyone who has the money to do so.</p> <p>The Pegasus crossing at Channels toward the pedestrian end of Mill Lane starting soon.</p>
20/145.	<p>Receive report from City Councillors for items not on the agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Knight gave an update on the CoVID infections reporting that the Chelmsford District infection rate has plateaued at 106/100,000 for the last three weeks. This is an increase on the September rate of 10/100,000. The lowest rate in Essex is Maldon at 50/100,000. In this wave of infections, the young are being infected more than the old.</p> <p>8% of critical care beds are currently occupied, compared with 50% at height of the first wave.</p> <p>The City Life newsletter has already reported that the City Council has a £13m deficit which is the same amount as the total domestic council tax receipt.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the City Council could not accept the surplus seesaws from the play area upgrade, but another organisation may be interested in taking them.</p>

	<p>Chelmsford City Council services are continuing as normal but gyms and leisure centres are closed but it was noted that there had been no infections had been traced to the Riverside Gym.</p> <p>The Christmas Panto may start on 3rd December.</p> <p>The Hub won't be offering food but CVS are still operating and food banks are stocked.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch operation 'Overwatch' was a success and the City Council team has been doubled in number. There has been a 25% decrease in crime, but residents were warned that Broomfield is being targeted.</p> <p>Hollow Lane is still a matter of concern. Works have finished, so the traffic order that closed the road has ended and the road is open. Consultation on permanent closure has ended and the majority of those living on the road want it closed. If this happens, parking may be a concern, but a decision is expected in the next few weeks.</p>
20/146.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>An invitation to subscribe to Watchtower was noted.</p> <p>Correspondence on the resurfacing of cycleway was considered in item 20/152</p> <p>The council noted the confirmation of full cover for legal expenses.</p> <p>Correspondence on <i>tree for life</i> was noted</p>
20/147.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>The public consultation and public sector survey was noted.</p>
20/148.	<p>To note financial reports for April 2020.</p> <p>To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for April 2019.</p> <p>To note cashbook, income and expenditure for April 2020.</p> <p>Resolved: The Council approves the financial records for April 2020 noting the reconciliation figure of £225,387.74. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr McKie and carried unanimously.</p>
20/149.	<p>To note the tax base has increased by 168 from 2362.32 to 2530.80.</p> <p>This will represent an increase in precept of £9,344 to £140,358 on an unchanged band D equivalent of £55.46. The Clerk advised the council that it may be useful to lower the precept slightly to £55.12 as a higher precept would take the council into a more detailed reporting regime.</p>
20/150.	<p>To note progress towards playground refurbishment.</p> <p>The work will be starting on 11th January when the relation-ship is delivered from Norway. Work will take three weeks to complete, weather and lockdowns permitting. Cllr Daden asked if the gate to the Pavilion access could be repaired at the same time. It was confirmed that the gate was not broken.</p>
20/151.	<p>Youth Club update and approval of specification for publication on contract finder.</p> <p>Councillors expressed some concern about siting the building behind the MUGA, asking if other sites been considered. The proposed location would spoil the view, so thought should be given to placing it lengthwise on the north end of the field. It was confirmed that the location had not been finalised, so potential bidders could be asked for their guidance in choosing the best position. An offer has been received for architectural assistance from a</p>

	<p>resident. It was agreed that lighting and location would be important to the success of the project.</p> <p>A resident expressed concern about the erection of another building on the DS site. Although the establishment of a Youth Centre was an important and useful project, the David Smith field should be preserved as an open space. Concern was expressed about the sustainability of the building and the gov proposed regulations</p> <p>The Council thanked Cllr Hance for the impressive work done on preparing the specification and agreed to post the opportunity on Contract Finder.</p> <p>Resolved. The council approves for submission to Contract Finder, a draft specification for a 6-bay demountable installed and fully connected with a full turnkey solution. Proposed Cllr Barnes seconded Cllr Faulds and carried unanimously.</p>
20/152.	<p>To consider complaints about works to the cycleway and to note corrective action.</p> <p>Following work done to add a tar and chip surface to the cycleway, a resident created a petition for local residents to complain that the path was no longer fit for purpose. Their view was that the path was expensive and the changes made it unsuitable for general use, particularly for children learning to cycle. The Council was asked for clarity about the decision to add the tar and chip.</p> <p>The meeting was informed that the excess gravel had now been swept off the path which now had the right balance of grip and smoothness. Cllr McKie reported that the surface had been tested by a wheelchair user who reported that the surface gave better traction. While the path was being swept, several residents stated that they preferred the gravel surface.</p> <p>One resident attended the meeting to express his disappointment with the finish after the path had been swept and asked for further corrective action to be taken.</p> <p>The council noted the complaints and agreed the original work was not to standard. Cllr Blake reported that a working party of councillors attended over the weekend and swept the path of excess gravel so the surface is now the right texture for all uses. The gravel was cleared into the soil and would not cause a problem when the next grass cut was taken.</p>
20/153.	<p>To note the findings of complaint investigation.</p> <p>The Council noted the report from the Chairman and agreed that the matter was beyond the Council's control, but understood the need for the Council to acknowledge the problem that was causes. The Clerk confirmed that all complainants had been written-to, and the main complainant was happy with the resolution offered.</p>
20/154.	<p>To note the creation of independent Bridges Broomfield Community Consortium.</p> <p>The Council was advised that the new consortium would work to bring more facilities to the community of Broomfield by acting as an independent organisation.</p>
20/155.	<p>To note the resignation of the Clerk and to consider actions to appoint a successor.</p> <p>It was agreed that the decision is important to all of the Councillors and some who were not in the Finance and General Purposes Committee expressed an interest in taking part. It was confirmed that the initial work would be done by the Committee, but the recruitment would</p>

	<p>be a matter for the whole council. It was noted that the terms of reference for the personnel committee covered recruitment and the following amendment was proposed</p> <p>Amendment. The work is done by the personnel proposed Cllr Daden with no seconder the motion failed.</p> <p>In the understanding that the F&GP Committee would do the initial work, with the Full Council making the final decision, the motion was accepted unchanged.</p> <p>Motion. The council will delegate the specification and recruitment of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Proposed Cllr Steed seconded Cllr Barnes and carried unanimously.</p>
20/156.	To note minutes from the following Committees:
156.1.	Finance Committee. No meeting.
156.2.	Broomfield Village Hall Committee. The August meeting was noted
156.3.	<p>Village Amenities Committee The September meeting was noted.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the trees along the allotment boundary will be trimmed with 50% of the expense contributed by Marriages as the owner of the adjacent land.</p>
156.4.	<p>Property & Planning Committee.</p> <p>There were no decisions to consider.</p> <p>To note the minutes of the NP working group</p> <p>To note the revised timetable for the NP submission.</p>
20/157.	<p>Planning enforcement</p> <p>The report from the Planning Enforcement Team was noted.</p>
20/158.	<p>To receive reports from Representatives to outside bodies/charities.</p> <p>There were no reports to consider.</p>
20/159.	<p>Items for next agenda</p> <p>To consider improvements to Church Green.</p> <p>Budget-setting.</p> <p>Recruitment of new clerk.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Invite rep from CCG.</p> <p>Access to pavilion.</p> <p>Next meeting December 16th 2020.</p>