

FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Vanya Body (Chair), Cllr Steve Heppenstall (Vice chair) Cllr Claire Wilson, Cllr Toby Till, Cllr Arran Miles, Cllr Rob SMith, Sarah Whatley (Clerk)

The Parish Meeting began at 7.30pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr MercerBanks due to illness.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Body for planning application at Hill House.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November:** Cllr Body approved and subsequently signed after the meeting.
4. **Matters Outstanding:** Emergency Plan - Cllr Till stated he was currently working on the plans and they would be ready within the next 2 weeks. **TT**

Cllr Body gave an update on the water meadow board walk quotes that Martin Gibson has been working on and explained he had found a cheaper decking mounted on sleepers which would reduce the costs. The application for the Marlborough Area Board grant of £5k will be submitted later this week. There was some uncertainty as to whether ARK still have any of our 'Pocket Parks' grant of £5k which was paid to them last year so this needs to be clarified. The 10k lottery grant has been ring fenced and is still sitting in the Parish account. Cllr Body also suggested it would be prudent to engage a surveyor to properly mark out the boundary of the land belonging to 11 Manor Park so there can be no future disputes. **VB**

5. **Planning:** 20/10690/TCA Hill House - there has been a new application for a two storey garage to replace the existing old building - No objections from the Parish Council
6. **Finance:** Clerk Sarah Whatley reported on invoices paid and the current balances in both accounts.
7. **Precept:** There was a detailed discussion about the Parish finances and the forthcoming precept request for the new financial year 2021/22 and after lengthy debate, it was agreed to request an increase of £1500 to £9000 due to an increase in costs for grass cutting and other expenditure and the expected £4k contribution for the Eastern gateway in May.
8. **Clerk vacancy:** Clerk Sarah Whatley will be stepping down at the end of March 2021 after almost 3 years as clerk. Advertisements will be posted with WALC for a replacement. **SW**

9. **Any other business/Correspondence received** : Several emails have been exchanged between Cllr Body and Mr & Mrs Dixon at Dunbrook in Manor Park. They are currently struggling to sell their house which they report is because of the clearance work that has been done on the water meadow making their garden more exposed to the noisy A4. They requested permission to plant some hedging or erect some screening on the bank opposite their house. A discussion was held among the Councillors, but all agreed to decline the request mainly as the stream banks were cleared and restored 18 months ago and any new planting would require future maintenance which the Council did not have the budget for. Secondly they did not want to set a precedence for other residents along the stream to make similar requests.
10. **Public Forum:** Mr & Mrs Carlon from Green Farm Rise raised the issue of a very large overgrown hedge on a piece of verge technically 'owned' by Wiltshire Council which is not being adequately maintained by them. It was agreed to make a request to the Parish Steward to cut back the hedge. If this was not forthcoming, further requests would be made to Wiltshire Council. **SW**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 8th March 2021 and may be via Zoom depending on Covid restrictions.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Note: All initials in Bold Type require Action

Signed.......... Chairman Date.....**08/03/21**.....