

BINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7th January 2020

In attendance – Cllrs D Day, M Flaxman (Chairman) and D Burton - Clerk Karen Parnell – Two members of the public were present.

1. Apologies
Cllr Tom Lloyd - WCC Cllr Mark Cargill
2. Declarations of interest on items on the Agenda
None
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2019
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed as such by the chairman.
4. Public participation – to receive any questions from the public (15 minutes maximum).

Pavements and the road surface are in poor condition. Both have been reported to WCC for action.

Speeding figures are being updated and reported by the use of a filter.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere; for information only and are items not on the Agenda:
None
6. County and District Councillor's report: Cllr Mark Cargill was not present but sent the following report:

SDC budget 2020/21

District & Borough Councils are going to receive less grant money from Government over the coming period. To compensate SDC has had to assess where it can both save money and also generate an income to off-set the upcoming deficit.

Facts:

- SDC is obliged by law to provide certain services such as emptying recycling /general waste bins and looking after the homeless. There are other services SDC chooses to provide/fund, such as green bins, UBUS, Citizens Advice and leisure centres
- Only 40% of SDC's income is from the Council Tax. The rest comes from Central Government
- By 2025, the Government grants SDC receive will fall to zero (Revenue Support Grant has already fallen to zero and New Homes Bonus is likely to stop by 2025) This equates to a loss in income of approx. £7 million/year
- SDC can (as with any council) only increase Council Tax by either £5 for a Band D property or a maximum of 2%/year. Hence, in real terms, income from Council Tax is capped
- SDC's reserves are being used to fund the gap. By law, however, we must retain a minimum; for SDC that is approximately £2.5m
- Of the Council Tax paid, SDC only receives 7.8%, the rest going to WCC (77.3%), Parish Councils (3.4%) and the PCC (11.5%). Note that SDC collects the monies for all the other authorities.

To try and generate a surplus, SDC has recently introduced a green bin charge. This may not be popular. To retain this discretionary service, however, it now needs to pay its way.

The green bin charging is contentious but I hope the notes help to explain that there will be a hole in the finances around 2024-25 unless we act now.

I would appreciate it if the PC is advised that we have anticipated this funding issue and being a prudent authority, have put in place strategies to eventually become as self-sufficient an authority as possible (less reliant on government funding). This was suggested by our peer review last year.

Grant funding from government is reducing and will not increase in the foreseeable future. We have no desire to cut services but must make the council as efficient as possible to retain our current services.

7. Planning

All planning applications have been advised to the PC for comment prior to this meeting.

Application(s) reference: 19/03517/AGNOT

Proposed : Steel framed portal building
At : Binton Hill Farm, Binton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9TW
For : Mr Stephen Baylis P.E and R Bayslis and Son

Application(s) reference: 19/03478/FUL

Proposed : Two storey rear extension, replacement open porch, matching front and rear dormer windows and a driveway with access from the highway
At : 4 Church Bank, Binton, CV37 9TH,
For : Mr D Whitby

8. Speed Watch Group

No report

9. Payments

Clerks Salary and Expenses £ 385.00
1 & 1 Internet £ 43.16

10. Exchange of information

A potential client of the village hall would wish to incorporate furniture and this was deemed not to be viable.

A gated area within the parish was discussed. No action to be taken by the PC.

Date of next meeting.

10th March 2020

Meeting closed 8.00pm