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**Minutes of a meeting of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council Community and Environment Committee held at The Sambrook Centre on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 7pm.**

Present: Cllrs G Sinclair, L Powers, H Unwin, A Watkin, Vaughan-Hodkinson (Chair)

Also present: M Turner - Parish Clerk (taking notes), J Creed - Environmental Officer.

Public open session – 9 members of the pubic were present

There was extensive discussion of planning application TWC/2020/1056. Members of the public were concerned that, in broad practical terms, there was insufficient infrastructure capacity to accommodate 350 houses, while existing properties and businesses would be adversely affected by the proposal.

There was concern raised that the majority of the public were probably unaware of the full impact of the application and that, on trying to engage with the planning process, previously key documents that residents had been working from, were now being deemed out-of-date or redundant by the Officers managing the process.

It was noted that a consultation relating to the application was currently in train (due to close on 14 September 2022) but that it could only be reached via the Portal, which many members of the public found difficult to access. The Clerk confirmed that had not been in receipt of any notification that a consultation was in progress.

It was agreed that The Clerk would contact the two Officers managing the application and seek clarity and information on the consultation as a matter of urgency. Cllr Vaughan Hodkinson confirmed that The Clerk should convene an extraordinary meeting of the Community and Environment Committee for 13 September 2022.

The public session ended.

**CE/22/20 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C Lloyd and H Evans. Cllr A Watkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item CE/22/23 by virtue of being an allotment holder.

**CE/22/21 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr H Unwin and seconded by Cllr L Powers and unanimously **RESOLVED** - **that the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee held on 5 July, be approved with two spelling amendments as a true record, and signed by the Chair.**

Matters arising – no matters arising.

**CE/22/22 CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk outlined the Health and Safety issues at Brindleyford MUGA and Beckbury Drive Play Area.

It was proposed by Cllr S Vaughan Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr G Sinclair and unanimously **RESOLVED** - **that the quote of £850.00 (excl VAT) for fencing work at Brindleyford be accepted and the work commissioned as soon as possible.**

It was proposed by Cllr S Vaughan Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr L Powers and unanimously **RESOLVED** - **that the quote of £400.00 (incl. VAT) for surface repair work at Beckbury Drive be accepted and the work commissioned as soon as possible, once the Clerk had further investigated the matter of the guarantee relating to the surface.**

Councillors noted the matter of the cost-of-living crisis which, it was agreed, would be taken to Full Council. Immediate ideas for consideration included the provision of hot drinks, soup and activities.

The maintenance work required at The Sambrook Centre was noted. The Clerk agreed to seek quotes for repairs.

**CE/22/23 ALLOTMENTS**

1. Cllr Vaughan Hodkinson introduced the revised contract that she proposed. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would bring this back to the next meeting as a formal paper for formal adoption. The Clerk also circulated a n outline letter of welcome for new allotment holders. It was agreed that this was a good idea that could be further developed.
2. The Environmental Officer confirmed that there were 9 empty plots available, ready to be occupied. It was agreed that these would be let immediately.
3. Members of the Allotment Association were keen to see empty plots filled and noted the clearance work undertaken by the Environmental Officer. They were concerned that plots were being held but not cultivated. Members also suggested that, if plots became vacant and needed extensive working for them to become productive, that the period between the plot being taken on and the time of payment should be rent free. This was agreed by the meeting.
4. Due to time pressures and the lack of availability of a supporting paper, this item was deferred to the next meeting.
5. It was proposed by Cllr S Vaughan Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr L Powers and, with 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention, **RESOLVED** – **to hold current fees at their current rates.**
6. There was extensive discussion around the matter of waste at the allotments. It was noted that it was essential to ensure that whatever solution was arrived at to deal with the different sorts of waste that might be generated, the organisation thereof needed to meet with those laws that apply in this matter. It was agreed to have a separate discuss about this matter and bring it back to a later meeting.

**CE/22/24 EVENTS**

1. It was proposed by Cllr S Vaughan Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr L Powers and unanimously **RESOLVED** - **that an Events Working Group be formed to support the work of the Community Project Officer.**
2. It was discussed that, in looking to address the imbalance between the events that the Parish Council presents in Stirchley against those in Brookside, different approaches could be considered over and above a simple mirroring of events in each area.

It was proposed by Cllr Vaughan Hodkinson and seconded by Cllr L Powers and unanimously **RESOLVED** - **that there should be a balanced approach to event provision between Brookside and Stirchley by whatever approach.**

**CE/22/25 PLANTER OUTSIDE THE SAMBROOK CENTRE**

An outline proposal for a planter outside the Sambrook centre was given by Cllr Turley. Discussion took place over the siting of a planter in terms of ease of access to the roof from it, planting and future maintenance. It was agreed to take the matter to next Full Council meeting.

**CE/22/26 GRANTS**

The Committee welcomed the letter of thanks that had been received from Home Start, Telford and Wrekin, for the grant it had received from the Parish Council.

**CE/22/27** **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk outlined an email relating to the maintenance of the pool at Ludford Drive to Councillors. It was agreed that, if funds were being sought, a formal application for a grant needed to be submitted. The Clerk would address this.

**CE/22/28 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

The committee noted the decisions made on the planning applications highlighted and in particular that relating to TWC/2020/1056, discussed in the public open session at the beginning of the meeting.

**CE/22/29 COUNCILLORS REPORTS.**

Cllr G Sinclair informed the meeting that a new path that was being installed around Holmer Lake was close to completion.

Meeting closed at 8.11pm