Full Council Meeting
Birchington Parish Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 18.30 hrs

Present: Chairman Cllr Neville Hudson
Vice Chairman Cllr Marcel Pooke
Cllr. Nick Blankley
Cllr Phil Fellows
Cllr. Nicola Hayes
Cllr Max Houghton
Cllr. Sandra McCreddie
Cllr Geraldine Watson (by phone)
Cllr Robert Wright

Caroline Vincent, Clerk to the Council
Members of the public 0

Apologies: Cllr Linda Wright

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest

The Chairman Cllr N Hudson started the meeting by welcoming everyone to our first virtual meeting, which was advertised on Birchington Parish Council’s website and Facebook page. The agenda was not placed on noticeboards due to current restrictions. All members were invited, and all paperwork circulated electronically. The meeting will follow the usual format and members of the public were also invited to attend via the website and Facebook.

MINUTES FC2020/01
The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th March 2020 were presented for approval. Councillor P Fellows proposed, and Councillor R Wright seconded, all agreed. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes.

Chairman’s Report FC2020/02 – to receive a report from the Chairman.
Councillor N Hudson started his report by saying these were trying times with the Coronavirus situation and restrictions upon us all. NALC have worked incredibly hard to change the current rules to enable virtual meetings, these new rulings will be in place until May 2021.

As part of the new rules, Parish councils do not have to hold an Annual meeting this year in May. Cllr N Hudson asked members if they were happy for the existing Chairman/Vice Chairman and current committees and chairmen of the committees to remain the same until May 2021 and asked for members approval.
Resolved: Cllr R Wright proposed for existing Chairman/Vice Chairman, Committees and Chairmen to remain the same until May 2021 and we will not hold an Annual meeting this year, Cllr N Hayes seconded, and all members present agreed.

**Annual Insurance FC2020/03 – to seek approval for quotes received from Zurich and Came & Company**

The Clerk read out that the current insurers Came and Company quoted £1,395.72. Zurich have quoted £925.67 or an LTA of £845.71 per year for the next 3 years including all taxes and includes events that we are holding this year.

The Clerk was asked to circulate to members the outline of the policies to compare. The Clerk will ask Came and Company for an LTA.

**Resolved: Cllr Hudson proposed the Clerk to send copies of the quotes to members and to have members observations within 7 days as the insurance is due on the 1st May and for a decision to be made by Cllr N Hudson and the Clerk based on members comments.**

Cllr N Hudson discussed the CCTV maintenance rolling contract, this year it is £755.46 plus VAT, advised members this was a minor increase from last year and is the company who installed the system and who BPC have used for a number of years.

**Resolved: All members agreed to continue with our current CCTV provider.**

**Addendum to this item: Cllr N Hudson has apologised for the above item containing incorrect information to members at the meeting on the 21st April. It is not the same company who arranged the original installation but the original CCTV engineer who now works for our current provider and the price is the same as last year.**

**Neighbourhood Plan FC2020/04 – to receive an update**

Cllr N Hudson advised members that the inspectors report is with TDC for the District plan which will be going to cabinet soon with recommendations to approve the report. This will then have a bearing on the BPC Neighbourhood Plan which will allow us to report further once a decision has been made. The draft Local Plan has been circulated to members.

Cllr P Fellows commented that the Local Plan will be going to cabinet this week and should be adopted at this meeting on Thursday, he also advised that numbers have been slowed down for building within the first few years.

Cllr M Houghton queried if this would affect plans for the 106 monies and to the overall new strategy of BPC that is currently being worked on. Members felt it would not affect this but a shopping list of monies for 106 should be put together as soon as possible.

The draft BPC Neighbourhood Plan is still being assessed and Cllr R Wright will contact for a progress report within the next 2/3 weeks.

**BPC Strategy FC2020/05 – to seek approval to set up Finance & Policy as one committee and to seek approval for future meetings.**
Cllr N Blankley and Cllr N Hayes have been working on the BPC strategy and the recommendation to consider is to set up a Finance and Policy committee to be in addition to the current committees with a view to a structural migration at the Annual meeting in 2021. Finance and Policy will be part of the steppingstones towards achieving this and for projects to be dealt with in our current committees for this year.

**Resolved: All members agreed with the recommendation for the setup of the new Finance and Policy committee.**

Concern was shown how 10 members will be able to achieve the tasks within the strategy and that organisations would be called on to help and would this be governed? Cllr N Hudson said this will be dealt with at the first meeting within the Finance & Policy committee. This committee will include Cllr N Blankley, Cllr N Hayes, Cllr N Hudson, and Cllr M Pooke and asked for another member to volunteer to join. A report will be given at the next Full Council meeting in a month’s time.

**Clerk Correspondence - FC2020/06**

**To receive any correspondence. To consider any matters.**

The Clerk explained all correspondence had been circulated.

1. Email from South Eastern Railway, Community Relations Manager asking if he can help with community initiatives and possible use of any empty space at the station. He will be contacting us later in the year.

   **Resolved: No action required.**

2. Email from Power for People and request to join the Local Electricity Bill, resolution required.

   **Resolved: Members agreed an expression of interest at this stage, Cllr M Houghton abstained.**

3. Email from British Red Cross asking for a donation to support essential services, approval for a donation required.

   **Resolved: Members felt BPC should concentrate on organisations within the village for funding and put a policy together.**

4. KALC subscription, approval required for the sum of £1,818.00

   **Resolved: Members agreed to continue with the KALC membership.**

5. Quote for an upgrade to lease an A3 printer, £135 per quarter, approval required.

   **Resolved: Councillor R Wright proposed in favour, Cllr P Fellows seconded, and all agreed to upgrade to an A3 printer lease.**

6. BAM Nuttal, Network Rail, reconstructing the railway bridge in May which will require a road/pathway closure, details on our website.

7. Email from Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance thanking BPC for our kind donation.

   **Resolved: No action required.**

8. KALC emails which are circulated when received.

The Clerk was asked about the asset transfers and correspondence from our solicitor. The Clerk replied that there was an issue with the transfer paperwork that needs to be amended by TDC as the paperwork will not currently be accepted by the Land Registry as it is. The TDC solicitor has responded that he has been working on COVID19 regulations for the council so work is currently behind but will advise as soon as possible.
Cllr M Pooke spoke to BAM, suggesting they work with BPC and the developers, as there is concern that expenditure, ‘now’ on the bridge, could potentially be wasted in the near future as a new road will be built. The officer at Bam has been very helpful with this suggestion. The NH Plan administrator and the developers will also be speaking with Network Rail and try to arrange a meeting.

Cllr N Hudson commented that a defibrillator had been agreed at a previous meeting and Cllr R Wright has acquired a telephone box for £1 to place the defibrillator in and asked about the possibility of painting this yellow as others have been across the country. Cllr N Hudson handed over to Cllr R Wright who said he has spoken to the Conservation Officer and agreed it is fine to change the colour as the structure will stay the same, this phone box is listed. All that is needed is if the colour is approved BPC will have to apply for listed consent with TDC. A sign will be placed at the top of the telephone box to say defibrillator which will be supplied by the defibrillator company.

Resolved: Cllr R Wright proposed the telephone box be painted yellow, Cllr M Pooke seconded, all members agreed.

Public Question Time/Discussion on agenda items received from the public FC2020/07

There were no members of the public present.

Reports from District Councillors – District Councillors to report as appropriate. FC2020/08

Cllr P Fellows reported from TDC on issues with missed green waste collections which were due to staff sickness which has now been collected and going well. Complaints of bonfires and complaints about the rubbish tips being closed which comes under KCC.

Cllr Fellows attended a TDC briefing and explained TDC have contacted KCC regarding the closed rubbish tips but are only receiving a generic message and cannot get through. Tips are closed due to social distancing, TDC are finding it difficult to understand why the tips were closed so quickly. It is believed that the increase of bonfires and fly tipping is due to the tip closures, re-opening of the tips would resolve both issues.

Dog walking restrictions will still apply due to the blue flag measures in place which would be affected if dog walking rules on the beaches were to be relaxed after 1st May.

Cllr Fellows has been attending regular TDC briefings and updates everyone regularly, so far, the cost of COVID19 has cost TDC 4.5 million pounds. TDC have only received £80,000 from government funding. This will cause a knock-on effect throughout the rest of the year with so much of the current budget already being used.

TDC are helping vulnerable people including the 1,000 shielded but also those classed as second shield vulnerable people including those pregnant and with less significant illnesses. A further group of vulnerable people including those who are unemployed and self-employed have also started to contact TDC for help. Those with mental health issues are also vulnerable but are not necessarily coming forward for help.

There has been some fly tipping, but no major increases and Environmental officers have been checking daily, particularly on country lane routes.

Comments about parking tickets have been made but Enforcement officers have only issued 137 tickets within the last 4 weeks, whereas
this amount would usually be issued within a day. They are concentrating on hospital routes and dust cart routes to keep them clear.

There have been several complaints regarding noisy neighbours and people holding parties and BBQ’s. A stronger message will be going out regarding bonfires as they have been an issue.

KCC Cllr Emma Dawson said she will bring up the tip closure at her County meeting this Wednesday.

**Reports from KCC Councillor FC2020/09**

KCC Councillor’s to report as appropriate –

Cllr E Dawson was welcomed to BPC’s first virtual meeting and started her report by thanking all of the voluntary groups, without these groups a lot of people would be suffering including those with mental health issues which has increased with the current scary situation. The County meeting is on the 22nd where Cllr Dawson will learn more information and report at our next meeting.

A KCC Highways member of staff has produced 1,000 face shields and has donated them to Doctors surgeries and QEQM staff. KCC has also been asked to provide face masks to social care workers and KCC had ordered 1 million masks but will not have an indefinite stock for the future as KCC finances are crumbling and there is concern over money to continue to provide the masks. Demand is very high and one small provider said they get through 9,000 masks in a week. KCC have already spent 39 million, the government are offering 1.6 billion to local government and further helping to alleviate councils cash flow by allowing local authorities to defer 2.6 billion in Business Rates payments and bringing forwards grant funding for social care which will assist in the short term. Cllr Dawson stressed we should all be prepared for the aftermath of this pandemic and we will all need to pull together. KCC currently have a recruitment drive for social care professionals, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Mental Health professionals, there is an online application form at kent.gov/careers. Cllr Hudson thanked Cllr Dawson for her report.

Cllr R Wright questioned by masks could not be re-used and sanitised?

Cllr Dawson explained that masks can only be used for 3 hours due to the moisture build up from your own breathing and cannot be cleaned, only plastic shields can be cleaned.

**Finance Requests/Cheques/Transactions/Bank Reconciliation FC2020/10**

To receive and approve the payments schedule/bank reconciliation for March and to be signed by 2 members.

Resolved: Quarterly accounts have been circulated along with the payments schedule and bank reconciliations for March, which will be signed physically when this is possible.

Cllr Hudson finished by talking about the VE Day celebrations and has received a letter from Bruno Peeks confirming the cancellation of all events and that they are not even considering a VJ Day, which is very sad but all due to social distancing.

It was suggested that some will be having a cup of tea outside in their own gardens to celebrate. This news is very disappointing for veterans.
Cllr M Houghton mentioned that one of four veterans within Birchington Ron Deerman, who was a pilot in the war sadly passed away recently. It is hoped to have a memorial service for him later in the year. With VJ Day on the 15th August, RBL would still be looking to have a service in Margate by Ben Crick and the RBL would be having a lunch on this day at the Seaview Hotel all being well.

Cllr Hudson finished the meeting by thanking Cllr G Watson for all her hard efforts for the VE Day event, which sadly would not now be held. The Clerk was asked to find out if TDC will refund our event fees.

Signed:
Chairman:
Date: