



PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 24th March 2021 – VIRTUAL REMOTE MEETING

Present: Councillor Edwards (Chairman) & Willey (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Ellis, Fletcher, Oakes, Robinson, White.

Also in attendance: Christopher Cook - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Members of the public: 2 – Sam Tamlin – County Councillor (Saltash West Ward) &
Martin Worth – Cllr & Chairman (Landulph Parish Council)

Members of the public were permitted to speak on each Agenda item for a period of 3 minutes. This meeting was advertised as a Public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media and members of the public. The public were advised that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public would not be filmed, it could not be guaranteed.

Minutes 24th March 2021

702/2021 Chair's Welcome & Announcements

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) welcomed residents to the Public Meeting of the Parish Council and delivered Health and Safety housekeeping rules. No members of the public intended recording the Public Meeting. The Chairman explained that the Meeting was being held remotely using Microsoft Teams in which Residents could participate.

703 Public participation

County Cllr Sam Tamlin (Saltash West Ward) and Cllr Martin Worth (Chairman – Landulph Parish Council) both attended the Public Meeting as observers.

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

704 To receive Apologies for Absence and approve the reasons given

Apologies from County Cllr Jesse Foot (family commitments).

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

705 Declarations of Interest

Councillors **Resolved** that no Councillors declared pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

Councillors **Resolved** that no Councillors were liable for written Dispensations or Gifts.

All noted and agreed.



706 Minutes of the Public Meeting 24th February 2021

The draft Minutes were a true record of the Meeting held remotely using Microsoft Teams.

Public Meeting – Proposed Cllr Oakes, seconded Cllr Fletcher

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

707 Matters arising from the draft Minutes for report purposes only.

There were no matters arising.

Councillors **Resolved** to note the amendment. All agreed.

708 A Report from Cornwall Councillor Jesse Foot

Cllr Foot sent apologies and offered no report, but would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting 28th April, 2021.

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

709 Finance

A Accounts for Payment

Cllr Oakes proposed and Cllr Robinson seconded the approval of the Accounts for payment.

Councillors **Resolved** to approve the accounts for payment. All agreed.

B Direct bank Payments & Receipts for information

Bank Receipts were reported as **£0.00** Total receipts 2020/2021 **£26,973.22**

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

C Bank reconciliation and Earmarked Funds (EMF)

The General Account balance was reported as **£14,103.84** and the Earmarked Funds as **£16,788.76**.

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

D Monthly budget monitoring balances report

Councillors **Resolved** to note the report.

E Public Works Loan Board Statement December 2020

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

710 Planning

New Planning Applications – None received

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed



Planning Application Decisions – One received

Application: **PA21 / 00460**

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension with raised patio

Location: 90 Sunnybanks Hatt PL12 6SA

Applicant: Mr D Kanaki

Grid Ref: 239636 / 61896

Planning Application **Approved** with conditions 12th March 2021

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

Planning Application for Information – None applicable

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

Planning Applications received after the Agenda published – None received

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

711 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

www.botusflemingandhattndp.com

Report deferred until 28th April 2021. Cllr Edwards (Chairman) advised that both the (NDP) & Parish Plan would be subject to a separate meeting after the Local Elections in order to address how the Parish Council progress both aspects.

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

712 Parish Plan

Report deferred until 28th April 2021

Councillors **Resolved** to note. All agreed.

713 Recreation Field

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) advised Councillors that all transfer of Title matters were concluded between solicitors and the HM Land Registry transfer TP1 form(s) completed on the 17th March, 2021 with funds transferred to the Vendors on the 18th March, 2021.

Botus Fleming Parish Council own the Hatt Recreation Field forming part of the land on the west side of a road leading from Trematon to Botus Fleming, Hatt, Saltash, Cornwall with effect from the 18th March, 2021.

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed.

714 Councillors Reports

A Cllr Sally White - Maintenance

Monthly maintenance audit noted (report as circulated before the Meeting).

Annual engineering inspection schedules (as previously circulated).



Cllr White explained that the Playground equipment inspection report from Zurich Insurers highlighted the need for the balance beams on the Recreation Field to be repaired or removed from service. This confirmed the point made in Cllr White's Asset audit in January 2021.

Councillors agreed that removing the equipment for safety reasons would be the best option as proposed by Cllr Ellis.

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) advised that the Parish Council should now consider funding options in order to improve the Playground equipment, and Cllrs Oakes & Fletcher agreed that it would be the best option to put all funding towards new equipment rather than to repair existing dilapidated equipment.

Councillors **Resolved** to note the monthly Audit report.

B Cllr Malcolm Fletcher – Bio diversity

Cllr Fletcher updated Councillors with regards to 'Young trees' and Hatt Roundabout as follows-

Young trees

Last year's plantings are still in dormancy, though the buds on many are starting to swell. Approximately 30 young trees from residents' gardens were added in January to the original planting of 104. Four of the latter did not make it through the long drought, so the additional ones have more than made up for the losses.

Most of the trees will have had a jute mulch mat placed around them by the end of the month. This should greatly aid their resilience to any future dry spells and will suppress weeds.

A lot of marsh thistles (*Cirsium palustre*) have taken root among the trees. This is a biennial which can reach 2m in height. It attracts more than 80 species of bees, butterflies and other insects. Ideally the tree plantation will eventually have a diverse selection of wildflowers. However, the thistles could become something of a nuisance this early in the trees' development, taking up valuable nutrients and crowding out other species. I would like to propose that they be selectively thinned out by using a propane gas "weed wand". A short burst of flame aimed at the growing point of the thistle should do the trick. No need for weed killers.

Marsh thistle:



Thanks to lockdown 3.0 the Tree Guardians have hardly got off ground. However, it looks as though gatherings of six people outdoors will soon be permitted, so that will be the signal to engage the community again.

Hatt Roundabout.

At the start of a new growing season the roundabout will soon be having its first all-over cut, in line with our (and Cornwall Council's) "Grow not Mow" policy. Thereafter, the only cuts will be of the circumference, and the north-south and east-west lines of sight. These will enable clear views for safe crossing of the A388 by pedestrians. There will be a final all-over cut in September. We are hoping that the wildflower seeds donated by Cllr Ellis will be seen in bloom this year.

Just now there is clear, but rather sad, evidence of what happens when grassland is not managed effectively for wildflowers. Residents may remember that some years ago the roundabout and approach verges of the A388 were planted with daffodil bulbs. For the first year or two they made a very striking display. Now, however, the only area that has a full flush of blooms is a small patch near the traffic sign on the south-western verge. The roundabout itself has just a handful of rather forlorn-looking survivors. The reason for this is that the roundabout and most of the approach verges were traditionally cut in early spring soon after the daffodils had finished flowering. This did not give the bulbs time to recover by means of the photosynthesis through the leaves which were shorn far too soon. The small patch near the traffic sign were spared this treatment and continue to thrive.

By the same token, if we want to increase biodiversity via restoring wildflower grassland, we must schedule the cuts so that the flowers have time to bloom and set seed. This means leaving them to do their thing between April and September.

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed.

C Cllr Malcolm Fletcher – Climate Change Emergency

Cllr Fletcher updated Councillors with reference to the 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill', which is a Private Members Bill that has passed its first reading in the House of Commons, referred to as



“A Bill to require the Prime Minister to achieve climate and ecology objectives; to give the Secretary of State a duty to create and implement a strategy to achieve those objectives; to establish a Citizens’ Assembly to work with the Secretary of State in creating that strategy; to give duties to the Committee on Climate Change regarding the objectives and strategy; and for connected purposes.”

See the link below for its official standing in the UK Parliament.

[Climate and Ecology Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

The first reading gathered cross-party support, with the second reading scheduled for some time later this year.

The Bill was created by a panel of experts (see details in the link below) and is being supported by the CEE Bill Alliance which includes 101 MP’s and 80 national businesses and organizations, including the Co-operative Bank, the Body Shop and Ecotricity.

[The CEE Bill - Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#)

On Friday 12th March 2021 Devon County Council Cabinet voted unanimously to recommend that full council pass a motion to support the CEE Bill.

Given that BFPC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, I believe that it should support all possible legislative initiatives to tackle the Emergency. I would therefore like to propose the following **two motions**:

- 1. BFPC declares its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill*
- 2. BFPC urges its MP, Hon. Sheryll Murray, to lend her support to the Bill in subsequent readings in Parliament and will write to her to this effect.*

Both Motions are noted from the Minutes and will be voted on at the Public Meeting 28th April, 2021 in accordance with Standing Order 10. (b), as per the report previously circulated.

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed

D Cllr Mervyn Ellis – BOTHER

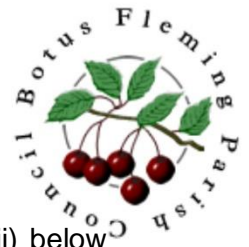
Cllr Ellis advised that a further BOTHER meeting would take place on the 1st April 2021. The (Sustrans) representative has now received the required Land Registry data. We should receive his report on 26th March and will then be able to view and discuss the Walk/Cycle Way options at the meeting on the 1st April 2021.

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed.

E Cllr Dave Edwards (Chairman) – Big Event & VE day

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) reported that the Big Event Committee would meet to consider the possibility of running a scaled down Big Event around September 2021.

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) advised that the VE celebration would have more impact if it were to be run in May 2022 and this would allow sufficient time to plan the event properly. There were too many time constrictions to consider a VE Day 2021 celebration.



Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed.

F Cllr Dave Edwards (Chairman) & Cllr Dave Willey (Vice Chairman) - Signage

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) advised that, in relation to correspondence under 716 (iii) below and a number of observations by Parish Councillors, that the old sign at the entrance of the Recreation Field be removed and appropriate 'no parking' signs and a 'dogs must be kept on a lead' notice be put in place.

Cllr Ellis suggested that one 'dos & don'ts' notice be erected. Both Cllrs Edwards (Chairman) & Cllr Fletcher suggested that the notices should not be too prescriptive and simply relate to the specific points mentioned above. Councillors were in agreement with this suggestion.

Cllr White requested that a 'do not light fires' notice also be placed at Moditonham Quay.

The estimated cost for 4 bespoke signs would be approximately £60 and Cllr Willey (Vice Chairman) would source the notices.

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed.

Action: Cllr Willey to confirm the cost of each notice.

715 Clerk's items –

The Parish Clerk reported that the new Grass cutting Agreement for the period 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2025 had been signed by all parties and a copy posted to the Council's website www.botusfleming.org.uk

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report. All agreed.

716 Correspondence

716 (i) Response to Lisa Cooper – Touchstone Botusfleming

25th March 2021

Dear Lisa,

Thank you very much for your correspondence to the Parish Council regarding community facilities within Hatt and Botus Fleming. It was nice to receive ideas from an interested parishioner.

With regards to accessibility to the shop and post office, we are in total agreement.

We will pass on all your comments to the owner of both the shop and forecourt, and the shop owner.

We will mention all of the points you raised i.e. the handrail, large step and step in through the door. And your suggestion to potentially relocate the postbox. Unfortunately, this is private land so out of our control, but we are very happy to pass on your comments.

At the Parish Council meeting held on the 24/03/21, Councillors discussed the phone box, (that was.)



The adopt-a-phone-box for £1, was a scheme using existing phone boxes in situ, so unfortunately the Village phone box was removed some years ago after the phone was disconnected and then the empty box was "misused."

A community bookstore in the lobby of the church is a good suggestion but you would have to take this up with the Church committee or maybe a suggestion to the shopkeeper, they may create a shelf or two for a book exchange within the shop?

We appreciate your interest and comments.

Kind regards

Cllr Dave Willey (Vice Chairman)

For and on behalf of Botus Fleming Parish Council

716 (ii) Response to Wilma Oakes – Bidwell Cottage

Mount Pleasant
Botus Fleming
Saltash
PL12 6NQ
24th March 2021

Dear Mrs Oakes,

With regard to your letter to Botus Fleming Parish Council highlighting the dangerous speed of vehicles through Botus Fleming and asking for a "No Through Road" sign to be placed at the crossroads, the matter was discussed at last night's Public Meeting of the Parish Council. The Parish Council shares your concern, and is going to raise the matter with Cormac, the body responsible for the maintenance and safety of the roads in the parish, in order to explore possible solutions.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher

For and on behalf of Botus Fleming Parish Council

716 (iii) Response to Mr Chris Jarvis – Cross Farm

There are a number of issues that Mr Jarvis has highlighted as problematic. We have discussed these items at length and have attempted to deal with all of them.

The Recreation Field at Hatt has been utilised as such for several years.

There is a parking area that is utilised for football teams and until recent years the annual Big Event. Mr Jarvis has expressed the view that these activities are a nuisance. He also expressed the view that the car park should be made available to be open during business hours to allow vehicles to park away from Cross Farm. Mr Jarvis has suggested, "it is surely time for our community to recruit a warden to manage the day to day use of the field".

We have discussed the suggestion and unfortunately we can see a number of flaws with this plan. One of the main concerns is that the Parish Council (BFPC) does not have a budget



that could pay a warden's salary. The PC also feels that our parishioners would not support increasing the precept for this expenditure.

The practicalities involved of having a warden in situ would mean at least an 8-hour working day. A further gate would also have to be installed to prevent vehicles from driving into the field.

There would also be a problem if vehicles were left after the car park gates were shut. Irate vehicle owners demanding access to the car park outside of business hours would mean having to contact the warden outside working hours.

Vehicles left inside the car park overnight would be vulnerable to vandalism, theft, joy-riding and arson.

The suggestion that a local dog walker(s) manages the car park is flawed for the same reasons (other than those for economic reasons).

It appears that Mr Jarvis' main reason for making this suggestion is due to vehicles parking outside the Recreation Field by the "narrows" in Orchard Villas.

BFPC plan to purchase and erect signage outside the Recreation Field requesting that vehicles do not park there in future and request our residents to respect the signs and those of other residents.

Mr Jarvis also complains that vehicles park in the private bays at the entrance to Cross Farm. BFPC are sympathetic to this nuisance, but feel that as if this is private land and it does fall within BFPC's jurisdiction.

If vehicles are left parked in the road that are either dangerous or cause obstruction to other vehicle users, we believe that the best course of action is to report the circumstances to Devon & Cornwall police. We feel that the Parish Council are not there to police the roads outside of the Recreation Field.

As previously outlined the management of the car park negates its use. A further suggestion is that Mr Jarvis and residents also erect their own signs, with a warning that if a vehicle is parked on private land without authorisation, then an approved and registered parking management company can be employed that can then issue a Parking Charge Notice, also payable by the vehicle owner.

Mr Jarvis' final complaint concerns the placement and activities of the football pitch in the Recreation Field. Mr Jarvis remarks that noise from the football games constitutes a nuisance. However, the purpose of the Recreation Field is indeed for recreation and should be used for that purpose. Some of the activities will involve a level of noise. BFPC feels that the level and frequency of this is not unreasonable. The football in particular provides a healthy and much needed outlet for youthful energy and high spirits.

However, BFPC will arrange a meeting with Saltash United Junior Football Club to discuss the complainant's issues.

716 (iv) Response to Mary Owen – Kornell

Dear Mrs Owen,

With regard to your letter to Botus Fleming Parish Council highlighting the dangerous speed of vehicles through Botus Fleming and asking for a “No Through Road” sign to be placed at the crossroads, the matter was discussed at tonight’s Public Meeting of the Parish Council. The Parish Council shares your concern, and is going to raise the matter with Cormac, the body responsible for the maintenance and safety of the roads in the parish, in order to explore possible solutions.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher

For and on behalf of Botus Fleming Parish Council

717 Date of next meeting

The next Meeting of the Council will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** (APM) on Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 6:30pm. The **Public Meeting** will follow on at 7:30pm after the (APM). Both Meetings will take place at the St. Marys church hall, (covid safe), Botus Fleming.

The Parish Council would continue to follow any instruction from CALC concerning the Covid-19 situation in connection with forthcoming Public Meetings. The choice to meet face to face was now an option with safety guidelines applying.

Residents would be advised on the 23rd March 2021 or sooner of arrangements for the Public Meeting 24th March 2021 should new instructions be received.

718 End of meeting 20:55

**Signed
Chairman)**

Date