



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 8th August 2022

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

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

Members of the public: 5

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 8th August 2022

1/2022EOM Chair's Welcome & Announcements

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) welcomed residents to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council and delivered Health and Safety housekeeping rules.

No members of the public intended recording the Extraordinary Meeting.

2 Public participation

No public participation.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

3 To receive Apologies for Absence and approve the reasons given

Cllr Ellis apologies.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

4 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.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

5 Minutes of any previous Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

There were no previous Minutes relevant.



Councillors **Resolved** to note.

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

There were no previous Minutes relevant.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

7 Defibrillators – Cllr Malcolm Fletcher

Cllr Fletcher explained the business case for the Parish Council to purchase two defibrillators. Two quotations had been received and details circulated to Councillors.

Councillors agreed that the South Western Ambulance Service defibrillator scheme was the most cost-effective option, providing as it did in the pricing, all necessary equipment, maintenance, support, and training. The equipment would essentially be purchased on a loan scheme and new devices provided after a four-year loan period.

The Business case for defibrillators can be viewed under 'Reports' at www.botusfleming.org.uk

Cllr Edwards (Chairman) thanked Cllr Fletcher for his work and research into the defibrillator scheme.

A small electrical cable installation cost would be incurred by the Parish Council on top of the defibrillator loan costs. The exact locations for defibrillators in Botus Fleming & Hatt were likely to be at the Rising Sun P.H. and Hatt garage respectively.

Cllr Oakes proposed, Cllr Willey (vice Chairman) seconded that the defibrillator loan scheme cost of £2,800 (+vat) and £500 provision for electrical work be recommended as a Motion to approve the costs on 24th August 2022.

Councillors **Resolved** the above recommendation for approval 24th August 2022. All agreed.
Motion for 24th August 2022 Public Meeting – Defibrillator costs.

Playground Equipment matting – Cllr Dave Edwards (Chairman)

Sarah Edwards (resident) advised Councillors that the installation of the new playground equipment was now completed for the sum of £25,422 (including VAT). See Resolution Item 1008 (D) 27th July 2022.

Following conversations with neighbouring Parish Councils, it was identified that the Play Inspection Company (PIC), (similar to ROSPA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) would be able to inspect and sign off the new play equipment as a safe installation and to also offer an annual inspection audit.

The audit would include all play equipment, and consequently the engineering inspection cover could be cancelled with Zurich Insurance. The Clerk advised that any premium saving would offset the additional all risk insurance premium for the new Assets. The (PIC) Inspection contract cost would be £510.00 (including VAT).

Sarah Edwards mentioned that a complete safety matting exercise in respect to the entire play equipment area would be the next consideration, and funding of this project would have to be agreed. Councillors were advised that matting installation would cost approximately £4,000 (including VAT).



Cllr Edwards (Chairman) proposed, Cllr Robinson seconded that the Play equipment inspection contract fee be recommended as a Motion to approve the costs on 24th August 2022.

Councillors **Resolved** the above recommendation for approval 24th August 2022. All agreed.
Motion for 24th August 2022 Public Meeting – Playground inspection contract costs.

Finance report – Responsible Financial Officer

The (RFO) outlined the Parish Council's current financial position, forecasting expenditure up to the year end 31st March 2023, and explained the difference between reconciled balances on Account 1 and the need for a reserve amount equivalent to 50% of the annual Precept income.

The (RFO) reported that the Council's Precept call of £20,000 is offset against the budget set at £25,000, and this represented a £5,000 shortfall should the full budget be recognised. The above-proposed purchases (Defibrillators, Play equipment installation and contract inspection costs) would generate approximately £5,000 VAT, and this amount could be recovered.

Fortunately, the (RFO) usually recovers the end of the financial year VAT due to the Parish, and this amount is credited to Account 1 in early April (2023). See the current Receipts & Payments report (9/4/22 Receipts Act. 1 – HMRC £3,051.96)

The Maintenance & Equipment budget will in chief be used to finance the cost of the Defibrillators.

The Recreation Field (EMF) budget will be used to meet inspection contract expenditure.

A combination of Account 1 & Account 2 (EMF) funds can be considered to address play equipment matting costs. It is noted that a new GoFund donation and fund-raising scheme will be launched shortly, and thanks to the work carried out by Sarah Edwards, the (RFO) can report that the Parish Council have been successful in receiving a Tesco Community Grant award of £500.00 (Big Event project).

Councillors **Resolved** to note this report.

Part 2 – Persistent complaints & correspondence – Councillors Resolved that the Public be excluded from the discussions surrounding the Agenda item 9.

8 Public Bodies

The Press and Public were requested to leave the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the following Agenda item.

9 To review the persistent complaint/correspondence dated 24th July 2022 and referral to the Sub-Committee for action on 8th August 2022

Councillors considered the recent correspondence from the complainant dated the 24th July 2022, the Parish Council's response dated 28th July 2022 and the complainant's further correspondence dated 30th July 2022. Councillors reviewed this correspondence in the light of the Assessment Decision Notice from Simon Mansell (Monitoring Officer Cornwall Council which stipulated that no breach of the code had been made against Councillor D Edwards (see Agenda 1010 (v) 27th July 2022).



Councillors noted the comments from the Independent Person, which referred to the complainant's "persistent obsessive, bullying, intimidating and harassing behaviour over a long period" towards the Botus Parish Council.

In the Parish Council's response to the complainant dated 28th July 2022 it was pointed out that "any reply or further correspondence would be considered to be contrary to the Parish Council's" Persistent and/or Vexatious Complaints Policy".

Despite this clear statement of the Parish Council's position, the complainant again replied on the 30th July 2022 reiterating similar points that had been previously raised.

Councillors agreed that the Sub-Committee should deal with the complainant's case.

As the Sub-Committee had not met since the last set of Local Elections in May 2021, it was agreed that a new a new Sub-Committee of Councillors should be appointed

The following Councillors were appointed to the Sub-Committee –

Cllr Oakes (Chairman), Cllr Robinson and Cllr Solomon.

Proposed Cllr Dave Edwards (Chairman), seconded Cllr Dave Willey (Vice Chairman) the Sub-Committee members. All agreed.

Councillors voted to **approve** that the correspondence dated 24th July 2022 and 30th July 2022 would be considered by the Sub-Committee.

The newly adopted Parish Council Policy (see Item 1009) would be used to consider the case.

Councillors voted-
Approve - 7 votes
Reject - 0 votes
Abstain - 0 votes

Councillors **Resolved** to approve that the appointed Sub-Committee deal with the persistent complaint/correspondence case.

10 Public Bodies

The Press and Public were re-admitted to the meeting. The decision at Agenda Item 8 was relayed to Members of the Public

11 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

Councillors **Resolved** to note.

12 Date of next meeting

The next Meeting of the Council will be the Public Meeting on Wednesday 24th August 2022 at 7:30pm. This Meeting will take place at St. Mary's Church Hall, Botus Fleming.

The Parish Council would continue to follow any instruction from CALC concerning the Covid-19 situation in connection with forthcoming Public Meetings.



13 **End of meeting 20:05**

Signed..... Date.....
(Chairman)