

OVER KELLET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 31st March 2021 at 7.00pm using Zoom video conferencing

Present: Councillor Graham Agnew – Chairman
Councillors Stephen Atkins, Derek Johnson, Martin May and Jean Metcalfe
Derek Whiteway (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Peter Clinch (Over Kellet View) and 7 members of the public.

20/108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from parishioner Tony Whinfield.

20/109 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No further declarations were made.

20/110 PLANNING APPLICATIONS 20/01072/REM and 20/01073/FUL for the erection of 22 dwellings, Land South East of Church Bank, Church Bank, Over Kellet.

The Chairman introduced the item, apologising for the short notice given for the meeting, necessitated by the timescale given by the City Council to respond, which would need to be immediately following the next scheduled Parish Council meeting on 13th April 2021.

The extraordinary meeting had been called as a first step in gathering views and the Chairman advised that no firm decisions would be taken at the meeting.

The Parish Council had been advised that the sum of money potentially available had been reduced to around £42k. It was clarified that, in terms of expectations, this sum, or indeed any contribution, was in no way guaranteed.

The Chairman advised that the four main areas suggested by the City Council were: Parks and Gardens; Children's play areas; Young People's Facilities; and Outdoor sports facilities. Suggestions such as purchasing land or repairing footpaths would be unacceptable to the City Council and footpaths and pavements are the responsibility of County Highways. Similarly, substantial repairs and measures to prevent damage to the Green would not be a legitimate purpose for the levy.

The Chairman reiterated that, notwithstanding the consideration of these contributions, the Parish Council continued to strongly oppose the proposed development,

Suggestions raised so far included:

- a substantial donation to refurbishing the school play equipment. Whilst the play equipment has been maintained and regularly inspected it now needs a substantial sum spending on it;
- the Playgroup, which may welcome funds and may also need to increase capacity as a direct result of the development;
- the tennis court, which is available for all to use through the summer, although the playing field is only suitable for light use due to drainage problems;
- the Green on Church Bank, which is seen as a valuable resource and open for improvements, for example seats for people to be able to watch over their young children; replacement of the single goal posts to encourage informal 'kick-about's';

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and the introduction of a small number of fruit trees;

- the pond on Greenways used to have a viewing platform which was used by children and adults and the re-instatement of which would provide a useful educational and recreational resource; and
- finally, regarding provision for older children (item 3 Young People's Facilities) there is nothing in the village for them but a donation to local Scouts and Guides group might help with a recruitment drive.

The Chairman then opened the meeting up to comments and discussion by Councillors and members of the public.

Councillor May advised that, in relation to the proposed development of 55 homes at Old Hall Farm, an assessment had already been carried out by the Public Realm officer, suggesting a contribution of £40k to the School community play area and an off-site contribution of £17,904.

A variety of views were expressed on how much could realistically be achieved with the sums of money being quoted and where responsibility/liability might lie for future maintenance and replacement. It was felt that this needed to be a key consideration when finalising a response.

In addition to the potential uses reported by the Chairman, specific suggestions extended during the discussions included the following:

- Mini BMX Track;
- Bowling Green, cricket pitch, basketball court, petanque court;
- 'Non-generational' recreational facilities;
- New pond and wildlife meadow;
- Adult 'outdoor gym' equipment;
- Refurbishment of an enclosed area by the Village Hall bus stop, used by younger children who attend the Playgroup.

In conclusion, the Chairman commented that the objective should be to present a coherent strategy to the City Council. It was acknowledged that liaison with, and support from, the School's head-teacher would be a vital factor in relation to the play area and other suggested facilities.

Resolved: That all views expressed, both at the meeting and through other channels, would be investigated further by Councillors and debated further at the next scheduled meeting on 13th April 2021, prior to submitting the response to the City Council.

20/111 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further matters were discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Clerk of the Council



Chairman



Date: 13/04/2021