|  |
| --- |
| **Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council****Minutes of the May 2020 Parish Council** **via Zoom** **On Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.00PM** |
| **Present:** Mr Colin Rudd – Chairman Cllr Nigel Legg Mr Neil DyerMrs Anne Howlett Mrs Mary Gray Mr Steve Horton Mr David Biddle Mr Roy HayesDistrict Cllr Vivienne Clifford-Jackson and Gerry FrancisCounty Cllr Colin FoulgerClerk Mrs Carole Jowett 2members of the public attended  |
| **1** | **To consider apologies** **for absence**Mrs Gray sent her apologies as she had been unable to access the meeting due to technical difficulties. |
| **2** | **To receive declaration of interests in items on agenda**None |
| **3** | **Resolution to adjourn the meeting for public participation, District and County Councillor reports** **Public participation****The common is seeing increased usage.** **The park is being cut and found hoof prints so will be locked Steve is arranging to have cleaned****District councillor report** The district councillors’ reports are attached at appendix a, Cllr Legg clarified that the need for cuts had not been discussed and were not necessarily going to happen at South Norfolk. Cllr Clifford-Jackson said that she had meant across the board and Norfolk County Council was going to have to make cuts.**County councillor report** All meetings were taking place on-line and Cllr Foulger had a meeting coming up to consider how to deal with planning during the crisis. |
| **4** | **To confirm minutes and review matters arising from the meeting on 24th February 2020**The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2020were agreed and signed. |
| **5** | **To review the effect of COVID-19 on the village and facilities**The volunteers in the village were helping to support vulnerable residents and no help had been required from the parish council.  |
| **6** | **Finance****6.1 To receive statement of accounts to 18th May 2020** The accounts were reviewed and agreed. CIL money received will discuss the use of this money for a potential solution for the car park at the playing field. Cllr Legg asked about the work on the village hall car park which was delayed due to COVID-19**6.2 To agree a change to the clerk’s salary**Agreed to increase salary by 10% after the cost of living increase. **6.3 To agree invoices for payment in accordance with budget**Chq no 936 £1069.57 Came & Company Insurance premiumChq no 937 £123.74 Norfolk ALC Annual subscriptionChq no 938 £295.35 C Jowett Clerk’s salaryChq no 939 £196.40 HMRC PAYEChq no 940 £214.50 R Hayes Donation for grass cuttingChq no 941 £22.60 Hethel Church Newsletter postageChq no 942 £54.00 Bracon Ash & Hethel Newsletter Community events groupThe payments were agreed. Agreed to carry on current grass cutting arrangements at the playing field until the current crisis ends and alternative options could be sought.The asset register for 1920 was agreed. |
| **7** | **To consider correspondence received** Barclays had written to notify of a reduction in the interest rate from 0.1 to 0.01 with effect from 24 July 2020. |
| **8** | **To consider agenda items for the next meeting on 13th July 2020 and close****Agenda items**To consider options for playing field car parking – Mr Horton would try to get some quotes to consider.**Future meeting dates** 13th July 202014th September 202019th October 202030th November 2020  |
| **10** | **Close** The chairman closed the meeting at 19:35 |
|  | Signed …………………………………………. Date …………………… Colin RuddChairman to Bracon Ash and Hethel Parish Council |

**Appendix a**

**Councillor Nigel Legg - Report for Parishes May 2020**

The “call for sites” for the Village Clusters has been completed with some 350 applications put forward. These have been assessed but no decisions have been made regarding their suitability to be included in the Emerging Local Plan.

South Norfolk Council is currently being run by an Emergency Committee. This is made up of senior officials and some members of the council.

The Councils finances have taken a hit. Income is lost because of closure of the Leisure Centres and loss of Rate income amongst others. Some of the shortfall will be made up by Central Government.

It is anticipated that economic Growth in the District will fall by some 25%. This is better than most Local Authorities but will have to be addressed, when the position becomes clearer.

Most applications for Business Grants have been paid. However, if there are any businesses having difficulty sourcing these, I will be happy to help.

**Councillor Vivienne Clifford-Jackson - Report for Bracon Ash & Hethel PC May 2020**

Having completed my first year in this the first year of the new ward boundaries and three member structure, it would be fair to say that things were just coming together as Lockdown occurred. Although I was on the council previously, much has changed but some things have stayed the same. The planning committee is now called the Development Management Committee and is smaller; since lockdown it has shrunk to five, but this is supposed to be a temporary measure to facilitate the on-line meetings. From the June meeting the public and members will be enabled to speak at meetings as long as they can access the facilities via the website. From what the Sec of State Mr Jenrick said at the briefing today, it appears that the default will be to maintain the current on-line processes and encourage the approval of applications, unless there are very clear reasons for refusal, for the foreseeable future. Cabinet and other SNC responsibilities have been vested in a six member Emergency Committee which is meeting approximately fortnightly and can be accessed via the website.

I am assuming you all received the Parish & Town Council Briefing sent the 1st May so this is an update. The contact details of help agencies was included but any concerns can be accessed via the Help Hub 01508 533933 and SNC website. I gather you still need to send in your village descriptions for the cluster process. So I enclose the form for this purpose. I see also that you did get some £304.10 CIL money resulting from the Overland Farm development.

The virus has resulted in an increase of activity in the Help Hub, which is now open at weekends and bank holidays with 12,000 enquiries in a month when it was 16,000 for the whole of 2019. There were 120 deliveries of food per day at the peak of the crisis. The Community Connectors are not in GP surgeries, but concentrating on more complex cases. The bin collection has been unaffected and Ketteringham waste recycling centre is now open, although with a much slower service due to social distancing. There has been a tremendous voluntary effort which is now becoming self sustaining in most villages. If there are any problems with these or Business relief please let us know. The Member Grants process opens again this week so please contact us for any projects you want to put forward. CAF will have another phase later in the year.

The financial crisis resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic is beginning to emerge – South Norfolk will be down by 25%, but is one of the least affected in the country, so a new budget will be set in July and some cuts are inevitable. It is worth ensuring that residents have checked they are getting all the benefits they are entitled to and that they can have council tax debited in any form including weekly, fortnightly, four weekly as well as the usual monthly process. It might just help to spread costs at this difficult time.

The archaeological investigations for the proposed new road system are starting around Thickthorn from the 10th June and regarding the Hornsea Wind Turbine, The Secretary of State has set 1st June 2020 for his decision, but this is probably to be July and may be much later.

Despite all the downsides to the current situation there is great hope that new traditions of working will emerge. All organisations having had to change currently are considering whether they need to meet in the same ways, times, frequencies and places in the future. Working and meeting on-line at home saves the environment, expenses in arranging rooms and is easier for carers. Perhaps we will ‘do different’! Vivienne.clifford.jackson@gmail.com; vcjackson@s-norfolk.gov.uk; 01508 571346