**BONINGALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Wednesday 4th May 2022**

**Present**

Cllrs. D Slatcher (Chairman), C Keeton (Vice Chairman), S Burgess, A Gilson-Caldwell, K Vilton.

Clerk to Boningale Parish Council – M Ward.

No members of the public were present.

1. **Election of the Chair of Council.**

Cllr. Keeton proposed Mr David Slatcher be elected chairman of the council which was seconded by Cllr. Burgess and unanimously agreed by council.

1. **Election of the Vice Chair of Council.**

Cllr. Slatcher proposed Mr Chris Keeton be elected vice chairman of the council which was seconded by Cllr Gilson-Caldwell and unanimously agreed by council.

1. **Apologies.**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

None.

1. **Declarations of interest.**

To consider declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Where a member indicates that they have a prejudicial interest but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting they must do so under item 4 (D) of Public Participation

None.

1. **Appointment of a representative to the Albrighton Civic Society and the Red House.**

Council unanimously agreed that Cllr. Slatcher should continue as the representative on both bodies.

1. **To consider continued membership of Shropshire Association of Local Councils.**

After discussion on the benefits brought by membership to include training for councillors and clerks, information both locally and nationally and legal and professional advice when matched against the annual fee members unanimously agreed to continue membership of SALC for 2022/23

1. **To approve the Certificate of Exemption to smaller authorities where the higher or gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000.**

Members considered the Certificate of Exemption and unanimously agreed that it applied to Boningale Parish Council and it should be submitted to the external auditor.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting (enclosure).**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2022.

Cllr Vilton proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Burgess and unanimously agreed by council.

1. **Matters arising.**

To consider any issues arising from the minutes that are not included on the agenda.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Correspondence.**

To review any outstanding correspondence that has been received since the last meeting.

Councillors considered a number of items of correspondence as follows;

* A circular on road safety technology which was retained by Cllr. Burgess;
* Council insurance from BHIB which members agreed to adopt;
* The 2021 Severn Hospice Yearbook which prompted members to confirm their policy of making no donations to charities;
1. **Financial statement – May 2022 (enclosure)**

The financial statement for the financial year 2021/22 was confirmed by councillors which showed a balance of £1,241 at 31st March 2022. A precept of £3,000 is to added for the coming financial year and the following cheques were noted regarding expenses incurred at the beginning of April/May.

* Staffing - £250.00;
* Office stationary/equipment - £47.99;
* Data protection fee 2022/23 - £40.00;
* BHIB council insurance 2022/23 - £273.82;
* SALC membership 2022/23 - £192.01;
* Website management/support - £74.25.
1. **Items for the next agenda.**

Members agreed that the following items should be included on the next council agenda;

* Pepperhill Solar Farm;
* Road safety;
* The Boningale phone box.

Members also agreed that if a planning application for the Pepperhill Solar Farm was received before the next council meeting the clerk should convene an extra meeting with the application as the sole item on the agenda.

1. **To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report (enclosure).**

The Annual Internal Audit Report was considered and noted by councillors. The internal auditor had still to receive the associated documentation but the clerk stated that it would delivered shortly once it had been considered by council.

1. **To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement (enclosure).**

Members considered the Annual Governance Statement and agreed that the first eight items applied to the council and that item nine did not apply.

1. **To receive and approve the Accounting Statements (enclosure).**

After discussion regarding depreciation on office equipment, particularly the office computer, members endorsed the Accounting Statement.

1. **To approve the dates for the exercise of public rights (enclosure).**

Councillors agreed that the dates for the exercise of public rights should be 26th June – 6th August and arrangements were made for the documents to be displayed on the council website and council notice boards.

1. **To further discuss arrangements for the local consultation on the Pepperhill Solar Farm.**

The chairman outlined some difficulties that residents had experienced with the webinar from Low Carbon associated with the proposed Pepperhill Solar Farm caused by a computer glitch. The webinar was still not on the company website although the chairman had been sent a copy which he would forward to all councillors, several of whom expressed disappointment with Low Carbon’s performance in recent weeks.

The consultation meeting to be held on 16th May in St.Chad’s church will include the webinar and residents of Pattingham in South Staffs had been informed of the meeting and invited to the session. The clerk also agreed to inform Albrighton of the event and invite any interested parties to attend.

The chairman distributed copies of an information leaflet produced by Low Carbon to members for distribution to residents.

1. **To receive an update on the blocked drain on Burnhill Green Road and any action required by the council.**

The chairman reported that the situation regarding the flooding because of a blocked drain on Burnhill Green Road is much improved, helped by the recent spell of dry weather. The road was now in much better condition but a suggestion that surface dressing is to be undertaken shortly was unnecessary and a waste of public money. Attempts to liaise with Highways at Shropshire Council had again proved difficult.

1. **To further consider measures to raise the profile of the council including:**
* **The adoption of a council logo;**

A logo featuring the refurbished telephone box was available as a council logo and it could be used when it was considered appropriate.

* **The development of a WhatsApp group;**

A WhatsApp group already existed in Boningale although its usage had declined in recent weeks and other local groups existed in the area. Councillors agreed not to develop a new group given the current circumstances.

* **Regularly contributing to the Albrighton Magazine.**

Contributions to the Albrighton Magazine were already made and members agreed that a quarterly report was appropriate following a council meeting plus an extra copy if there was any event of particular significance.

**20.To further consider the council’s policing priorities:**

* **Anti-social behaviour;**

Members supported the inclusion of this priority as long as it was understood to include fly tipping which had been a problem in the past.

* **Drugs;**

While recognising that nationally drug taking is a major problem there is no evidence that it flourished in the Boningale area.

* **Anti-social driving.**

Anti-social driving had been a problem in the area and there had been collisions on several occasions.

In addition members also considered the five questions relating to the Local Policing Community Charter and gave a negative response to each of them.

**21.Date and time of the next council meeting.**

Wednesday 7th September at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room, Boningale.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.53 pm.