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Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting of The Gorge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st March 2017 in The Gorge Parish Council Office

FC/ 2017/035 Public Session; no members of the public attended

FC/2017/036 Apologies and Attendance. None required

FC/2017/037 Dispensations. None

FC/2017/038 Highway issues : Matt Powell from TWC presented the Traffic Count Survey , prepared from data collected in July 2016. He answered questions from the Council , particularly those relating to the Wharfage , but also those items highlighted as “red “ items on the schedule . The hope is that TWC will be able to take action within this year’s capital programme , “as far as possible “.

The following areas had been noted for action :

- Beeches Road ; high speeds recorded
- Buildwas Road; higher speeds than expected
- Review incidents on Jiggers Bank
- Madeley Road, now in need of review
- The Lloyds , which indicated higher than expected speeds
- Waterloo Street and Wellington Road
- Lloyds Head , where is there may be potential for a speed limit

He also mentioned proposals for traffic calming measures on The Wharfage and timing for the proposed works (see report from Adam Brookes ; item 7a , on Report to Agenda). Surface treatment would take place 25 April – 5 May and residents/businesses would be advised of the timing and extent of the works . In reply to a question as to why only bolt down cushions were proposed , Mr Powell indicated that consideration had to be given to the use of the flood barriers, and ease of maintenance . The information on the survey only gave figures for the fastest and slowest speeds , but he could provide more detailed information on request. The Chair thanked Mr Powell for attending the meeting and looked forward to members of his team attending the Annual meeting in May.

FC/2017/039 Borough Councillors:

- a. Cllr Jayne Greenaway mentioned the continuing concerns about lighting in Lightmoor and will email Clerk some information. Cllr Rhoden expressed the same concerns and Cllr Bennet mentioned that the joint meetings were not taking place

- b. Cllr Nicola Lowery mentioned
 - Parking enforcement . new PC in place to check on short time parking on the Wharfage . some infringements had been noted
 - Management plan had now been signed off and was going to cabinet in April
 - Jackfield Tile trail ; she has spoken to Tom Supple from Jacobs
 - Heritage Day ; IGMT have indicated that they are not keen on financial support (but Cllr Healy is talking to Alex Nicholl)

- c. Cllr Rajash Mehta; has spoken to Cllr Bennett about concerns of Lightmoor residents and will be taking matters forward

FC/2017/040 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21st February 2017 and Planning meeting 7th March 2017; were approved and signed

FC/2017/041 Matters Arising:

- a. Damaged railings etc at Coalbrookdale YHA reported to Conservation officer who has queried ownership. Clerk to ask her about this; possibly IGMT?
- b. Dale End play area see saw has now been repaired
- c. Church Rd sign needs to be replaced. Reported to TWC. Ongoing
- d. Severn Bank-New rd junction; another cul de sac sign needed. Reported to TWC
- e. The Highways team have agreed to present the Traffic survey and SIDs reports to the Annual Parish meeting .
- f. Power station is ongoing .
- g. Coalport High St drains inspected but yet to be repaired.
 - h. Jackfield Tile trail and celebrations ; agreed that TGPC would like to encourage this by eg providing guest list. Clerk to contact Jacobs' engineer

FC/2017/042 Environmental issues:

The PET agreement (copies circulated) needs a few amendments prior to meeting with TWC on Thursday 23 March . In view of the small number of amendments the Council agreed that the contract could be amended and signed at that meetings , or refer back to the Council if TWC would not accept our proposed amendments .

FC/2017/043 Planning:

- a. New Applications: See para 8 a of report .All matters were noted and would be sent TWC as “no comment “ , subject to inspection of 23 Buildwas Road (TWC/2017/0211) by Cllr Bragg who will send comments to the Clerk. Guidance will also be requested again on use of uPVC materials in a conservation area (see application TWC/2017/0171; 17 Jockey Bank)
- b. Decisions list. None

FC/2017/044 Financials:

- a. The payments shown in section 9 of the Report were approved and cheques

signed (stubs countersigned). Cllr Bragg mentioned and the Council agreed that because the PAYE arrangements were not in place , then the Clerk's pay would be paid gross to 31st March (see transactions No 132 and 133) and adjustments would be made in April's pay . The Grant application from Ironbridge Brass Band Festival would be deferred to April.

b. On the basis that the Clerk had been advised that there was no ongoing contract , the Council agreed that Tax Assist, Madeley be appointed to provide payroll services at £15 + vat per month.

c. The Council Agreed the appointment of JDH Business Services as Internal Auditor for the year 2106/7; Clerk to arrange suitable times for internal audit

d. Cllr Bragg advised the Council about need to use business debit card for purchase of Word package after the one month's trial period had elapsed , and also its renewal fee. Agreed that business card should be used for this payment and Clerk chase Co-op for it

FC/2017/045. Website:

Cllr Bennett had delivered an account for website services for the year beginning 1st April 2017 and there was some discussion about delivering the website services for a full calendar in advance . Cllr Bragg also asked if a Cllr could receive payment for providing paid services to the Council and felt that guidance should be obtained from SLCC.

Cllr Bennett advised the meeting that his fee would include maintenance for the year ahead , including appropriate training for the Councillors and the Clerk . After some discussion and by majority decision , payment of the invoice was approved

FC/2017/046 Casual Vacancy:

a. An amendment of the co-option policy was noted , approved and signed

b. It was agreed to start the co-option process from 23rd March(if no electors call an election by 22ⁿ). The Clerk would advise Returning Officer and prepare notices

FC/2017/047 The Annual Parish Meeting:

a. was confirmed for the 4th May at Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Community Hall ; Highways team to present traffic proposals

b. Cllrs Bennett and Healy signed as the two fire stewards.

FC/2017/048 Reports from outside bodies The Gorge Parish Council is represented on, or meetings attended by councillors:

a. WHSSG Cllr Oldershaw (see separate report of meeting.)

b. Ironbridge Business Consortium requested for assistance with WHS Festival (Cllr Healy See section 13b of report). This was not a GPC event and could not pay costs of eg street closures

c. Pride 2 (see report) Again , this is a community event - although one possibility would be refurbishment of Ironbridge of The Gorge car park's toilets

d. Clerk to contact CMK about taking down lights after Christmas (see report)

e. Annual parking permits ; traders believe that they should be similar to other parts of the Borough – and nearer £50pa than £115 proposed.

FC/2017/049 Review of Policies:

The Sickness absence policy was circulated (updated by Cllr Healy) dated and signed

FC/2017/050 Update on Pride in your High Street. By Cllr Healy. Quotes for plants and materials indicates Boningale coming out as preferred supplier. Work to start soon , subject to a few amendments on eg mulch

FC/2017/051 Correspondence: Letter from Landlord re fire risk and their insurance requirements . Clerk has spoken to manager , who is finding it difficult to find a decision which is appropriate for every trader. Ongoing

FC/2017/052 AOB. Tony Hobson mentioned that Woodside allotments have now appointed new chairman and we should be getting the insurance contribution of £400 “very soon“

FC/2017/053 Date of next meeting: Planning 4th April 2017 and Full Council 18th April 2017.