

**MADELEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held virtually via zoom on**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 7:00pm**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** G White GW (Chairman for this meeting), D. Barnish **DB**, Ms D Riley, **DR**, A. Rowley, **AR**, Mrs. B Ruscoe **BR**, J. Stephenson, **JSt**, S. White, **SW**, Mrs. J Whitmore, **JW**.  
County Councillor: P Northcott **PN** (part).

No members of public were present

Locum Clerk- Mrs C Withington (minutes)

**142.08/20** To receive Apologies for Absence (through the Clerk in accordance with standing orders) Mr David Whitmore, Mrs Jan Simpson, Mr P Carnell, Mr C Hoskins

**143.08/20** To receive Councillors' Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in items on the Agenda; None

**144.08/20** Public Participation. (Open Forum) ;None

**145.08/20** To consider approving and signing at a future date, the Minutes of the last Regular Meeting held virtually on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**RESOLVED** that this be signed as a true and accurate record by the Chair.

**146.08/20** To consider any matters arising from 4 above

a. Madeley White Star-to note funding from Community Grant fund approved in principle was paid. **RESOLVED** to approve £300.

b. To note the progress of the Scarecrow competition and note the ability of MPC to fund small cash prizes.(Circulated) – JW stated that there had been 33 entrants from all areas, SW was collating a database. Closing date may be extended to encourage more applicants. **RESOLVED** to fund prizes using the General Power of Competence (GPC). Prize fund will be £50 for adults/children (vouchers), £25 second prize and £10 for third prize. Rosettes and certificates for all. Goodie bags for all participating children. **RESOLVED** that total fund available not exceed £250.

c. Covid Volunteers-to note the ability of MPC to fund small thank you gifts to volunteers for their work during the Covid crisis. (Circulated) – **RESOLVED** that GPC be used to purchase small gifts. Volunteers to be made known to the Clerk by JSt. Approx 10 people will receive gifts and cards sent to the others which will include the Lieutenant of Staffordshire thank you card.

d. Register of Locally Important Buildings – JS updated a list has been drawn up of 14 properties. The list was read out and agreed. In addition the Old Swan to be included and also The Offley Arms. **RESOLVED** to be submitted by JSt and CH.

**147.08/20** To receive Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

PN – There have been 292 carriageway defects and 241 enquiries for new highways work. Traffic lights are in use by many different statutory undertakers to catch up on the backlog. All are encouraged to visit [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org) which can tell you where the roadworks are planned and how long, with the exception of extensions. Report all other issues via online facility at MyStaffs app at the County Council. More potholes are being repaired to get rid of the backlog. Local businesses and self-employed are encouraged to apply for grants - look under Covid-19 response page on the Borough Council website. County Councillors have a Covid-19 recovery fund and Madeley White Star have approached for a grant from the £2k fund. Covid-19 residents survey is being carried out by the County Council regarding lockdown with 2900 responses so far – all to be encouraged to respond. Local Outbreak Board is meeting regularly. Track and Trace

at Ryecroft has been helpful with an excellent response which has picked up cases not known eg asymptomatic cases. D&G bus service changes to 94, 94a, 94b and 318. See website for others. Schools have now returned and the logistics required has been huge to achieve this. The County are now mapping the car use by parents to drop off etc. All to be encouraged to walk, cycle and scoot to school if possible plus to park 5-10 mins away. Bar Hill flooding – no update as yet. Flooding also at Moss Lane, Poolside and Mill Lane. Highways funding is depleted and unlikely to be able to address all issues.

GW – No Full Council meeting yet next one is due for 23<sup>rd</sup> September but subject to Covid 19 risk assessment. All other meetings are taking place virtually. Walk in Covid-19 testing requires no appointment just a mask and ID. Town Centre bid £25m is ready to be submitted for October. See website for proposals eg covered walkways, multi-storey car park and housing. GW and SW have dealt with local issues eg disputes, planning advice, help for blue bins, new pavements and remediation of drainage. Survey carried out of county drains now done and repaired. We are now awaiting United Utilities to complete any intended works, then new pavement works can be carried out. Barrier along Crewe Arms to monument is overgrown now children have returned. GW to meet with Aspire about this as there are highways concerns over overgrown hedges and signs. Hoping to resolve the issues which crop up each year and to also look at Moss Lane. Aspire Liz Darlington is returning to the area.

**148.08/20** Co-option of Parish Councillor.

a. To approve one of the options as circulated in the Clerks report – Unsure if there has been an bi-election request as yet. **RESOLVED** that if there is no bi-election request to move straight to offer the position to the previous candidate if he remains interested.

**149.08/20** To consider **Financial Matters** including:

a. To note the completion of the External Audit of the Accountability and Governance Annual Return for year ending March 2020, and that a general note not affecting their opinion that “The Council holds general reserves of £83,692 (excluding earmarked reserves of £88,682) compared to its annual precept of £65,081 and expenditure of £64,394. The Council has no powers to hold revenue reserves for general purposes other than for reasonable working capital and should consider earmarking funds for specific purposes”. Appendix A - The RFO reported we would need to bring the amount of working reserves (unearmarked) down to about 75% of the precept request or alternatively earmark the reserves for deliverable projects. It was agreed to earmark the following amounts in addition to the other amounts earmarked:

Rock Garden overhaul inc Izaak Walton Way £10k

Birchdale play area revamp £10k

Memorial garden at Madeley centre £10k

b. Grant scheme. To note the current balance of £2900 and consider any applications for funding – Noted.

c. To consider transferring a sum (approx £130,000) from the Bank of Scotland accounts to bring it within the FSA guarantee for bank accounts (£85,000) to CCLA - It was noted that this type of investment account is not suitable for the Parish Council as they are looking to safeguard the funding not invest. Alternative High Street banks will be considered for the next meeting.

d. To discuss budget priorities for 21/22 – to be discussed next month.

e. To note the action taken by the Clerk under delegated authority re the water burst on the allotment site. - Noted

f. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers. Appendix B – Approved as per attached payment schedule.

g. To note the budget update and bank reconciliation statement. Appendix C – Approved and noted.

**150.08/20** To consider the following planning applications received (and any that are received between date of agenda and meeting)

- a. 20/00640/FUL-12 Vicarage Lane, Madeley-extensions and alterations to House and New Boundary Wall along river bank. <http://publicaccess.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/20/00640/FUL> **Closing date for comments 8th September. – RESOLVED** no objections.
- b. 20/00643/FUL-Former Woodland School, High St, Leycett-conversion of former school to two residential properties. <http://publicaccess.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/20/00643/FUL> **Closing date for comments 8th September. –** Concerns re access due to recycling centre. Noted that it was thought to be a listed building. No objections.
- c. 20/00649/FUL-Hazeley Paddocks, Keele Rd-rear single storey extension. <http://publicaccess.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/20/00649/FUL> **Closing date for comments 9th September.** Inappropriate extension into the green belt has been called in by Borough Councillors. Creep and go basis. **RESOLVED** to object on the same grounds.
- d. 20/00680/FUL-11 Heather Glade, Madeley-side extension and conversion of roof space including dormer window and front porch. <http://publicaccess.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/20/00680/FUL> **Closing dates for comments 14th September – RESOLVED** no objections.

**151.08/20** To receive details of Planning Results; (Previously circulated). Noted.

**152.08/20** To consider any response to the Licencing Policy from Newcastle Borough Council (Circulated-closing date 17th September) <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/business/licensing/current-licensing-consultation> - Allowing in any licenced venue to put out outdoor seating. **RESOLVED** to support this change due to Covid 19 – Clerk to respond.

**153.08/20** Madeley Rural Community Charity - To nominate a person from Madeley Parish Council as a trustee to the above Charity.

DR was nominated and it was **RESOLVED** that DR be accepted. Clerk to inform the charity.

**154.08/20** To look at the feasibility of a “Street Warden” service for the Parish – It was suggested that this be is more about ASB so Policing but also enforcement by a Street Warden. **RESOLVED** to look at what other parish councils do to carry this out nationally. Clerk is also to look into the practicalities of a dedicated PCSO and also Community Warden who can enforce environmental matters/byelaws etc.

**155.08/20** To consider Parish Appearances and Highways issues.

a. Rock Garden-progress on Face book consultation – DR stated that the consultation found that most suggested a natural space. Neighbours would like to see grass, small flowers and shrubs with a border or large stones so no parking. This was **RESOLVED** to implement. Quotes to be sought for the other patch of land at Izaak Walton way/John Offley plus the rock garden. Parking issues further up from Rock Garden on Morningside to be considered and the Clerk is asked to write to local Police and Highways to ask for their input.

Madeley Heath play area parking – residents on Heath Row would like to see grass turned into parking for the houses. It was noted there garages had been provided for all although about 6

remain of the 14, previous residents gave up their rights to off road parking and new properties have now been built. This is a matter for the residents and Aspire.

**156.08/20** Madeley Pool.

- a. To note the progress taken by the Madeley Pool volunteers – Lots of social media comments regarding appearance which has created lots of debate. A Management committee is needed to oversee the pool and develop a management plan for the pool. The Borough Council use to cut the side with a tractor as before halfway down to about 2/3 inches end of each year so people can see the wildlife on the poolside of Offley, just near to the embankment.

**RESOLVED** it was approved that the Parish Council will engage, at a charge if necessary, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to develop a management plan for the future and look to create a management committee.

**RESOLVED** to engage our contractor to carry out the work by first week in October to strim from River Lea, Offley Arms to Weir on both sides reducing the height of the pool side edge down by half.

**RESOLVED** to engage a separate contractor to turf the area around the bench by the weir.

- b. To consider approving the felling of 3 poplar trees and 1 to be pollarded in Poolside - The works are due to health and safety measures although it would be 24/36 months before the Borough Council looked at doing the work. The issue of concern is more about the degradation of the banks and also improving the look of the pool. **RESOLVED** that consideration to be given to replacement trees planted elsewhere not by the pool. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk to circulate public sector land ownership of the pool and other areas to all. **RESOLVED** to approve engage the Borough Council's Contractors to remove the 3 and pollard the other one at a cost of £3126 on the basis they are inappropriate to the pool management plan and create instability of the bank.
- c. To note the current situation re fishing around the pool. – An injured gosling has been treated. A further one was being looked at. There had been no other issues reported.
- d. To note the treatment of Himalayan Balsam – This was sprayed 10 days ago. Update to be posted on the Facebook page.

**157.08/20** Events. (Deferred from last meeting).

To consider actions needed to be taken re the following proposed events:

- a. Remembrance Day Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Unlikely to be allowed hymns but we can hold a small scale service for wreath laying by invite only. An online broadcast for Facebook could be streamed at the Madeley Centre to avoid a gathering at the cenotaph. **RESOLVED** to go ahead on this basis.
- b. Christmas 2020. Older Persons Party (6<sup>th</sup> December) and family Pantomime (13<sup>th</sup> December) – **RESOLVED** to postpone this due to the risks and hold a summer event 2021 - all to be informed as soon as we can achieve this.
- c. Summer 2021 Village Fayre – This could be combined with the above item. **RESOLVED** that we should move to hold one and potentially an open air theatre. Notice on websites that Christmas events are cancelled and to coordinate social media with the Clerk.

**158.08/20** CCTV-note the update. – Concrete base has been followed up and is awaited.

**159.08/20** Speed Indicator Devices-to note the update. Four posts in place and SIDS to be installed within the next month. Madeley Heath to be reviewed to see if there is a suitable location for a post.

**160.08/20** BT Phone Box Woore Road-update

a. To note the delegated action taken by Clerk and Chairman-increase of £70 on original quotation due to material supply issues.(Deferred from last meeting) – Noted. It has been painted and the perspex is due later this month.

**161.08/20** To approve the contractor for the first phase of bus shelter repair and improvement as per quotations. (Deferred from last meeting) –**RESOLVED** to install polycarbonate and to appoint the contractor in accordance with his quote and approve up to £2230 for the work.

**162.08/20** To consider approving in principle the replacement of the play equipment in Birch Dale and any necessary actions required. **RESOLVED** that three quotes will be obtained for replacements and solutions to be considered for all play areas.

**163.08/20** To receive the Clerk’s Report, and to consider correspondence received since the last Meeting; Noted as circulated.

**164.08/20** To consider items for the next agenda.  
Moving the bus shelter from Old Hall to Madeley Heath.

**165.08/20** To consider the Race, Equality and Crime & Disorder Statement for the Meeting – no matters to discuss.

**166.08/20** To note Councillors’ planned absence. – To be sent to the Clerk in advance.

**167.08/20** To note the day of the date of the next regular meeting as **Thursday 1st October to be held online on zoom.**

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.40pm

### Approved Payments Schedule Sept 2020

BACS/CHQ NO.	TO WHOM PAID	DETAILS	Total inc VAT
Bacs 96	British Legion Poppy appeal	Wreaths and donation (Nov 2019) Delegated	34.00
Bacs 100	Design and Reprographics	Printing newsletter (delegated)	365.00
Bacs 101	C Withington	Salary Aug and Expenses	275.84
Bacs 102	J Simpson	Salary Aug and Expenses	950.35
Bacs 103	HMRC	Tax and NI Aug	84.90
Bacs 104	JD Quick	Bus Shelters inc cleaning Sept	175.00
Bacs 105	Amy Taylor	swing security Sept- to be paid at the end	70.04
Bacs 106	Lisa Pickerill	swing security Sept - to be paid at the end	70.04
Bacs 107	Country Grounds	Aug Grass cutting 2424	608.40
Bacs 108	Country Grounds	Pool grass Aug 2425	200.40
Bacs 109	Steve Hough	Springer Madeley Heath park	300.00
Bacs 110	Mrs J Simpson	PPE Pool Working group	125.82
Bacs 111	Mrs J Simpson	Zoom August	14.39
Bacs 112	Mrs J Simpson	Post stamps x 11 2nd	7.15
Bacs 113	N Speakman	Website reimbursement N Plan	108.00
Bacs 114	SPCA	Training invoice 20.08	25.00

		<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>3414.33</b>
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DRAFT