

St Albans Parish Council

Email: clerk@stalbanpc.org Website: <https://stalbanpc.org>

Minutes of Meeting 17 February 2021 via Zoom

Present: Cllr M Thorpe (Chairman), Cllr R Ellis, Cllr D Gibbons, Cllr F Lari

In Attendance: Lynda Ogilvie, Locum Clerk, and one member of the public

Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed attendees. He introduced Lynda Ogilvie, who would act as Locum Clerk.

SAPC21-25 Declarations of intent to record, film or photograph the meeting by members, members of the public or press.

Chairman confirmed that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of producing minutes. No one else expressed their intention to record the meeting.

SAPC21-26 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr King has tendered apologies due to work commitments. His apologies were unanimously approved.

SAPC21-27 To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non- pecuniary interests pursuant to section 31 Localism Act 2011 from councillors on matters considered at this meeting.

There were no interests declared.

SAPC21-28 To determine which items on the Agenda, if any, require the exclusion of public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 1(2) and resolve to exclude public and press for these items.

There were no Agenda items which require the exclusion of press and public.

SAPC21-29 To receive minutes of St Albans Parish Council meeting held on 20 January 2021, and resolve to sign these as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Thorpe proposed an amendment to the minutes at Agenda SAPC21-006 concerning the creation of an unpaid post of Clerk to the Council. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Gibbons. Cllr Lari requested that the names of councillors and how they voted by recorded. Cllrs Thorpe, Gibbons and Ellis voted in favour of the motion to amend the minutes; Cllr Lari voted against. Motion carried. Minutes will be amended as presented, and signed as a correct record.

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SAPC21-30 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Thorpe referred to the arson attack on Muirfield Park, and reported that there had been a second arson attack, which he would discuss in greater detail later in the Agenda.

SAPC21-31 To receive a report from the County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Ellis reported that a number of grants from the borough's community fund had been awarded to organisations involved in supporting Covid-19 effort, including the community kitchen, and Stars.

SAPC21-32 To receive oral reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Thorpe reported that a second fire had been set on Muirfield Park under the tower. He had tidied the area up afterwards, and spoken to someone who said that the damage would be repaired, but it would have to wait until the weather improved.

Cllr Thorpe also noted that the grit which Council had requested had not materialised, and during recent bad weather he had purchased some grit himself and partly filled the bins. Cllr Thorpe suggested that Council consider the purchase of grit at the next meeting – costs were £6 per 20kg bag, and approximately 8-10 bags would be required for each bin. It was agreed that this matter would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Ellis suggested that Cllr Thorpe be reimbursed for the grit which he had purchased, and it was agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr Lari reported that he had become aware that comments he had submitted to the Greater Nottingham Plan consultation had not been received. The organisers were aware of this problem, and had extended the deadline. Cllr Lari had resubmitted his comments, and requested that St Albans PC submit comments as recorded in Council minutes for November meeting.

Cllr Gibbons thanked Cllr Thorpe for dealing with the arson attack at Muirfield Park, and also providing grit for the bins when it was needed.

SAPC21-33 To receive questions and petitions from members of the public – for information only

There were no questions or petitions.

SAPC21-34 To discuss and resolve the creation of an Events Working Group which will oversee the planning and execution of events in the Parish.

Cllr Thorpe explained the background to this item. The intention is to create a group whose objective will be to develop ideas for community events at key times of the year, such as Easter and Christmas, and at other times as appropriate. All councillors present confirmed that they would wish to be part of this group.

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Members discussed various options, but this initiative cannot be taken forward until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

SAPC21-35 Finance

a) To update signatories for Council bank account

This is to remove a previous councillor from the bank account, and was unanimously agreed. Cllr Thorpe will deal with necessary paperwork.

b) Approval of training costs for Notts ALC training for Councillors

Cllrs Thorpe and Lari wish to receive virtual training on Freedom of Information and Introduction to Planning at a total cost of £67.20 – approved, and Cllr Thorpe will make arrangements with Notts ALC.

c) To Approve Notts ALC subscription for 2021-22 at £518.71

Approved, payment will be made

SAPC21-36 To note correspondence received and previously circulated to members

Email received from WAG re grit bins, which had been dealt with.

SAPC21-37 To receive items for Notification to be included on next meeting's Agenda

- The purchase of grit
- Reimbursement of grit purchased by Cllr Thorpe
- Appointment of Clerk to the Council

SAPC21-38 To receive update from Personnel working group

Cllr Thorpe reported that three applications for the position of Clerk to the Council had been received and interviews took place on 11 February. One person did not turn up for interview.

The interview panel had agreed to offer the job to one of the candidates, who has accepted the post. References and the right to work have been checked, and this person will start work at the next Council meeting on 17 March, following formal approval of Council.

SAPC21-39 To confirm date of next scheduled meeting

Wednesday, 17 March 2021 at 7.00 pm

Chairman thanked Cllr Lari and Lynda Ogilvie for undertaking clerk duties which had been of great help in recent weeks. He closed the meeting at 7.40 pm, and thanked everyone for their attendance.