

BEVERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on 24th September 2020.

Present: Miss C Lowsley-Williams (Chairman), Mr D Morris, Mr D McMeekin, Mr O Preston, Mr J Rixen-Osterbro, Miss F Gunn (Clerk).

1 Apologies: None

2 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2020 were approved and the Clerk will visit the Chairman to get them signed.

3 Matters arising not on the agenda: None

4. Valley Trading planning application: The Councillors discussed the recent Gloucestershire County Council Planning meeting when the application was considered and approved 9 for 2 against. Speaking to oppose the application Councillors Lowsley-Williams and Preston spoke on behalf of the Parish Council and Richard Ball spoke on behalf of Calcot Manor Hotel. It was noted that nobody from Tetbury spoke at the meeting. It was also noted that Councillor Stephen Hirst, who represents our area at County Council. was present for most of the meeting but walked out before our Councillors made their case. The Councillors who spoke were very disappointed that, despite making some good points, the County Councillors at the meeting did not interact with any of the objectors.

The meeting then discussed whether or not a judicial review should be sought of the decision. This would have to be done quickly because there is a six week period for appeals. It was noted that getting Counsel opinion would be a very expensive. It was agreed that Richard Ball and his planning consultants should be contacted. Councillor McMeekin agreed to seek the views of former County Councillor Sean Parson. It was also agreed that the village should be notified of the decision.

5. Other planning applications: None

6. Financial: The Clerk reported that the balance in the bank stands at £24,700.

7. Village Hall update – tree cutting: Councillor McMeekin raised the issue of whether the large tree in front of the Village Hall should be taken down. All Councillors agreed that it was probably a good idea to remove it and that the Clerk should consult the members of the Village Hall Operating Committee and if they support the idea then an email should be sent to parishioners seeking their views.

8. BVHT bank account – Motion to authorise the Clerk, Fiona Gunn, to sign for the Trust for the purpose of opening the account. The meeting approved this proposal.

9. Any other business

Permissive rights: It was noted that the permissive right to walk along the track that links the footpaths on the north side of the village was revoked before the sale of the Beverston Castle Farm land. Councillor McMeekin reported that the new owner, Phil Kinch, wants things to settle down before making a decision on whether or not to allow people from the village to use this important link. Councillor McMeekin will keep the matter under review.