

## MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the extraordinary council meeting of Theale Parish Council held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via online video conference*

**Members present:** Cllrs P Clifford, S Coker, L Cox, K Gash, I Hopcroft and J Richardson (chairman).

**Clerk:** P Manley

**Administration Officer:** J Crisp

*Meeting started at 7:33pm*

### **123/20/21 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies received from Cllrs Fenwick and Rolfe.

No declarations of interest.

### **124/20/21 To agree a council response on the emerging draft of the Local Plan Review: 2020–2037**

The clerk was asked to write a response on the council's behalf and include the following:

- the designation of the allocated employment site off Hoad Way as 'an additional site north of Arlington Business Park' is misleading—it impinges on the village side of the A4 and is too close to the historic High Street and borders residential properties
- comments previously made by the council on proposed developments on Whitehart Meadow and the site of the former sewage works, such as access, flooding and drainage issues
- the allocated and proposed site developments represent a significant increase in the number of homes in Theale (estimated 30–50%)—the village's infrastructure would be unable to cope with this and requires an 'adjustment period' following the Lakeside development and
- any other issues identified by Cllr Cox in her comments sent to the clerk on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### **125/20/21 To agree a list and priority order of capital projects for the next two years**

The council discussed the potential projects and received a paper prepared by the clerk and administrative officer on the considerations of each project. The projects discussed were: new benches, floodlights, a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and a new play area. It was also noted that there were reserves marked for some of these projects, including a £20,000 bequest from the late chairman, Charles Bateman.

It was agreed that:

- Cllrs Cox, Hopcroft and Richardson walk around the recreation ground and North Street Playing Fields with the clerk and/or administrative officer to ascertain the need and locations for new seating

- the clerk check the council has permission from Englefield Estate to do the projects and find out what planning permission is required and
- a survey then be conducted to gauge residents' opinions on which projects are most desired.

It was suggested the survey be delivered online and shared via social media and noticeboards, and by a physical mail drop.

**126/20/21 To approve a grant donation to Theale Primary School to purchase IT equipment to facilitate home-learning during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Cllr Clifford explained the origin of the request and the council received a letter from the school to parents asking for donations to purchase IT equipment.

Following a debate, the clerk noted on The Good Exchange website that the full sum requested had been donated in the past twelve hours. The council therefore saw no need to approve a grant donation.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:52pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_