

**[707]**

## **PAULTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**At the extraordinary meeting of Pauntley Parish Council. Held at Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green road, Brand Green, Gloucestershire, GL19 3JD. On Thursday 10th October 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

In attendance were:

Cllr Paul Gray (Chairman)

Cllr Lesley Harding

Cllr Anne Rawson

Cllr Christine Philipps

Cllr Nick Fowke

Clerk Jonathan Martin

Before the meeting convenes, no members of the public were present.

### **Item 1. To receive apologies and acceptable reasons for absences.**

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted for the absence of Deputy Chairman Cllr David Melville.

1.2 No apologies were received regarding the unexpected absence of Cllr Paul Chapman.

### **Item 2. To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda.**

2.1 No declarations of interests received, or dispensations made.

### **Item 3. Planning:**

#### **3 a). To consider the implications of the 'Local Plan 2021-41' on the Parish.**

3 a). 1 The Chairman read the condensed summary of the Local Plan documents as provided for by the Clerk.

3 a). 2 The point was raised that the breaking up of the predicted construction load of new houses into each of the effected Parishes within the District was a manageable prospect.

3 a). 3 Local problems with increasing the population and housing density were discussed. These included the lack of local school places, medical services and food shops.

3 a). 4 Concern was voiced over allowing any new developments in the Parish. It was feared that the District Council might abuse any permission given by Pauntley Council and build an unreasonable and unsustainable number of new houses. Other, more usual channels exist beyond the Local Plan scheme for Pauntley Council and the District Council to come to an agreement on the specifics of any new developments in the Parish. Therefor, it was agreed that the Parish should not argue its own case for new houses in this forum.

3 a). 5 Further, problems with Pauntley's nature were cited as making the area unattractive for new developments. These included the general remoteness of the Parish in relation to larger settlements, with no public transport, such as bus routes, being present. There is also a lack of well-lit roads in the Parish as no streetlights exist here.

3 a). 6 In consideration of the various questions posed to respondents to the local plan from the documents some suggestions were made;

- i. Where a new settlement in the Forest of dean could be built? The area around Westbury on Severn as well as the area around Churcham and Minsterworth was considered. A new bridge over the Severn into Gloucester as well as wider roads was also suggested.
- ii. How can protection of the local environment and Carbon neutrality be achieved? Improving roads would reduce emissions as cars would spend less time queuing. The use of solar panels and the planting of more trees and the founding of more garden and park spaces.
- iii. How can local employment be protected? Seasonal agricultural work can be protected by limiting the damage done to agricultural land. Tourism should also be protected and promoted.

**3 b). To resolve on the council's response to the Plan as part of its (the District Council's) consultation period.**

3 b). 1 It was agreed that enough material had been generated for the Council's response to be formulated by the Clerk.

**Item 4. Finance:**

**4 a). To receive a brief financial report from the Clerk on both the Parish Council's and Village hall's accounts.**

4 a). 1 The Clerk gave a brief report as to the current financial situation of the Council and the Village hall. Further detailing the significant recent pay outs and incomes.

**4 b). To consider and resolve a draft budget for 2020-2021.**

4 b). 1 Discussion was held over the predicted increases in future costs for the Council. For example, the increased employment costs from pension contributions. At least £325.00 would need to be set aside as reserves for local elections. The periodic maintenance of local trees every few years would need to be prepared for with smaller amounts of money saved every year. The possibility of a loan from the Parish Council to its Village hall to fund this was suggested. A need for 'rainy day money' was also suggested for the general reserves, this would ideally cover the Council's expenses for six months. A more specific 'reserve policy' would need to be drafted at some point.

4 b). 2 Questions were then raised as to what the future precept level needed to be.

It was agreed to differ this for the November 25<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting.

**Item 5. Any other business.**

The meeting was ended at approximately 9.20 pm

**Pauntley Parish Council Clerk contact information:****Whitecliff house****Newland street****Coleford****GL16 8NB****Gloucestershire.****Signature of the Chairman:****Date:**