

Randwick and Westrip Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.15 pm on Thursday March 19th at Randwick Village Hall

Present

Councillors

Shaun Egan (Chairman)
Matt Reed
Debbi Smith
Rob Davies

Cheryl Byford
Marina Fontenla
Marianne Demmer

Clerk: Mr B Parsons. District Cllr Edmunds (from 7.25).

1/3/20 **Apologies:** Cllr Woods and Alex Egan.

2/3/20 **Public Forum:** There were ten members of the public present, including Cllr Edmunds.

Mr Tim Byford told the council that the 2020 Wap had been cancelled in response to government advice about public gatherings during the current coronavirus covid-19 pandemic. The Wap committee were hoping to hold an event in the late summer or autumn if conditions allowed.

Mrs Kay Badham explained that the survey planned by the Randwick Community Group had been postponed. The funds the parish council had granted would be kept until the survey could be carried out.

3/3/20 **Declarations of interest in items on this agenda:** None.

4/3/20 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on February 20th were approved and signed.

5/3/20 **Report from the Officer of the Council:** Cllrs noted the contents of the Clerk's report. The elections scheduled for May 2020 had been postponed for one year due to the current coronavirus covid-19 flu pandemic.

6/3/20 **Correspondence:** Cllrs noted the correspondence listed in the Clerk's Report.

Actions: The Clerk to pass an email from Stroud Rugby Club mini section asking for use of the playing field to RVH&PFC.

The Clerk to contact Stroud police about a possible meeting in April.

7/3/20 **Questions from councillors:** None.

8/3/20 **District and County Councillors' reports:** No reports received.

9/3/20 **Deed of variation to lease:** Cllrs considered a draft deed of variation to the 1963 lease for the original playing field to include the Jubilee Field on the same terms.

10/3/20 **Planning applications:**

a) **Applications received to date:**

S.20/0366/FUL - Land At, Somerdale, Townsend, Full Planning Application
1.5 storeys 4 bedroom house – the council suggested that in the current crisis the time scale for any decision by the planning authority should be extended until the public can attend parish council meetings and give their views.

S.20/0410/HHOLD

May House, 1 Ocker Hill, Randwick - Householder Application
Replacement of defective conservatory – no comment.

Noted:

S.19/2572/TCA – Randwick Methodist Chapel – Yew Tree reduce crown etc – approved.

S.19/2722/HHOLD – 10 Humphries Close – single storey extension – permitted.

b) Electric car charging points: Discussion deferred to a future meeting.

c) Traffic Restriction Order: Discussion deferred until further information received.

11/3/20 **Environment:**

a) Report from RVH&PFC: The council considered the VH Committee's plans for maintenance of Randwick Playing Fields. The Committee had secured higher contributions from users of the fields.

Cllrs discussed the Committee's proposals for installing posts and planting a hedge to prevent people from driving over the kerb from the car park onto the overspill parking area. The Committee proposed installing a locked chain or bollards to restrict use of the overspill parking area to hirers of the village hall and playing fields. A locked entrance would make supervision of the parking area easier and more effective. Groups using the overspill parking area would have to lock and unlock the area and marshal parking. Marshalling had been successful at a recent Randwick Revellers' event: cars were parked to avoid damage to the grass. Cllrs were concerned that locking the entrance to the overspill area might cause problems, anticipating that, for example cars could get locked in.

The council wanted to have more information about the proposed locking of the overspill parking area and the views of the user groups that would be affected. Cllrs Reed and Fontenla would join the discussions about locking the area between the Committee and user groups.

b) Trees at Finn's Way:

Action: The Clerk to write to Randwick CNR group explaining that if a proposal can't be put forward by July 2020 the council would consider it at a later date.

12/3/20 **Finance:**

a) Bank reconciliation: Cllrs considered the bank reconciliation for February.

b) Handyperson's contract: This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

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c) Grant for Randwick Playing Field:

Resolved: To pay RVH&PFC a grant of £1844.50 towards the costs of mowing, for removing brush encroaching onto the field, some tree surgery and for maintenance of the play area.

Resolved: To pay a grant of £375, half the costs of planting a beech/hornbeam hedge and installing posts along the kerb of the car park.

d) Financial regulation 11.1.d

Under Financial Regulation: 11.1 d Councillors decided to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition with the council's preferred contractor.

e) Mowing and hedge trimming: Cllrs considered a quotation from SGMS for mowing the playing fields and maintenance at Finn's Way.

Resolved: To accept the quotation for 2020.

13/3/20 Items delegated to the Clerk and items for the next agenda:

The council discussed what it could do to support parishioners during the current coronavirus pandemic and welcomed suggestions from members of the public who were present. Groups in the parish had begun planning to offer help to local residents who were ill or isolated in their homes. The council wanted to help connect people in need with volunteers who could offer practical support such as shopping or running errands.

Cllr Egan volunteered to act as a coordinator between volunteers and residents.

Cllrs Egan and Demmer would write an insert for The Randwick Runner to deliver throughout the parish. Runner distributors would be asked to deliver to every house. District Cllr Edmunds could assist in delivery. Details of available help would be posted on the parish council website and on Randwick Gateway.

Resolved: To underwrite extra costs incurred by The Randwick Runner in printing and distributing the leaflet.

14/3/20 Orders for payment:

GAPTC	Subscription
GCC	Room hire at Cashes Green School
B Parsons	March salary less tax due in the 4th quarter
M Lammas	March monthly contract payment
O2	Mobile phone 12 Mar – 11 Apr

12/3/20 b Handy person's contract:

Resolved: To exclude the press and public for consideration of item 12b in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed relating to a named tradesman.

Resolved: Under Financial Regulation: 11.1 d Councillors decided to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition with the council's preferred contractor.

The council's working party had recommended offering the Handy person an extension to the current contract for three-years from April 1st 2020. The contractor had asked for an increase in the hourly rate as a condition of renewing the contract. Cllrs considered that this was reasonable as the rates had not been increased in the past three years and resolved to pay a flat rate of £15 per hour.

***Action:** The Clerk to contact the contractor and if the rate were acceptable to draw up a revised contract to run for three years from April 2020.*

*15/3/20 **Next meeting:** The council was unable to plan a date for the next meeting until it had more information about government restrictions and recommendations about meetings during the coronavirus epidemic.*

***Actions:** The Clerk to keep the council informed and pass on any regulation and advice received. The Clerk to issue the summons for the next meeting after consulting councilors.*

The meeting closed at 9 pm.