

Horton Parish Council

To: Every Member of the Council for the Parish of Horton, YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND

A VIRTUAL MEETING of the COUNCIL of the Parish of Horton

at 7.30pm to transact the business specified in the agenda set out hereunder: to be held electronically using ZOOM on

Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dated this the 12th day of May 2020, Benta Hickley, Clerk to the Council.

Agenda

#01		Councillors
	A	Present, and apologies and declaration of interest
	B	(and questions from the public if appropriate):
#02		Statutory items:
	A	Recording Requests received:
	B	Minutes of previous meeting for approval:
#03		Matters arising from previous meetings of the Parish Council (unless due to be covered later):
	A	Lighting on the Memorial Green:
	B	Community Right To Buy (CRTB)
	C	Website Legislation (changes): See 7A
	D	Bench (Horton Road) and damaged fence (Pope's Close)
	E	Insurance renewal
	F	Any other matters arising from the previous minutes :
#04		Planning applications and Highways:
	A	Planning Applications received:
	i	Any application received before the meeting
	B	Planning Enforcement Complaints:
	i	19/01702 & 19/50048/ENF Koppa Kitchen (Prev 5 Bells)
	ii	Mitchell & sons / Mill Lane
	iii	18 Coppermill Road
	iv	Any other enforcements received before the meeting
	C	Other planning issues, decisions and appeals:
		Any item received before the meeting
	D	Any other Planning items:
	i	Joint Minerals and Waste Plan – update if available
	ii	Land behind St Michael's church - update if available
	iii	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): Update if applicable
	iv	Any items received before the meeting
#05		Chairman's Communications / RBWM Communications:
	A	Any communications received after the agenda has been published: The Chair will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting
#06		To receive reports from Borough Councillors, Parish Councillors or Clerk:
	A	Clerk's report if applicable
	B	Ward Councillors' report: Update if applicable (including info re RBWM possibly issuing a sector 114 notice and the effect on the residents and the Parish Council)
	C	Heathrow Expansion update: Update if applicable
	D	Borough Local Plan: Update if applicable
	E	Neighbourhood Plan: Update if applicable
	F	Traveller Local Plan & Parish Community working group: Update if applicable
	G	HEELAS & Call for sites (Pickins Piece): Update if applicable
	H	NAG Report: Update if applicable
	I	BALC / HALC / DALC / NALC updates: Available from https://tinyurl.com/HPCCLrsDrive

J	Flood Warden's report: Update if applicable	
K	River Thames Scheme report: Update if applicable	
L	Parish Council Reps: Updates if applicable	
	i Play equipment Rep: Report from Cllr Gibbons and from Zurich insurance' inspectors	
	ii Policies to be proposed for adoption: (available from https://tinyurl.com/HPCCLRsDrive) Scheme of Delegation	
iii	Defibrillator Guardians: Cllrs Gibbons and Coogan and Clerk to report	
M	Parish Liaison Meeting: Update if applicable	
N	Greens Report: Update if applicable	
O	Climate Change Committee: Update if applicable	
P	Highway Issues (including Flytipping, Pavement Parking & Speeding): Any current issues	
Q	Training update: Update if applicable	
R	Parish Conference: Update if applicable	
S	Horton Village as a Conservation Area	
T	Corona Virus / COVID19 update as to how this effects the village	
U	Any communications received after the agenda has been published: The clerk will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting	
#07	Other Communications or Consultations:	
A	Website Legislation (changes): Summary of options from Cllr Cole or Clerk. Fees for current supplier, Going forward, Compliance status on 25/9/2020	
B	COVID19: Update on current status in Horton Parish	
C	Any communications received after the agenda has been published: The clerk will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting	
#08	Financial	
A	Any receipts: to advise the Councillors of any receipts over and above the precept and the compensating grant	
B	VAT Update: Update if available	
C	Payment of invoices: to receive for approval a list of invoices received (including clerk's expenses)	
D	Accounts For previous Q submitted for approval:	
E	Audit Status & Actions	
	i Internal Auditor's "Internal Audit Report 2019-2020" to be approved	
	ii AGAR Part 3 Section 1 (page 4, Annual Governance Statement) to be approved	
	iii AGAR Part 3 Section 2 (page 5, Accounting Statements) to be approved	
F	Accounts (Cllr audit)	
G	Any other Finance items received after the agenda has been published: The clerk will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting	
#09	Questions from the public: (If appropriate)	
#10	Dates of future meetings: 2020, Third Tuesday of each month plus AMP/AMPC Face to face meetings are temporarily suspended on advice from Local and National Government: Emergency legislation has been received re the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC) which may be postponed until May 2021. There is no duty for the Parish Council to convene the AMP. Until advised it is safe to meet in person the Cllrs will hold a virtual meeting on the dates previously agreed.	
	Tuesday 16 th June 2020	Tuesday 20 th October 2020
	Tuesday 21 st July 2020	Tuesday 17 th November 2020
	Tuesday 18 th August 2020	Tuesday 15 th December 2020
	Tuesday 15 th September 2020	

For information (not included as an agenda item): Newsletters from BALC HALC & NALC are available from the HPC Google Drive. Website reports and RBWM press releases are available from the clerk.

NOTE Meeting Rules apply - circulated to Members February 2019 and available from the clerk and at Parish Meetings.

I have arranged for this agenda and the previous minutes to be added to the Parish Council Website: www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Benta Hickley, 4B Bells Lane, Horton, SL3 9PW Email Clerk@HortonParishCouncil.Gov.uk. Parish Phone 07957 588 277

Note: Personal callers by appointment only.

12/05/2020

Horton Parish Council

A **VIRTUAL** MEETING

Tuesday 21st April 2020

Minutes

#01	Councillors	
	A	Present, and apologies and declaration of interest
		Present: Cllr Crame, Clls Cole, Clls Gibbons, Cllr Dunga, Cllr Coogan, Cllr Patel, Ward Clls Larcombe and Cannon, and the Chair, Cllr Bovingdon Apologies: None, all present Declaration of Interest: None
	B	(and questions from the public if appropriate): None
		Cllr SinclairHill has been in hospital with heart problems and the clerk has been receiving reports from her family. This is now the sixth meeting she has not been able to attend so she is no longer a Parish Councillor. Cllr Cole advised that this was not a statutory requirement but Clerk has been speaking with her family and this is the right decision to make. The Notice of Vacancy has been posted on the PC website
#02		Statutory items:
	A	Recording Requests received: none so recording was not permitted. Cllrs agreed this was deemed a normal (albeit virtual) meeting so there was no requirement for the Parish Council to record the meeting
	B	Minutes of previous meeting for approval: Cllr Cole asked for an amendment to item 03H: " I voted against the acceptance of the 30% pension plan. If there was confusion that I reluctantly accepted there was no other option, but I did not vote for it. Please can this be corrected" Revised minuted proposed and seconded (Cllrs Patel and Crame)
		BH
#03		Matters arising from previous meetings of the Parish Council (unless due to be covered later):
	A	Lighting on the Memorial Green: AA Lighting have quoted £683.14 to remove and dispose of the existing foundation and damaged flood light and supply and install new concrete foundation and LED flood light. AA Lighting are the borough's lighting contractors. Cllr Cole is concerned whether we should be using AA Lighting as they are in voluntary administration owing £1.5m. Ward Cllr Cannon to look into this, and to see if we can use alternative contractors
		DC
	B	Community Right To Buy (CRTB): This has been chased. RBWM's CRTB Dept advise they have been concentrating on getting the process right and understood for Wraysbury's Old Baptist Church and are now progressing to other applications
	Ci	Pension for clerk: This has now been actioned and back dated to 1 st January 2020.
	Cii	and payment for using home as an office: Clerk has been claiming £50pm for use of home as Parish Council workspace. This amount was inherited from Jane Clemance who inherited it from Betty Marlow: Cllrs to decide whether this is a reasonable amount. Given the long standing arrangement (for 2 previous clerks) this sum was proposed and seconded (Cllrs Crame and Bovingdon) Cllr Cole advised that the HMRC approved amount was £26pm and the remainder was taxable. Clerk will include this amount on her tax return.
		BH
	D	Statutory Parish Council Meetings:
		General: We do not need to be holding meetings as we can hold our statutory 4 meetings later in the year. This means we have the option to hold an 'unofficial' meeting, and the public do not need to be invited. Cllrs felt that the Zoom system worked and we should continue to hold Parish Council meetings on the previously agreed dates using Zoom. Proposed and seconded (Cllrs Cole and Patel)
		BH
		AMPC: This can be postponed until May 2021 unless anyone objects. Proposed and seconded (Cllrs Crame and Cole)

		APM: My research shows that The Local Government Act 1972 Part III requires that an annual parish meeting takes place between 1st March and 1st June each year. However, there is no duty for the Parish Council to convene this (although it is customary). There is no effective sanction should the Parish Council or Cllrs not convene the meeting. It was proposed and seconded (Cllrs Crame and Patel) that the PC does not arrange such a meeting for 2020	
	E	Any other matters arising from the previous minutes :	
#04		Planning applications and Highways:	
	A	Planning Applications received:	
	i	20/00569 70 Coppermill Road. Certificate of lawfulness to determine whether the existing use of the detached outbuilding as a separate residential dwelling is lawful. Cllr Crame has replied to RBWM Planning (under previous consent). Her reply states that HPC objects on the grounds of previous unauthorised use of the building, it is contrary to our NP (design and subdivision) overcrowding (in a green belt area), increase in traffic, parking concerns, and locally inappropriate design	
	B	Planning Enforcement Complaints:	
	i	19/01702 & 19/50048/ENF Koppa Kitchen (Prev 5 Bells): Chased	
	ii	19/50206/ENF. Mitchell & sons / Mill Lane: Enforcement notice gave until 5 th April to dig up hard standing, remove all materials, reseed and restore land to previous state. Chased	
	C	Other planning issues, decisions and appeals:	
	i	19/03224 18 Coppermill Road: An appeal against the RBWM Planning decision has been lodged. The application was rejected on the grounds that “The proposed development and previous works to the host dwelling would cumulatively increase the floor space of the original building by 102%. This is considered to amount to a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building and would therefore constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt”. There is no opportunity for us to submit further comments	
	D	Any other Planning items:	
	i	Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Cllr Crame submitted a response on behalf of the Parish Council objecting to the works on several points. Copy available from the Clerk	
	ii	Land behind St Michael’s church: Cllr Crame has emailed Cemex and is awaiting a reply	
#05		Chairman’s Communications / RBWM Communications:	
	A	Christmas 2020: Clerk suggests we get the date sorted so it can be included in publications for both villages. Last few years we have gone for 1 st Thursday in December – so she suggested 3 rd December. All agreed	BH
	B	Benches along Horton Road: Residents have asked for these. I have asked JayFlex if they would fund. They have advised that they have been asking for our help regarding a broken fence along their north boundary. I was not aware of this, and am not sure whether it is our responsibility or Colnbrook’s but have started looking into it. Cllrs Cannon and Cole advised that the road is the boundary, so the chain link fence would be RBWM’s responsibility (but low priority at the moment) Awaiting Jayflex’s reply as to how this inconveniences them	BH
	C	Summer hanging Baskets: Window Flowers have quoted £595 (net) for the usual seven baskets (appx £21 increase on last year). Proposed and seconded (Cllrs Bovingdon and Crame)	BH
	D	WAM: Affordable housing: Information received from Windsor Ascot Maidenhead Community Land Trust who help communities explore community-led (affordable) housing. More info from Clerk if required	
	E	Any communications received after the agenda has been published: The Chair will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting	
#06		To receive reports from Borough Councillors, Parish Councillors or Clerk:	
	A	Clerk’s report if applicable	
	B	Ward Councillors’ report: Cllr Larcombe reported: The M4 will be closed next weekend. RBWM weekly meetings are still happening (as virtual meetings). The flood liaison meeting has been postponed. The final RBWM funding for the River Thames scheme is still not guaranteed which may cause the channel 1 to be	

		<p>excluded from the project (detrimental to D & H & W: they would be better protected if they were in Surrey). There is a national problem with maintenance of “ordinary watercourses” (those that are under the local authority) The blockage in the stream to the east of Bells Lane is an example. Cllr Larcombe planned to bring this up at the (now postponed) Flood Liaison meeting. Cllr Cannon asked that information regarding this matter be forwarded to him)</p> <p>Cllr Cannon reported: Cllrs and members of the public need to remember that Cllr Larcombe reports from a personal perspective, and his views and comments do not necessarily represent RBWM. RBWM would not support D & H & W moving to Surrey as this would need a great deal of effort Channel 1 is included in the RTS plan. He asked that any report Cllr Larcombe planned to bring up at the National Flood Forum was presented to RBWM Flood Lead (Cllr Cannon) first as Cllr Larcombe would be there representing RBWM. RBWM’s main focus at this time is communities. Cllr Cannon thanked the Chair of the Wraysbury & Horton Voluntary Care group (Cllr Crame) and asked her to forward his thanks to the volunteers. There are now a good number [48] of community voluntary groups throughout the borough but these have mostly been set up by, and need the support of the Ward Cllrs. Cllr Cannon feels very blessed that his three wards have built on past structures and / or have set up their own schemes. He is available to assist if required but acknowledges they are doing an excellent job.</p> <p>Cllr Crame advised that it is difficult for the wards to function if two of the Ward Cllrs are at loggerheads. She asked Cllr Larcombe to liaise with Cllr Cannon to present a joint approach. Cllrs Cannon reminded the Parish Councillors that the views of RBWM are expressed through the lead members and Cllr Larcombe expresses his personal views.</p>	BH JC
€		Heathrow Expansion update: Update if applicable	
D		Borough Local Plan: Update if applicable: Examination process has resumed after lengthy “pause period”, but COVID19 has caused complications. No further info available.	
£		Neighbourhood Plan: Update if applicable	
£		Traveller Local Plan & Parish Community working group: Update if applicable	
€		HEELAS & Call for sites (Pickins Piece): Update if applicable	
H		NAG Report: Concerns re parking outside the M25 J13 works depot have been raised with the contractors, they will endeavour to reduce the time vehicles spend waiting on the main road. Concerns re memorial items being attached to the traffic island outside Giggs stores on Wraysbury Road are being addressed	
I		BALC / HALC / DALC / NALC updates: Available from https://tinyurl.com/HPCCLrsDrive	
‡		Flood Warden’s report Update if applicable	
K		River Thames Scheme report: Update if applicable: Cllr Larcombe’s report has been sent to all HPC Cllrs (and see appendix A). RBWM press release advised that “funding has not been resolved but we will continue to work with the River Thames Scheme to identify funding for this part of the scheme in the future” Queries re the trees etc in the stream to the east of Bells Lane have been forwarded to Cllr Cannon for his comments (as per #06/B above)	
L		Parish Council Reps: Updates	
	i a	Play equipment Rep: Report from Cllr Gibbons : The play equipment has been deemed out of bounds by COVID19 regulations, and residents appear to have been respecting this. Report from Zurich insurance’ inspectors report that there is damage to the top of the highest hurdle – it a potential splinter hazard and should be repaired. This was sanded (by RFO) last summer following last year’s report and will be sanded again	RFO
	i b	Insurance renewal quote from Zurich: 1 year £1665.49, 3 years £1617.87pa, 5 years £1570.23pa. Cllrs have asked for alternative quotes. Cllr Gibbons and the Clerk to organise (being mindful that the renewal date is 20 th May	BH
	ii	Policies to be proposed for adoption: (available from https://tinyurl.com/HPCCLrsDrive) Scheme of Delegation. It was proposed and seconded (Cllr Cole and Patel) that meetings continue using Zoom until we are able to meet in person. Cllr Crame asked the Cllrs to consider how the PC could function *if* the internet goes down. It was proposed and seconded (Cllrs Crame and Coogan) that in the event of no internet (and therefore no	

		virtual meetings) the scheme of delegation would come into force as a contingency plan.. Cllr Cole voted against the adoption of the scheme of delegation under any circumstances, all other Cllrs in favour	
	iii	Defibrillator Guardians:	
		Clerk to report: Equipment checked and all in order	
		<i>Weekly: Check the defibrillator is inside the cabinet.</i>	<i>Checked</i>
		<i>Weekly: Check the "green" ready light is on.</i>	<i>Checked</i>
		<i>Monthly: Check pad expiry. (If less than one month order new pads via the defib supplier).</i>	<i>09/2021</i>
		<i>Monthly: The keypad lock may need spraying with WD40 or similar.</i>	<i>Checked</i>
		<i>Monthly: Check the battery is okay.</i>	<i>checked</i>
M		Parish Liaison Meeting: Update if applicable	
N		Greens Report: Update if applicable	
C		Climate Change Committee: Update if applicable	
P		Highway Issues (including Flytipping, Pavement Parking & Speeding): Clerk has reported fly tipping on Stanwell Road (opposite 5 Bells), Horton Road (near Jayflex entrance), Poyle Poplar's car park and entrance to car park Resident has reported concerns re speeding on Horton Road and drugs trading outside the Crown. This has been passed to PS Jinks at TVP Clerk has reported litter issues on Horton Gardens (Thames Water side) to Thames Water. They will investigate and report back	
Q		Training update: Update if applicable	
R		Parish Conference: To be renamed Parish Council Summit – all Cllrs and Clerks will be invited. Initial summit is proposed for Thursday 15 th October with agenda focussing on key local strategic issues, and providing time for workshops and networking. Please make a note in your diaries	
S		Horton Village as a Conservation Area	Deferred
T		Corona Virus / COVID19 Report from clerk: Our two villages are a great example of how a community can pull together. A voluntary care group was set up 30 or so years ago. In recent times it was a great help when Wraysbury flooded in 2014 as well as for day-to-day requests for assistance. One phone number goes to a volunteer who takes requests and puts the right volunteer in touch with the caller. Most people asked for a lift to the doctors etc, but it has now been expanded again and is able to offer shopping, prescription deliveries, minor repair or maintenance jobs (changing a light bulb etc) and other support as needed. It is overseen by the Meals on Wheels organiser and the Wraysbury chemist - and the safety protocols are well above any I've seen on TV (gloves, masks, sanitising sprays used before even getting into the car, no cash changing hands between shopper and customer, DBS checks for all prescription deliveries etc) WHVC also works alongside Wraysbury Matters which is a mental health group offering support and de-stress techniques etc, and the churches are making regular calls to isolating congregation, and Vicar Colin is delivering the daily Virtual Church reflections. The school is open even over the holidays for children of key workers, and for vulnerable children. So far I am only aware of a few households in either village that have suffered and all have been reasonably mild cases (there may of course be more, and worse cases, that I am not aware of). WHVC's Chair's report attached as Appendix B WHVC is working with Datchet with the aim of providing free meals to NHS staff in all three villages. Some residents have been offering free meals to key workers. Cllrs understood that the Crown is providing meals for Colnbrook. The Crown and the Koppa Kitchen to be asked if they can help Horton (and Wraysbury) Complaint received re car wash at Horton Depot (is their work essential?) has been forwarded to police. Trading standards replied that car washes are permitted to remain open but should follow social distancing guidelines. They did add that it may be that the police may think that the consumers who are using these sorts of businesses are not travelling for an essential reason and may see fit to issue a fixed penalty notice on the people who visit the car wash.	JC

	U	Any communications received after the agenda has been published: The clerk will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting				
#07		Other Communications or Consultations:				
	A	Website Legislation (changes): Summary of options from Cllr Cole and proposal. Cllr Cole advised this issue should be deferred indefinitely as companies who provide web services are closed or only providing limited services during the lockdown. This issue can be deferred until businesses return to full operation.				NC
	B	COVID19: Casual Parish Council Vacancy Process & Elections. In summary, if we have a contested vacancy before 5 th May 2021 we are unable to call an election. In view of Cllr SinclairHill no longer being a Cllr this procedure has been put into place. Clerk will advise if any action is needed by the Cllrs				
	C	Any communications received after the agenda has been published: The clerk will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting				
#08		Financial				
	A	Any receipts: to advise the Councillors of any receipts over and above the precept and the compensating grant				
	B	VAT Update: RFO is still having problems contacting HMRC regarding the assumed overpayment previously referenced				
	C	Payment of invoices: to receive for approval a list of invoices received (including clerk's expenses). Proposed and seconded (Cllrs Patel and Gibbons). Cheques to be raised and brought to Cllrs Bovingdon and Patel for signing.				
		Date	Payee	Reference	Cheque number	Value
		21 April 2020	Garden Designs : standard works	Inv 3461	300594	£441.00
		21 April 2020	Zurich	Inv 43746166- Renewal		£665.49 £1617.87 £1570.23
		21 April 2020	JRB	Poo bags 21103	300593	£102.60
		21 April 2020	Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund	Jan, Feb & March	300590	£824.46
		21 April 2020	Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund	April	300591	£294.99
		21 April 2020	B & B Hickley	Month 1 wages	300589	£739.92
		21 April 2020	HMRC RE B & B Hickley	month 1	300599	£152.18
		21 April 2020	My Controller re pension admin and wages admin	Inv 12554	300598	£912.00
		21 April 2020	Parish Council Website hosting & domain name renewal	Inv 001	300597	£120.00
		21 April 2020	Garden Designs: standard works	Inv 3426	300596	£525.00
		21 April 2020	Garden Designs: Vegetation cut back for street lamps	Inv 3411	300595	£24.00
		21 April 2020	B & B Hickley expenses (Phone top up and use of home as office)	March - April	300600	£60.00
	D	Accounts For previous Q submitted for approval:				
	E	Audit Status: Internal Auditor has requested certain documents- these were made available 1 st April. Clerk & RFO are awaiting next request				
	F	Accounts (Cllr audit) RFO's reply was submitted to Cllr Cole. Cllr Cole will comment when he has been able to work through the reply.				NC
	G	Any other Finance items received after the agenda has been published: The clerk will inform the Councillors but no discussion or vote will take place until the next meeting. Cllr Crame has received bank confirmation that she is able to approve online payments, but Cllr Cole has not received confirmation so cheques have been issued for the payments approved in #08/C				

#09	Questions from the public: (If appropriate)		
#10	Dates of future meetings: 2020, Third Tuesday of each month plus AMP/AMPC		
	Face to face meetings are temporarily suspended on advice from Local and National Government: Emergency legislation has been received re the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC) which may be postponed until May 2021. There is no duty for the Parish Council to convene the AMP. Until advised it is safe to meet in person the Cllrs will hold a virtual meeting on the dates previously agreed.		
	Tuesday 19 th May 2020	Tuesday 15 th September 2020	
	Tuesday 16 th June 2020	Tuesday 20 th October 2020	
	Tuesday 21 st July 2020	Tuesday 17 th November 2020	
	Tuesday 18 th August 2020	Tuesday 15 th December 2020	

END OF MINUTES

The meeting finished at 8:20pm

All votes were unanimous unless specified.

** Un-adopted Minutes – these are not deemed to be a record of the meeting until signed by the Chair **

Minutes prepared by Clerk to the Council.
 Mrs Benta Hickley, 4B Bells Lane, Horton, SL3 9PW
 Note: Personal callers by appointment only.
 Email Clerk@HortonParishCouncil.Gov.uk.
 Parish Phone 07957 588 277

Agendas and previous minutes are available from the Parish Council Website: www.hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Appendix A

River Thames Scheme - RBWM funding shortfall

2 April 2020: A brief report to Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury Parish Councils on the RBWM partnership funding shortfall.

Background: The Parishes of Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury lay north of the river Thames at the easternmost end of Berkshire. Most of the area is designated flood plain and green belt. Serious flooding occurred in 2003 and twice in 2014. There were a number of near misses – in particular July 2007.

The proposed River Thames flood alleviation scheme (Datchet to Teddington) has been developed over the last decade. The project consists of three new channels, one widened channel and weir capacity improvements in three places. This project is designed to reduce the probability of downstream flooding and includes Old Windsor on the opposite bank.

The ever increasing total cost of the project is currently estimated at about £640m with these costs being apportioned by means of a 'partnership funding' formulae. Thus the project cost is funded both from Government central funds and also by contributions from local councils and businesses. Construction will not commence until the project is fully funded.

The problem: Towards the end of 2017 (actually 26/9/2017) RBWM agreed in principle to contribute £10m capital and a flood levy of £0.5m per year towards the project – subject to delivery of the scheme and legislative approval. I was elected to RBWM in May 2019 and appointed to represent RBWM (and other Councils) on the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. In January 2020 I was confident that RTS funding was progressing smoothly until I read a Surrey newspaper article that referred to funding issues. I tried repeatedly to get a straight answer but was blocked at every attempt. In my last report I stated ‘*The RTS project is still delayed due to unresolved problems associated with the sourcing of RTS partnership funding*’.

On 18/3/2020 I emailed the following question to RBWM:

For the record I was informed today that apparently there are some RTS Channel 1 partnership funding issues. As a matter of urgency would someone kindly let me know precisely what those problems are please?

Still no answers!

On 25/3/2020 RBWM was aware that I had an imminent TRFCC meeting because I emailed the following:

I have a Thames RFCC sub-committee meeting by teleconference on 1st April.

*The invitation below reminds me that I need to be briefed by my LLFA so that I can provide updates. In the circumstances please can you supply me with a very short statement in order to precisely clarify the RBWM River Thames Scheme partnership funding arrangements? **RBWM issued a Press Release:***

An update from the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead on its participation in the River Thames Scheme

Published: Monday, 30th March 2020

A spokeswoman from the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead said:

“We and the River Thames Scheme are committed to seeing the fruition of the whole of the scheme and we are pleased that the outline business case (OBC) will continue to feature the Berkshire section of the scheme.

“Currently, funding for the Berkshire scheme has not be resolved but we will continue to work with the River Thames Scheme to identify funding for this part of the scheme in the future.”

Notes to editors:

The River Thames Scheme, which is currently estimated to cost £475 million, would see the introduction of three new flood channels in three areas from Datchet to Teddington. £250 million of funding has been secured but there is a funding shortfall. The Royal Borough committed £10 million to the scheme, but has always made clear additional funding for the Berkshire section estimated to be around £43 million, would need to be sought.

On 1/4/2020 I was involved in a 90 minute TRFCC teleconference when it became apparent that I had not been included in discussions on RTS partnership funding details. Worse still – despite being the appointed representative on the TRFCC – and asking repeatedly – I had been kept in the dark. My understanding of the current situation is that **WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDING – THE DATCHET, HORTON AND WRAYSBURY SECTION OF THE RIVER THAMES SCHEME WILL NOT BE PROGRESSED.**

END

Appendix B

12/4/2020

Dear All,

Here is the update for last week on all things Voluntary Care related. We really are doing a grand job and there now seems to be a wider recognition in the Villages of the fact that we are there and do things to make others' lives as positive as we can. Bravo!

Finance

First a bit of good news – The parochial Charities have increased their donation to £1000. Hurrah.

Most people now know the system for payments and it seems to be working well. Stuart has received some cheques and there are others at the pharmacy for collection. Some customers worry about paying and few will do internet banking. If they offer a cheque the shopper can accept it in an envelope and it can be put through Stuart's door in Horton, or left at the Pharmacy for collection. Shoppers unhappy with that can leave us to bill the customer later.

Helpline

Surprisingly, the Helpline has been quieter over the past week, only a few calls every day, but all have been efficiently passed onto the right departments and have resulted in shopping, pastoral care calls, meals on wheels and food bank deliveries.

One call we have had is from PCO Les Bradfield who has been self-isolating because of health issues but expects to be back at work this week and is keen to get involved with what we are doing.

Shopping

The demand for shopping has continued at an average of two or three requests per day. However, the Easter weekend was very quiet which gave the shoppers a well-earned break.

We now have four or five regular customers who are coming to us for their weekly shop. Whenever possible, these customers have the same shopper allocated to them, so it is a familiar face that delivers their shopping.

This week we had our first request for a 'Click and Collect' shop from Sainsburys. This worked really well and could be a very useful way for future shopping for our more tech savvy customers assuming of course that there are slots available.

All the feedback we are getting from our customers is very positive and they really appreciate what we are doing for them. One even commented that 'we were putting our own lives at risk' to help them. Thank you shoppers for doing an amazing thing for the elderly and vulnerable residents of Horton and Wraysbury.

Volunteers

We now have 44 vetted and active volunteers, which is amazing. Dianne is still processing new recruits almost daily, We almost have a problem of over-manning, but she is proposing that some people take a break so they can rest, and new volunteers can do a stint.

In parallel, the Government have brought out a directive that those making pharmacy deliveries must be DBS approved. It transpires that DBS checking is specific to the role for which one is applying. Realistically, we would not be able to get new DBS approvals for this work at present, so have taken the decision that that existence of a DBS check/approval should be sufficient as long as we have a record. Dianne now has a list of those on our register who have DBS approval and there will be some re-allocation of roles as appropriate.

Dianne has also at last managed to arrange distribution of all the Parish Council letters in Wraysbury. And thanks to Benta for organising volunteers to do this in Horton.

Pharmacy

The pharmacy has been much quieter and queues more orderly over recent days.

Simon currently has 5 volunteers, each doing 2 sessions. They deliver twice daily, at 10am and 2pm, it usually takes them about 90 minutes. They are being paid a standard mileage allowance and they need to inform their insurance company that they are using their car for voluntary work (99.9%of insurance companies do not increase the cost if volunteering).

Food Bank

Apparently someone has been leaving food parcels at people's doors even though they don't think they have asked for it. We believe that these are from the NHS. Tim has ascertained, finally, that there is a number that the registered recipients can call to cancel them. In the meantime, those who have not wanted the food have kindly donated back to us and we, in turn have been able to deliver a few food bank parcels to some recipients in both Villages. Following Carly's Facebook request, quite a bit of food has also been delivered to the Village Hall and is now sorted and ready to go again. The Hall outer foyer is open from 10:00 to 16:00 every day for food donations if anyone wants to leave it.

Media

Carly continues to monitor our Facebook presence and also respond to the plethora of information requests we receive. We seem to get many and different contacts from departments in RBWM and their various agencies. So far she has resisted the temptation to refer them back to each other although it must be very tempting.

She also helps with topics and updates for Henry Perez who has been making a weekly Video and Swan Radio appearance. This involves giving information on our activities and useful tips from the Wraysbury Matters Group on how to cope with the isolation.

Glyn is promising a new banner to hang in both Villages to let people know we are there to help. Can't wait.....

Meals on Wheels

The numbers are creeping up but we are still coping and so far the food is mainly appreciated. Pleased to say that wonderful puddings keep appearing on my doorstep. Thank you to all my pudding makers.

I now have a barter arrangement with Windsor Homeless and have managed to swap long-life food donations for 2 sacks of potatoes. Great idea but now I have to peel them!

Other General Notes

We have recently received a bundle of information from the Wellbeing Prescriber for Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead, who advertise themselves as “Social Prescribing for Better Health and Happiness”. They are very keen for us to make the information available over the internet to our ‘Vulnerable’, without necessarily thinking of the age group concerned and their reluctance to use technology. So I have helpfully forwarded it all on to Erica and Dianne!

NHS

We have noted that Datchet are providing cooked meals for their NHS key workers every week. This is a lovely idea, but not one which we could probably manage. We also have the problem that apart from one or two who we can identify, we don’t actually know who our NHS and/or key workers are. Once we do know, we thought that a small present of slightly more upmarket gifts (e.g. wine, chocolate etc.) might go down well.

So please help us to find out who they are and we will then produce some goody boxes and deliver.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to work hard for and support the Voluntary Care cause. Please do let me know if you have any problems, or if you have new ideas of how we can continue to improve what we do.

Best wishes

JC