MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES PANEL held on Tuesday 18 May 2020 at 4pm via Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing

Councillors Present:
Cllrs Stephen Hand (C), John Lowman, Allan Brown, Tony Lank, Claire Majsai, Malcolm Llewellyn, Martin Machan & Bob Sampson. Also in attendance: Sarah Groom, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest: There were no apologies for absence. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Panel: The minutes of the meeting of 11 May were agreed as a true record of the meeting. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman at the next available opportunity.

Cllr Hand asked for any matters arising from the previous meeting. The only action concerned finalising the Annual Report which nearing is completion. The Clerk is still seeking evidence of the Parish Council's name change in 2001.

3. Matters for Consideration: The following matters were discussed:

(3.1) Response to Coronavirus:

Cllr Hand asked for thoughts on the current position of the pandemic and whether we still need the weekly Panel meetings. It was agreed the meetings are still required. The shielded groups must still be protected, whilst others may be returning to some form of normality. Cllr Sampson reported that the Sayers Common Community Shop will now only allow one customer in at a time as people were ignoring the social distancing rules.

There is talk of some school year groups returning on 1 June and this may include the Pre-School at the Village Centre. The cleaning company is ready to undertake a deep clean of the Club Suite if they do re-open. Cllr Hand asked what is the Parish Council's opinion on re-opening our buildings? Cllr Majsai would need to be satisfied that the Pre-School is following all safety measures and we should ask for their risk assessment.

Cllr Llewellyn raised the issue of when the right time would be to re-open the public toilets. Cllr Majsai suggested it could be tied into the Schools re-opening on 1 June. The Clerk will investigate the current cleaning regime and what more may be required by the contractor. Employees will not be required to do any public toilet cleaning. This will be discussed further next week.

> **ACTION: Clerk to contact the public toilets cleaning company regarding their cleaning regimes and the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.**

(3.2) Council Income and Expenditure

Cllr Llewellyn reported that the Finance and Governance Committee will be meeting on Thursday 21 May at 7.30pm to discuss the outcome of the internal audit and the 2019/2020 final figures.

(3.3) Estates and Facilities Management Update:

Cllr Brown gave an update on the activity at Hurst Meadows. The contractor "Conservation and Access" is on site and laying the new paths at St George's Green, Hovel Field and the Latchetts Lane crossroads. The work is expected to be fully completed this week. We have three quotes for treating the docks in 15 Acre Field and a decision on which approach to take will be made tomorrow. We have three quotes for an ecology report for

the Marchants Close farm track boardwalk study, all for the same piece of work. The lowest quote of the three was therefore agreed at a cost of £650+VAT.

The area known as Ladies Walk was discussed as it is believed the Hurst Society who own it are looking to sell it. The Parish Council would be interested in bringing it into the Hurst Meadows boundary and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Chair of the Society to express an interest.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Chair of the Hurst Society, Mrs Lyn Williams, regarding the sale of the land known as Ladies Walk.

A number of information items include: Works will be taking place to repair some tiles on the Cemetery Chapel Roof. We have a number of requests for memorial benches including for the late Ian Nelson, which the Clerk is processing. The Tennis Club has re-opened but the Bowling Club is yet to.

(3.4) Council and Committee Meetings:

The 28 May 2020 Annual Council meeting will be held using MS Teams at 7.30pm. The Clerk will circulate the nomination forms for the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman following this meeting.

The Clerk had circulated the draft Annual Report which was due to be published on the Council's website on 19 May. We still need to add some financial information. Cllr Hand thanked members for their contributions and suggested we might like to include photos of the report authors (from the website pictures). The front page photo of the Church may lead people to assume the Holy Trinity Church and the Parish Council were the same body, so a different picture may be more appropriate. The deadline of 19 May is not fixed so it won't matter if the document is published later than planned.

ACTION: Clerk to find a new image for the front cover of the Annual Report and add councillors' photos to their reports. The draft will be published as close to 19 May 2020 as possible.

4. Matters for information or inclusion on next agenda:

Cllr Lank reported that a resident had complained about speeding on Wickham Hill and he had responded accordingly with WSCC's Cllr Joy Dennis. Although a great deal of attention had been given to recording speeding on Wickham Hill, there was little evidence other than anecdotal. A speed indicator devise is already installed east bound on the road and it is a 30 mph road. WSCC will not install more 30 mph signs where there are street lights in situ. The residents wish to pursue a Community Speed Watch scheme and 30 mph stickers for their bins but are also pressing for the contact details of who they need to speak to, to over-turn the WSCC position. The matter can be considered by the Highways and Cycle-paths Joint Council Working Group at their next meeting. Cllr Sampson will find a contact for the Sayers Common Community Speed Watch organiser. Richard Speller is now the WSCC Eastern Area Manager.

The Places and Connectivity consultation from MSDC will also be included on the Highways and Cycle-paths Joint Council Working Group agenda for consideration rather than on the Planning & Environment Committee agenda, as initially suggested.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr Dennis when the SID will be re-available following its recalibration.

Members mentioned the new access being constructed at Hurst Wickham Barn, College Lane. Cllr Lowman said MSDC were telling people that planning applications of more than 3 years old are not an automatic renewal but must be re-applied for. The owner of West Furlong House has written to local residents and erected a sign to say that their latest application for planning permission is an old renewal and not a new scheme. The matter of the West Furlong Lane wall is of concern to members and Cllr Llewellyn suggested the Clerk write to WSCC to express our concerns for public safety on the public right of way.

ACTION: Clerk to write to WSCC expressing our concern over public safety on the footpath.

Cllr Sampson reported a local resident had tried to divert a bridleway around their garden to avoid the public walking through their garden during the pandemic and Cllr Joy Dennis is following up on the matter.

Cllr Majsai asked if a small gift of thanks could be given to the volunteers who had delivered the information leaflets (plus a replacement, stolen wooden spoon). This was agreed. Next time, hopefully, our professional distribution company will be able to deliver. Cllr Hand suggested there would be many candidates for the Community Service Awards this year and Cllr Majsai recommended the two area supervisors from the COVID-19 Neighbours' Support Group should be nominated.

Cllr Majsai was recommending two campaigns for the council to pursue namely, "There's no such thing as the dog poo fairy" and the Keep Britain Tidy "Love Where You Live" anti-litter campaign. These were agreed. Cllr Hand particularly liked the cost of fly-tipping poster. Members noted the improved air quality with less vehicles and planes.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 4pm on Tuesday 26 May 2020 via Microsoft Team Video Conferencing.