



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the virtual Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill, Ellis, Elliston, Gage, Hall, Haskins and Hope.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk, Mrs T Cavill, Assistant Clerk.

49/20 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllr Tully who experienced technical difficulties trying to connect to the virtual meeting.

50/20 Declarations of Interest, Dispensation Requests, amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

a) Declarations of Interest: No change.

b) Dispensation Requests: None

c) Amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: none had been notified to the Clerk.

51/20 To discuss and consider next steps that the Parish Council should take for the community during the Coronavirus Pandemic

An update on advice received from SALC / NALC / Government was provided by the Clerk, the Coronavirus Bill is making its way through parliament – announcements are expected early next week.

Cllr Haskins confirmed that Persimmon, along with other major house builders, have stopped work on building sites.

Clerk suggested that a subscription should be paid to Zoom to enable longer virtual meetings where more participants can join. Cllr Elliston confirmed that the cost of the subscription was approximately £15.00 per month and could be cancelled when it was no longer required. It was proposed by Cllr Elliston to pay the subscription, seconded by Cllr Hall and agreed with all in favour.

Cllr Hope asked if members of the public could also participate in future virtual Parish Council meetings, Clerk confirmed that the link to the virtual meeting could be included on future agendas to enable this.

Cllr Elliston confirmed that he had only received one phonecall following the mailshot that went to every household in the parish.

There are lots of community initiatives taking place during the pandemic, aided through facebook and whatsapp groups. There is a concern that these groups are not joined up or coordinated.

It was agreed that where possible enquiries or requests for help should be fed into these groups.

Cllr Elliston suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider ways it can help with the repercussions of the pandemic e.g. financial hardship, particularly for those who are self employed, mental health, increase in domestic violence. It was noted that the peak of the pandemic is expected in 2-3 weeks time.

Suggestions of initiatives were discussed including:

- Signposting for financial support that is available.
- Temporary notices being displayed around the parish including information and signposting for advice and support.
- When pandemic is over and normal life begins to resume, drop-in sessions at the BACH.
- Develop a foodbank in the Parish once the pandemic is over / when lockdown ends.
- A Community Food Project with the Primary School. The Parish Council could offer financial support for the initiative. Cllr Elliston to advance conversations with the school. Cllr Cavill to talk to Ian Robinson.

- Coordination and training of volunteers. Clerk to seek the advice of SCC in respect of coordination and training. Possibility of offer of financial support through the supply of masks and gloves for volunteers.
- Cllr Hope suggested a dog walking area. Clerk to approach Persimmon and ask if the public can make use of the field next to the ERR.

It was agreed that a further virtual Extraordinary Parish Council meeting should be arranged to take place in one week on Wednesday 1st April at 7pm to catch up and consider these steps further and identify any others.

52/20 Delegated Authority arrangements during Coronavirus Pandemic

a) Authorisation to make payments over £500.00

It was agreed to delay making a decision in respect of delegation until advice is received from NALC / SALC / the Government – announcements are expected early next week. Item to be added to the agenda for 1st April meeting.

b) Authorisation to accept quotations

No quotations to currently consider, it was agreed to delay making a decision in respect of authorisation to accept quotes until further advice is received. Item to be added to the agenda for 1st April meeting.

c) How to agree responses to planning applications

Two planning applications have been received and circulated. Options to coordinate responses include Parish Councillors emailing their comments or to use 'google docs' to add comments. It was agreed to delay identifying a way forward until further advice is received. Item to be added to the agenda for 1st April meeting.

d) Decisions in relation to the operation of the BACH

Cllr Gage confirmed that all regular and private hirers had cancelled their bookings and therefore the BACH has been closed. An approach was received from the school and it has been agreed that the school can use the BACH for the foreseeable future to enable social distancing at the school. The School are required to clean the hall whilst it is being used and Clerk to request that they also water the plants if they are able.

It was agreed that the BACH Committee Meeting scheduled to take place on 16th April would be postponed.

e) Other decisions that may be required

No other decisions required at the moment, review again at the meeting on 1st April.

53/20 Other matters for report only

Audit Working Party scheduled to take place on 17th April to take place virtually instead using Zoom. Clerk to arrange.

Cllr Hall provided an update on the Country Park. Grass to be cut using the ride-on mower.

54/20 Dates of forthcoming meetings

It was agreed that a decision in relation to how the future Parish Council meetings would take place will be made at the meeting on 1st April once further advice has been received from Government.

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month

2020: 14th Apr, 12th May, 9th Jun, 14th Jul, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

Planning Committee

First Tuesday in the month

2020: 7th Apr, 5th May, 2nd Jun, 7th Jul, 4th Aug, 1st Sep, 6th Oct, 2nd Nov, 1st Dec.

Parish Surgery

Second Thursday in the month at 8.30am – DROP-IN – April cancelled.

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC

BACH Committee: TBC

Audit Working Party: 17th April 2020 9am (Virtual meeting)

Budget and Precept: TBC November 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Ruis', written over a horizontal line.

Signed Chairman

Date 14th April 2020

Adopted - Redacted