

WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 9th April 2020

by electronic communication in a virtual setting at 7.00 pm.

In accordance with provision laid down by The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, during a period of government enforced 'lockdown' when all citizens were expected to remain home unless at work or on essential business, this meeting was held by means of internet video and telephone communication in a virtual setting. All members were able to hear proceedings at all times and members of the public had been given opportunity to attend.

1501. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

PRESENT, Cllr Philip Douglas, Cllr Nikki Howard, Cllr Nigel Rudd (chairman), Cllr Debbi Scotting and Cllr David Trafford. Officer present: The clerk and Steve Cheeseman as consultant advisor. Apologies received from David Short due to the technical situation.

1502. UPDATE FROM THE CLERK

The clerk gave a brief overview of the legal situation facilitating meeting via video conferencing in the way this meeting was being conducted.

1503. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The chairman explained that by virtue of The Coronavirus Act 2020 passed in March, the elections, scheduled for May 2020, of parish councillors, the new North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority, and the Police and Crime Commissioner had been postponed until May 2021. The situation regarding co-options has therefore changed and the council will be proceed to co-opt new members, once the usual casual vacancy process has been followed, facilitating the democratic right to a by-election. There will be four vacancies as Jo Simpson and Chris Ellard have resigned, following 13 years as members of the council, and Nikki Howard would be standing down at the end of this evening's meeting. The chairman thanked Cllr Douglas for his ongoing support. It was *resolved* to approve the appointment of Cllr Debbi Scotting to chairman of the governance committee.

1504. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

- Cllr Nigel Rudd reaffirmed his standing personal interest, for which he has a dispensation to the end of the current parish council term of office, as he is related to someone who works for the planning inspectorate.
- Cllr Nigel Rudd and the clerk declared a pecuniary interest in any discussion regarding the church gate as he has business dealings with the potential contractor.
- Cllr Debbi Scotting declared a personal interest in matters relating to matter to do with Ingrebourne Valley quarry application (as opposed to the reservoir application)

1505. MINUTES:

It was *RESOLVED* to approve minutes of the council meetings held on 13th February 2020 as a true record of that meeting. The chairman will hand signed minutes to the clerk at a future stage once restrictions on social distancing are eased and it is safe for them both.

1506. MATTERS ARISING / OUTSTANDING:

The chairman's action points from February's meeting and the ongoing [action points](#) list were circulated with the agenda. There was clarification that payment of the balance of income from the fireworks to reimburse the older people's Christmas party expenses had been agreed. It was agreed to submit a plan of the proposed cemetery site to Elton Estates.

1507. PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

The council had been approached by a mobile ready cooked food vendor about the possibility of visiting the village during the coronavirus restrictions, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the government and the food standards authorities. The councillor approached about this discussed with the village hall and the van had been parking in the car park for the past few weeks, selling pizzas whilst maintaining social distancing and avoiding all contact between vendor and customers at all times. A member of the public has expressed concerns to the village hall trust chairman who had in turn spoken to the councillor. No rules or guidelines are being breached and there have been no observations or reported of breaching of social distancing guidelines at this stage. It was agreed that social distancing rules would be reiterated.

1508. DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING MATTERS:

There were no pre-advised planning applications to consider. Notification had been received that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities have submitted a joint minerals and waste local plan to the secretary of state. It had become apparent earlier in the day that two planning applications have been submitted to East Northamptonshire Council planning department for further developments at 3 Spinney Close. The clerk was instructed to write to the planning

authority to explain that the council’s response to the application would be submitted following its next meeting on 14th May. The clerk was also to inform the planning authority that no pre-application approach had been received from the developer or its agent, despite the requirements of the NPPFⁱ and the Warmington Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The council’s governance committee would call an ad-hoc working party meeting to look at the applications in detail and consider against the Neighbourhood Development Plan and its integral design code as well as wider statutory requirements.

1509. GREENWAY UPDATE:

The contractor has been able to overcome the coronavirus lockdown requirements which restrict certain working practices by using 3 people who are related to one another and live in the same home for the work. By definition, they are working in the open air away from third parties. Phase one and two will be commencing after the upcoming Easter bank holiday weekend. An emergency footpath closure will be in place and whilst it is not a legal requirement to do so, the parish council will be publicising details of alternative routes to Elton. The phase three part of the route from the end of the track through the trees down towards the stream in the Elton Hall parkland remains subject to agreement of surfacing in keeping with and sympathetic to the listed parkland setting.

1510. ORCHARD POCKET PARK

Finally, all matters have been settled, with Northamptonshire County Council having agree to the parish councils counter of a reduced overage period (from 100 to 25 years) and the inclusion of all leisure and exercise activities. It was **RESOLVED** that the deeds can be signed in accordance with standing orders (in the absence of a seal). The clerk will make the necessary social distancing arrangements to have this executed.

1511. BROADGATE WAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION.

The parish council has had the culvert under the drive to and the ditch in front of the cemetery cleared. This has brought to light the fact that the remainder of the flood ditch leading to the culverts that take surface flood water away from village buildings are not functioning. This is causing the water in the cemetery ditch to pool, creating a water hazard. It was agreed that a councillor would speak with the current tenant farmer of the land adjoining the ditch to ascertain whether riparian duties lay with the tenant or landowner.

1512. CLERKS REPORT of [delegated decisions](#).

1513. ACCOUNTS MATTERS:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Goods/service	Supplier	Nett	Gross
IAS & membership	NorthantsCALC		694.64
Streetlight maintenance	Eon	241.18	289.42
PAYE/NI	HMRC		801.86
Membership	SLCC		148.23

1514. ROLE OF PARISH COUNCILS IN TIMES OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

There was a brief discussion of the role the parish council has played in helping shield communities in the recent weeks, in disseminating information from the local authorities and helping co-ordinate volunteers.

Approved by Warmington Parish Council:		
Signature of Chairman of following meeting:		Date

ⁱ NPPF = [National Planning Policy Framework](#)