

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

These minutes are in draft form and may be altered

**Present; Cllr.** R.Gore (Chair), Cllr. C. Hunt, Cllr. S. Farrow, Cllr D. Edwardson, Cllr. D. Forrest, Cllr. L. Hoggarth

**Apologies for absence;** were accepted from Cllr. C. Cuckson

12/20 **Speed Indicator Device** – easing of Covid-19 restrictions meant that it was now possible to resume use of this device providing social distancing measures were observed. Scott Hoggarth and Scott Dunderdale had agreed to take over siting of the device and they would liaise with the Clerk to arrange a time for collection.

13/20 **Neighbourhood Plan** – the Chairman of the working group had provided an update which indicated that progress had drawn to a halt since the arrival of the tenders from potential consultants. Covid-19 restrictions meant that it had not been possible to hold face to face meeting which had proved quite a hurdle. The Parish Council questioned the commitment of residents to the plan and instances were sited of other parishes where significant building projects had been given the go ahead which were not included in their plans. Since it was a joint plan with Upton the Clerk was asked to contact Upton PC Clerk to request that their Parish Council discuss the situation at their next meeting so that a joint decision on the way forward could be made.

14/20 **Banking arrangements** – the Chairman had been in touch with Barclays, they had all the relevant paperwork in place but no progress had been made due to Covid-19 lockdown. They would re-start the process and contact the Clerk to arrange the transfer from Nat West.

15/20 **New website** – the current website did not comply with new accessibility legislation so Lincolnshire County Council (who hosted the site) had devised a new format. The existing websites would be closed down as Parish Council converted to the new version with a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December for all the existing sites to be closed down. The Clerk had undertaken two on-line training sessions but was still struggling to upload onto the new site. There were also issues around transferring historical data, such as old minutes, to the new site. Cllr. Hunt agreed to speak to a web designer to see how easy it would be to create a simple website and what the cost would be.

16/20 **Fibre Broadband** – the leaflet drop had elicited a good response with around one third of the properties in the village expressing an interest in signing up to having a direct fibre connection to their property (subject to cost). The Clerk had registered an interest with Open Reach and had begun downloading details of the interested parties. Open Reach would then assess the level of demand and calculate whether the Government's voucher scheme (£1,500 per household and £3,500 per business) would fully fund the installation. If more households and businesses could be persuaded to show an interest in the scheme there would be a better chance of it being fully funded by the Government grants. It was agreed that a reminder should be posted on Facebook and members of the council agreed to "knock on doors" to try and boost demand. The Clerk would circulate the spreadsheet showing those households and businesses that had already expressed an interest. It was decided to set a deadline of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September for responses so that the Clerk could complete the download before going on holiday.

The request to Open Reach had to be made by a "legal entity", it was agreed that the Parish Council would be the legal entity. It was not committing them to anything at this stage as it was purely the exploratory phase

## KEXBY PARISH COUNCIL

17/20 **Finance Report** – there had been very little activity during lockdown, consequently the current account was showing a healthy balance. There was likely to be quite a large surplus at the end of the financial year but Councillors were aware that, given its age, provision should be made for unexpected expenditure on the parish cottage.

18/20 **Bus shelter** – this had been damaged once again a quote of £124.20 for repair with toughened glass had been received from the firm who repaired it last time. Since their quote was considerably lower than any others last time it was agreed to ask them to proceed with the work.

19/20 **Parish Cottage** – the double-glazing units in all panes in the two front windows had ceased to be effective causing condensation between the panes. A quote of £396.50 had been received to replace all of the sealed units, this was accepted and the Clerk was asked to invite the builder to undertake the work.

The tenant had requested permission to level off an existing area of concrete and rubble in the back garden by adding a thin layer of concrete at his own expense. This was agreed but the Clerk was asked to remind the tenant of his responsibility to control vermin when passing on the permission.

20/20 **Clerk's pay and expenses** – these had been circulated in advance, there were no queries arising and they were passed by the council and signed off by the Chairman.

### **Any Other Business**

21/20 **Facebook** – one resident had repeatedly asked that warnings of potential crime be posted on the Facebook page. The only official notice which the Parish Council received was the monthly crime report which was circulated to Councillors. This could be posted on the website although it covered a larger area than just the local parishes. If any specific warnings came from the police the Clerk would pass them on for posting on the website. The Council had to be careful about posting information from hearsay and rumour but residents were entitled to post items themselves should they wish to do so, Cllr Hunt agreed to inform them of this.

22/20 **Bonfires** – complaints had been received about the number of bonfires being lit and causing smoke nuisance. The clerk was asked to contact WLDC to ascertain what restrictions were in place to limit the times at which fires could be lit and to raise the matter in the next newsletter .

23/20 **Glentworth Road drains** – LCC Highways had been out and located a blockage which they would investigate within 12 weeks, the Clerk had made a diary note to chase up if no action had been taken within this timescale. There was water overflowing from the drains even after several days of fine weather. The Clerk had reported this to Anglian Water who had been out and confirmed that there was no water leak from their system. The overflow from the well in the centre of the village came down these drains Cllr. Forrest said that he had caught LCC Highways personnel about to destroy the slab on the top of the well and asked if it was possible to get it protected by applying for listed status from Natural England. The Clerk was asked to look into this.

24/20 **Post Office provision** – this had been suspended during lockdown although it was understood that provision was continuing in other villages. A considerable sum was due to the village hall from the current provider of post office services and there had been numerous complaints of an unreliable service prior to lockdown. The Chairman offered to write to the local MP to try and get a better service.

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25/20 **Secure Email** – the question of whether Parish Councillors should have a unique email address for Parish Council business in order to comply with GDPR regulations was raised. The Clerk stated that he had created a Parish Council specific email in order to deal with council business and, as far as he was aware, this met the requirements.

**Time and place of next meeting - 6:30pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November in the main hall of the village hall**