

## **HARRINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2020 via virtual Zoom conference.

Meeting commenced at 7 30pm

Present:

Cllr A White (Chairman); Cllr G Dolman; Cllr S McLean (Deputy Chairman); Cllr S Milton; Cllr K. Dove (Finance); Cllr F Walsh; H Maxfield (Clerk)

**1161 Apologies for absence:** Cllr L Boon;

**1162 Adoption of new Standing orders**

These were presented as the first Agenda item to permit the meeting to take place via a video conference. They were agreed by all the Council.

**1163 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council**

Councillor White was elected Chairman and Councillor McLean was elected vice-Chairman.

**1164 To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

Councillor Dove explained that he was employed by Bulwick Estates which have some interests in the environmental impact of Wakerley Quarry.

**1165 To consider any dispensation requests and to grant such dispensations as the Chairman may consider necessary.**

The Chairman granted a dispensation request for Councillor Dove to remain on-line for the discussion on Wakerley Quarry though he would not have any vote on the matter.

**1166 Minutes of meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020:**

The Councillors present confirmed the minutes of the meeting held in March and arrangements were made for their Signing as a true record by Cllr White.

**1167 Matters arising**

The only issues arising were covered later on in the meeting as part of Highways and Planning sections of the meeting

**1168 Annual Review of Documents & Procedures**

- a) The Council's financial regulations, complaints procedures and policy for dealing with press and media were reviewed and accepted.
- b) The new draft Council Policy on policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation was also reviewed and accepted.
- c) The inventory of Council assets was accepted but the Clerk was asked to investigate as to whether there should be a "write down value" for the items listed.
- d) The Insurance arrangements were confirmed as acceptable.
- e) The council was pleased to note that our internal auditor had agreed to continue for another year and was duly appointed for the year 2020/21.
- f) The Chairman's annual report to the Open parish meeting was accepted and would be available online. His report is attached.

### 1169 Review of annual accounts.

The accounts showed that the council was in a healthy condition financially, however some misgivings were voiced about the long-term effects of the Pandemic on Local Government finances. It was agreed that the accounts should be forwarded to the internal auditor for his approval.

### 1170 Routine Financial matters

a) Review of Payments received

i	Precept (One of two instalments)	£3090
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b) Pre-approved contracts for noting

i	Haven power	£20.34
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c) Payments for approval

i	Leicestershire Gardens invoice no 20/028	£250
ii	Leicestershire Gardens invoice no 20/058	£175
iii	TP Jones (Payroll)	£73.20
iv	Parish Online	£60
v	SLCC membership	£65
vi	Zenith insurance	£350.18
vii	Replacement battery for defibrillator	£170
viii	One month's subscription for zoom	£14.39

All payments were approved.

d) Reconciliation review for the period starting April 01 2020 was accepted

### 1171 Policing Matters (web site reports)

There were no reports of any incidents in the Village but the clerk stated some concerns that speeding on the relatively empty lanes was becoming an issue.

### 1172 Highway matters.

Following the Chairman's letter to the CEO of Northants County Council a reply had been received from Graeme Kane, Executive Director – Strategic Delivery and Transformation Northants County Council, concerning the hedge and verge by Spanhoe Lodge. The letter stated it was not clear whether the land had been purposefully sown, or whether any vegetation was from natural growth. Another assessment will be made and if necessary further enforcement action will be taken. The removal of the hedge is not a consideration for the Highways Authority as the hedge would have been owned by the landowner and is not required to be re-instated. Therefore, it is not subject to the enforcement notice.

In discussion a councillor expressed surprise as it was quite clear that the verge had been drilled. In addition, they were of the view that the hedge owner may have been in receipt of a payment from the Rural Payments Agency. It was agreed that the Clerk should make further enquiries.

### 1173 Planning

a) Wakerley Quarry

Serious misgivings were expressed about the extended working hours of the quarry and a draft letter written by the Chairman to that opinion was accepted and will be sent to Phil Watson, Development Control Manager Northants County Council.

b) Update concerning Daglan (42 Gretton Road)

An enforcement order was issued just before Christmas which is now subject to an appeal by the land owner to the Planning Inspectorate.

**1174 Corona Virus**

Councillor Dolman gave a brief update on the community help that he was organising in the village. The Councillors thanked Councillor Dolman for the stalwart work that he had done co-ordinating the volunteers. His report is attached.

**1175 Churchyard trees.**

As it is some time since the trees were inspected with respect of their safety it was agreed that a new inspection should be organised. The Clerk was asked to investigate possible costs etc.

**1176 Administration.**

The dates of the years bi-monthly meetings were agreed to be on the second Thursday of the month.

These are July 9; September 10; November 12; January 14; March 11; May 13.

**1177 AOB**

It was agreed that as an experiment the first 10 minutes of each meeting would be "open" to allow members of the public to raise any issues.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

**Date of Next Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> July**

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