

Minutes of the meeting of Scarisbrick Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 2nd November 2020. This meeting was held in compliance with Regulation 5 of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

PRESENT

Councillor A. Blundell (in the Chair)
Councillor G Holcroft
Councillor Jane Marshall

Councillor N Makin
Councillor J. Herbert
Councillor M Andrews

Mrs I O'Donnell (clerk) in attendance.

120/128 APOLOGIES

Councillor Charles Marshall and Councillor J Williams gave reasons for absence which were approved.

20/129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

20/130 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th October 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.

20/131 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

No members of the public attended so the meeting was not adjourned.

20/132 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications were considered, and the decisions taken as shown:

Application Number: 2020/0971/PNH -Application for determination as to whether prior approval of details is required – extension of dwelling house,(cr) dimension from rear wall of original dwelling house – 4,80m (cr) Maximum height of the extension – 3,9. (cr) Height to eaves of the extension – 2.2m. 5 Wood moss Lane L40 9RJ.

The council resolved to make no comment.

Application Number: 2020/0820/FUL – Proposed new access onto the B5242 (Heaton Bridge Road) at 79 Heatons Bridge Road (Bungalow Farm).

The council resolved to make no comment.

Application Number: 2020/0907/FUL – Construction of two agricultural buildings; 1 for grain storage, maintenance and machinery storage; 1 for rearing of livestock, with slurry storage and boundary fencing, - Land South West of the of The Fish Pond, Hurlston Golf Club, Hurlston Lane L40 8HB.

The council resolved to make no objection.

20/133 FINANCE

The following accounts were passed for payment:

Payee	Detail	Amount	Authority
I M O'Donnell	Salary	£416.00	LGA 1972, s112 (2)
I M O'Donnell	Travel exes – payment towards half cost of ink cartridge.	£29.11	LGA 1972, s111
Scarisbrick Village Hall Committee	Hire of Village Hall for meetings January/February/March 2020.	£110.00	LGA 1972, s111

20/134 FLOODING

A discussion took place regarding the amount of flooding in the parish and the responses received from the various agencies. The main causes of the flooding appear to be blocked gullies and the drainage system being overwhelmed with the amount of rain fall. LCC's gully cleaning schedule has recently been changed. They now attend highest priority gullies every 12 months. These are gullies where the sump is normally full of silt & debris, or close to full, at the annual clean, or which have a history of blockages. They attend the next highest priority gullies every 24 months - these are gullies that benefit from routine cleansing as they are likely to block if not cleansed after this period. The remainder of the county's gullies no longer receive routine maintenance. Highways will still attend these gullies on a reactive basis when notified of any blockages. It was stressed that all the agencies need to be contacted every time there is a problem. Residents should also take steps to protect their own properties and the matter of purchasing a local supply of flood equipment for use by residents will be placed on the next agenda. Councillor Holcroft reported that the flood defences at the Village Hall needed to be upgraded as it had been used as a flood refuge in the last few weeks and had itself come close to flooding .

20/135 GRASS CUTTING

The current contract ends in May 2021. A discussion took place with regards going out to tender and setting a timeline. The contractor to be in place by April 2021 so tenders need to be received before end of March 2021 with interest forms going out in February 2021. Need to adopt a tender process by end November so new clerk could put together the documents.

20/136 POLICY REVIEW

NALC's model Grievance and Disciplinary Policies have been updated in consultation with ACAS following a High Court judgement last year. The models needed some modification in how they apply to this Council and will be considered at the December meeting following adjustment. It was noted that a number of this Council's policies and procedures need review.

20/137 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Council's current Financial Regulations had been were circulated for annual review and it was noted that adjustments were necessary. They will be considered at the December meeting following modification.

20/138 LALC AGM

LALC AGM to take place 14th November 2020 10am via Zoom. Councillors John Herbert and Nichola Makin to attend. Clerk to reply with acceptance of invitation.

20/139 CLERK'S REPORT

The 2nd half of the concurrent grant (£1408.60) had been received from WLBC. The clerk pointed out that the Register of Interests forms recently sent out had still not been returned and asked that they be completed as soon as possible.

The clerk had posted the 14-day notice advertising the two council vacancies in the notice board. If no election is called, we can co-opt after 25th November 2020. If an election is called it cannot take place until 6th May 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions.

120/140 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Councillor Marshall pointed out that bank reconciliations had not been presented at Council meetings recently. Councillor Herbert reported that some bank statements had been sent to the previous clerk's address pending updating of the bank mandate and this had delayed completion of reconciliations. The missing statements had now been forwarded which would allow the bank reconciliation for the second quarter of the financial year to be completed. The mushroom farm planning application was now on the planning committee agenda for their meeting on the 12th November 2020 but no speakers were to be allowed.

Councillor Herbert reported on the recent LALC Area Committee meeting. Concern had been expressed in relation to flooding around the Borough. Parish councils had been quite proactive in their responses to managing the consequences of the coronavirus epidemic. It was hoped to have another meeting in January 2021.

Councillor Makin had been contacted regarding the ongoing parking problems on Hillock Lane. Councillor Blundell raised the ongoing problems regarding the cycle track at the junction of Turning Lane with Southport Road. These matters are to be placed on the December agenda.

Agenda item 20/141 includes exempt information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It was resolved in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they were instructed to withdraw.

20/141 CLERKING

The interviews had been completed and the Council approved the recommendation of the working group to appoint Mrs Judith Smith as Clerk/RFO to the Council. The locum clerk would stay in post until after the December meeting and then be given notice as per her contract, this would allow a handover phase. Unsuccessful interviewees would be notified and thanked for their interest.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm