

# HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 17 East Green, Heighington, Co Durham. DL5 6PP

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY via Zoom 2020 AT 7:10PM

### PRESENT

Cllr G Blenkinsopp (Chairman)	Cllr C Teare
Cllr A Holmes	Cllr S Bremner
Cllr M Woodward	Cllr M French

### IN ATTENDANCE

L Dunn	
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### 019.2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Lee	Cllr L Garner
Cllr E Thompson	

### 020.2020 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Parish Clerk took the chair and Cllr Blenkinsopp was elected as Chairman (proposed by Cllr French and seconded by Cllr Teare)

### 021.2020 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Blenkinsopp took the chair and Cllr Holmes was elected as Vice Chairman (Proposed by Cllr French and seconded by Cllr Woodward)

### 022.2020 CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

The Council is at full capacity therefore no members were co-opted.

### 023.2020 REVIEW OF BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

The council approved Chairman G Blenkinsopp, Vice Chairman A Holmes and L Dunn (Clerk to Parish Council as co-signatures).

### 024.2020 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020

The accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 were approved.

*The agenda then followed that of an ordinary meeting:*

### 025.2020 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

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## **026.2020 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2020**

The minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

## **027.2020 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Signs stating the sports field facility and play area was closed had been erected on the gate.

A response had been received from DBC following the request for 7.5 tonnes except for access signs be erected at three access locations to Redworth. They advised that there is already a 7.5 tonne weight limit applied to the village and there are signs at both entrances to Redworth. The restriction covers a much larger area and encompasses not only Redworth but also Heighington. Therefore the only HGVs that can legally enter the zone are ones that are accessing premises or making deliveries. We cannot place additional signs in the locations that the Council have suggested as the statutory signs need to be placed at the beginning of the restriction i.e. on the junctions to the A6072.

Following the letter that was sent to Paul Wildsmith at DBC complaining of the length of time it takes for requests sent into the council are responded to details of all recent requests have been provided and are being looked into.

## **028.2020 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Fire Risk Assessment was discussed and it was felt that some updates to it may be required following the recent electrical work which took place. Cllr Woodward is to check the building with reference to the risk assessment and advise Cllr Blenkinsopp on any changes which are required.

**ACTION: Cllrs Blenkinsopp / Woodward**

## **029.2020 SPORTSFIELD**

A request had been received from a resident asking the Parish Council to look at the basketball facilities as the backboards and rings were broken. The Council agreed that the equipment was in need of repair due to vandalism of the facility. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Teare would investigate the costs of replacing both the backboard and rings with heavy duty fittings.

**ACTION: Cllr Teare**

Cllr Blenkinsopp thanked Cllr Teare for all of his work on the MUGA and stated that the facility was looking much better. The Parish Clerk had received invoices for the hire of equipment and supply of goods for the work which was done and it was agreed that these were in line with expectations and could be paid.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

The annual inspection of the play equipment is due in June and is scheduled to be completed by Play Safety.

It was noted that the area around the skate park was overgrown and needed spraying with weed killer. It was agreed that Cllr Woodward would speak to Beaumont Landscapes and ask them to look at the area before the sports field was re-opened to the public in line with revised Government guidance on COVID-19. The sports field only would then be opened with appropriate signage informing the public that the play area remained closed. The play area will be cordoned off accordingly.

**ACTION: Cllr Woodward / Cllr Blenkinsopp**

## **030.2020 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING**

A response had been received from Heighington FC but unfortunately it was not in sufficient detail so further information will be requested from them.

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**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **031.2020 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON**

Further signage for no encroachment on the village green are to be erected.

**ACTION: Cllrs Blenkinsopp / Bremner**

## **032.2020 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS**

The Chairman reported that there had been a number of instances of fly tipping. All had been reported to DBC.

A report had also been received regarding a loud noise coming from the INEOS plant but had only been heard by one resident so no further action was taken.

## **033.2020 PLANNING**

None

## **034.2020 FINANCE**

The Parish Clerk had circulated suggested amendments for the Standing Orders to allow online meetings to take place using software such as Zoom. The amendments were agreed.

The bank reconciliation for April had been circulated and balanced.

The invoice for the second year of the five-year long-term agreement for the insurance had been received from Zurich and it was agreed the invoice be paid.

The internal auditor is still reviewing the accounts and so the full AGAR will be brought to the June meeting.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **035.2020 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Holmes has received the notes from the planning training she attended. She will circulate to all and suggested that they be worked through when the next planning application notification is received.

**ACTION: Cllr Holmes**

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that contact had been made by a resident who was having issues with their neighbour in relation to on street parking. It was agreed to pass on the contact details of the PCSO who may be able to help and advise.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **036.2020 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA**

None

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 7.57pm