



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
1st June 2020 at 7.45p. The meeting was held via a Zoom teleconference.**

Present; Cllrs A Taylor (Chairman), N Woodcock, E. Houghton, T. Hewitt, C.Hewitt, T Brown
K. Hayes, R Lea.
Clerk: R Weaver

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Changes to legal status of the meeting

It was noted that this meeting was being held under the legal framework of the emergency Coronavirus legislation. There is no requirement for this meeting to be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and therefore the issue of Chairmanship is not included on the agenda. Similarly, the meeting is being held via virtual teleconferencing with no members physically present.

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs AT, TB and EH declared an interest in item 7. Cllrs AT and CH declared an interest in item 6. Cllr C Hewitt declared an interest in item 8. Cllr EH declared an interest in item 10.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the meetings of 9th March 2020. The minutes will be signed outside of this meeting in accordance with this resolution

5. Adjournment for Public Participation

Notices for this meeting allowed for residents to be able to join the meeting via video link on application to the Clerk for the login details. No applications or requests were made and no members of the public joined the conference.

6. Cycle track update

It was noted that the re-development of the track into a much more challenging and rewarding riding experience is now largely completed, with some minor finishing touches still to be made to enhance the appearance of the site and durability of the track to wear and tear, particularly due to the prolonged spell of dry weather. The track is safe and open for use and social distancing signage is in place. Early indications are that it is proving extremely popular.

It was the unanimous view of the meeting that a record should be made in the minutes expressing thanks to Councillor Chris Hewitt, who has donated materials and a considerable amount of his personal time and effort to transforming the track into a valuable asset for the village.

A proposal was put to the meeting to set up a 'Just Giving' page for donations to maintain the cycle track, as users of the track are coming from outside of the local area. The Clerk advised that any such page should be linked to a Council rather than a personal account to ensure that all monies are transparently accounted for. **It was resolved** that a 'Just Giving' page for donations to track maintenance should be set up linked to the Council bank account.

It was also agreed that when current restrictions have been lifted, there ought to be a formal event to mark the opening of the cycle track.

7. Village Hall update

Cllr Taylor presented an update for the Council which outlined progress to date. Shortly after work commenced, the corona virus lockdown caused work to cease until late May when activity resumed. Contractors are now working on site within the Government guidelines for safe working and the timber frame and roof trusses will be in place in the near future. The

Clerk is continuing to manage transfer of earmarked Parish Council funds to support the project, on receipt of invoices and building completion certificates.

8. Finance

Schedules of payments and all bank activity since the last meeting were presented to the meeting and noted. The schedules contained an explanation of all transactions initiated by the Clerk and authorised by signatories under delegated authority while the Council was unable to meet.

The renewal of the Council's insurances was noted at a cost of £487.81

It was resolved to authorise the following payments;

- a) Clerk salary in sum of £220.00 (net for May)
- b) HMRC(PAYE) in sum of £55.00 (For May)
- c) Hewitt Safe and Lock Company Ltd in the sum of £688.77

Note: Item (c) is the company owned by Cllr Hewitt hence the declaration of an interest. However, this payment was in the form of re-imbusement of invoices received from other contractors for work on the Cycle Track. These invoices had been paid by Cllr Hewitt's company on behalf of the Council to avoid delays in payments due to the Council not meeting. The interest declared was not therefore considered to be a pecuniary interest for that reason

9. Community led project update

The changes to the timetable and submission deadlines for audit documents and public examination of accounts under emergency legislation was noted.

10. Planning issues

The applications were noted

Planning application 07/202000277/FUL relates to a development on land adjacent to Oldfield and Marfield. Residents have some concerns over this development which had been brought to the attention of Councillors. The Clerk was instructed to ensure that the development fell within the Much Hoole boundary and if so, to contact the planning officer to discuss what is being planned, represent the views of residents and to ensure that the matter will be dealt with by a full committee.

11. Items for the next agenda

Update on village signs
Newsletter
Internal audit report
Annual governance statement
External audit arrangements
Public exercise of rights dates

12. Date of next meeting. 7.30pm Monday 13th July 2020 at the Much Hoole Village Hall or via video conference, dependent on Government guidance.