

**Minutes of a remote meeting of Heskin Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

**Present Cllr Mrs Bamber, Cllrs Forshaw, Mather, Lloyd by phone, Singh, Holden.**

**In attendance Mr A Whittaker Clerk. Mr Haslingden , Mr Mallard residents.**

**131.1 Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.**

**The minutes were accepted as a true record.**

**131.2 Matters arising from the minutes**

**a) Flooding The Meadows /Wood Lane.**

**The Clerk presented an estimate from a local contractor who is well known in the community and has done work for the Council previously. The estimate involved clearing the blocked drains on land leased by the Parish Council, and the removal of trees whose roots are corrupting the drains. The estimate will be between £1800 and £2000 depending on the site findings. The Borough Council have offered a grant of £500 and there will be a fee of £188.00 for permission to connect to the UU drain which runs to Wood Lane. The cost has been included in the 2021/22 Budget.**

**At this point the Chair and the Council suspended standing orders to allow Mr Haslingden to address the meeting. He confirmed his agreement to the proposal and suggested that the submitted estimate was reasonable and appropriate. After a discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Clerk issue an order to Mr J Hill of Charnock Richard to commence the work.**

**b) The Chair then referred to emails from Mr Mallard and invited him to address the meeting. He referred to failures to pay the appropriate rates to the village lengthsmen in accordance with the**

## **132(b ) continued**

**National Minimum Wage in 2019 and 2020 despite assurances that this would not be repeated. The Chair acknowledged the error and confirmed that the lengthsmen had now been fully remunerated to their entire satisfaction. This issue will appear later on in the minutes.**

### **132.3 Planning Matters**

**a) The Clerk reported that the application to clear the buildings on the Camelot site had been approved by the Borough Council and that a problem had arisen regarding the foul effluence possibly being discharged into a local watercourse. Environmental Health at CBC have been advised.**

**b) The Clerk also reminded members that any new applications were emailed to Members of the Council, and in view of our bi-monthly sequence of meetings, it is their responsibility to notify the Clerk so that if necessary a Parish response can be sent to CBC.**

### **132.4 Underpayment of Lengthsmen**

**The Chair referred to earlier discussion at this meeting. It was noted that the lengthsmen had now been paid in full and that the new National Minimum Wage would be paid from April 2021. The Council endorsed the response that had been sent by the Chair to Mr Mallard.**

### **132.5 Authorisation and Payment of Accounts.**

**The following payments were authorised.**

**Chorley BC Ground Mtce £987.29+Vat  
Chorley BC Emptying Dog Bins £143.58+Vat  
A.Whittaker Salary £1400.00  
Council Expenses £81.98  
Chorley BC New Waste Bin £203.53+Vat  
Lengthsmen wages January £265.96**

### **131.6 Report and action regarding a formal complaint and a Members behaviour.**

**This item had been requested by Cllr Holden. The Chair invited him to state his complaints. They referred to the inadequacy of the Clerk in various matters and the actions of the Chair. The Clerk responded by rejecting the criticisms which were entirely unfounded and the Chair responded in a similar fashion. The Chair then invited comments from other members of the Council and Cllr Holden responded. At the end of the somewhat acrimonious exchanges, often interrupted, by Cllr Holden, Councillor Forshaw proposed that the Council should not have to tolerate this behaviour and harassment exhibited on numerous occasions by Councillor Holden. Cllr Forshaw proposed that Council take independent legal advice to bring it to an end. This proposal was seconded and approved by the Council.**

### **131.7 Heskin Parish Precept for 2021/2022.**

**The Clerk introduced this item having previously circulated details. The current balances were identified as were outstanding payments due before the end of March this year. The items budgeted for in 2021/22 were identified and the anticipated balance likely at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. A discussion ensued regarding proposals from LCC and CBC. It was proposed and seconded that the Parish Precept be increased by 2%. The proposal was approved by the Parish Council.**

### **131.8 Speeding On Wood Lane discussed by the Council December 2020.**

**The Clerk read out in detail the response from Lancashire CC Highways which had been circulated to members previously. The Council expressed great disappointment at the negative response and asked the Clerk to respond accordingly, in particular to request “speeding strips” along Wood Lane to actually measure the speed at which vehicles travel. Reference was made to possible individual actions using “speed gun type appliances” and the Clerk was asked to investigate the availability of such appliances for possible use.**

### **131.9 LALC Courses**

**The Clerk referred to training courses, details of which had been circulated. If any member wished to attend they should advise the Clerk**

### **131.10 Lancashire County Council Parish Champion Letter**

**The Clerk will circulate it for members attention.**

**131.11 Consultation from CBC regarding an application for a Neighbourhood Area from Bretherton PC.**

**The Clerk presented an email from Chorley BC regarding the above. The consultation period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Details will be circulated. Members can comment as individuals but if they desire a Council response they should notify the Clerk who will consult with other Councillors as a body.**

**131.12 Date of Next Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**