

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 7.00pm in Hilldale Village Hall.

Present Cllr G Ward Chair, Cllrs Whittington, Ashcroft and Bell.

- 1) Apologies for Absence.** An apology was received from Cllr May Blake
- 2) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.** There were no declarations of interest, or requests for dispensation.
- 3) Minutes of the previous meeting.** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held 5th. Dec 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 4) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not already covered on the agenda.
- 5) Public Time.** Mr Halkett was unable to attend the meeting but had written to raise concerns about the poor condition of the notice board used by HCA. Mr Halkett asked if part of the PC notice board could be used temporarily to promote HCA events. Mr Halkett wished to thank Cllr Whittington for the work he had done in getting potholes repaired promptly.
- 6) To discuss and decide on a response to an offer from the HCA to replace the dishwasher in the Village Hall.** After discussion it was agreed to accept the generous offer from HCA.
- 7) To discuss and decide on further action to be taken in relation to standing water on Chorley Road.** Cllr Whittington had been in contact with LCC Highways Dep't and LC Cllr. Keith Iddon. LCC had agreed to assess the problem, and build it into the repair programme if appropriate.
- 8) Update from the HGV group.** The group had not met since the previous Parish Council meeting, but monitoring of HGV traffic is ongoing. Penwortham bypass is now an efficient route from Rufford/Tarleton for lorries going north on the M6 and should reduce traffic on the B5246.
- 9) Update on switching the PC's bank account.** It had not been possible to switch to the recommended Co-op Community Plus bank account. On advice from Co-op bank customer services an application would be made to open a business banking account with 30 months free banking and a lump sum payment on completion of the switch.
- 10) To discuss the condition of the Village Hall roof, and to consider taking professional advice on possible courses of action.** After discussion it was agreed to make enquiries to determine the appropriate source and cost of professional advice.
- 11) To confirm the precept for the 2020 / 2021 financial year after receiving confirmation of the Council tax base and subsidies from WLBC.** It was confirmed that the Precept to be raised from Council Tax would be £14,765 after receipt of council tax subsidy. With a tax base of 264.85 this gives a Band D equivalent Tax Level of £55.75 an increase of £1.01 or 1.8% on the previous year.
- 12) To agree the format of questions to be used in interviewing candidates for the role of Clerk to the Council.** It was agreed that questions on the 5 sections of the core activities of the Council list be asked of each candidate.
- 13) To review the timetable of training courses available from LALC and decide on appropriate courses / candidates.** Cllr Bell advised that he would like to attend a Chairmanship Course.

14) Planning Matters. A letter objecting to planning application **LCC/2019/0028** relating to a revised proposal for landfill activity on Parbold Hill had been circulated to Councillors and after approval sent to Lancashire County Council.

15) To note correspondence from WLBC executive support, and agree a meeting date for Jaqui Sinnott-Lacey, Chief Operating Officer (designate) of WLBC. The acting Clerk was instructed to write to WLBC Executive support with suggested dates.

16) To discuss and decide on adopting an accounting and financial control package for the Council.

After discussion it was agreed to subscribe to and implement the Scribe accounting system.

17) Schedule of Payments. A schedule of payments was presented and approved.

18) Financial reports. A summary of the Councils financial position, bank statements and a bank reconciliation were presented and approved

19) Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be Thursday 5th March at 7.00 pm in Hilldale Village Hall