

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 1ST JUNE 2020

PRESENT:-

**COUNCILLOR D.CRANSHAW (CHAIRMAN) D. METCALFE (VICE CHAIRMAN) -
COUNCILLORS J.BALDWIN, C. HINDLE, MRS S. LONG, DR. P. McGOVERN ,
AND MRS B.ROBINSON.**

4970. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors W. Nelson and J.Swann .

4971. COVID PANDEMIC:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) indicated that this was the first ever virtual meeting of the Parish Council and wished to pay tribute to the Community Spirit of the people of Brindle during the pandemic.

4972. FORMER COUNCILLOR MRS JOAN CROASDALE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) reminded the Parish Council of the recent death of Mrs Croasdale who served on the Parish Council from 1980 to 2000 and was Chairlady from 1996 to 2000. The Parish Council placed on record its appreciation of the invaluable work of Mrs. Croasdale on behalf of the people of Brindle throughout her life time.

All present observed a minute`s silence as a mark of respect.

4973. MRS EILEEN BANISTER:

The Chairman also referred to the recent death of Mrs Banister a prominent figure in the Parish.

All present observed a minute`s silence as a mark of respect.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) would send letters of condolence on behalf of the Parish Council.

4974. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

The Clerk reminded Members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters on the agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) declared an interest in Minute number 4978 LALC. In respect of being Chairman of the Association.

4975. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th February 2020 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to Minute 4954 (C) being amended to read that that Lancashire County Council did not clean the ditches on Dover Lane, a private contractor was employed by the land owner to do the work.

4976. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:
AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.:

4977. POLICE LIAISON:

(A). POLICING:

The police were not present.

(B). CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer.

4978. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council he had received the invoice for the Association's Subscription Fees for 2020/21 amounting to £269.00 compared with the figure for 2019/20 of £273.15. a slight reduction.

A sum of £280.00 had been allocated in this year's estimates for the fees.

The Parish Council agreed to continue membership of the Association of Local Councils and to pay the annual subscription fees.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) declared an interest in this matter being Chairman of the Association and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon..

4979. HIGHWAY MATTERS:

(A). ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN:

A report was presented on the current situation regarding the Resident's Action Group Campaign for Road Safety Improvements by Lancashire County Council on the B5256 Sandy Lane, Smithy Lane and Water Street.

A copy of the response from the County Council was circulated setting out the views of the County Council on the issues raised. Unfortunately they did not propose any changes to existing speed limits.

(B). BOURNES ROW - FOOTPATH SIGN:

The sign at Bournes Row leading to Oram Road was still to be fixed.

(C). FLOODING :

Further investigations were ongoing by United Utilities regarding the flooding near Calverts Cottage Water Street.

The problems with the drains in Smithy Lane and at Top oth Lane had been reported to the County Council.

(D). OVERGROWN TREES - SANDY LANE:

The County Council was in contact with the landowner regarding the cutting back of several overgrown trees on Sandy Lane.

(E). SMITHY CLOSE - PAVEMENTS:

The County Council had carried out repairs to the footways on Smithy Close.

(F). SANDY LANE - ROAD SURFACE:

The County Council had carried out repairs to the road surface by Bury Farm Cottage .

(G). ORAM ROAD - MANHOLE:

The County Council had replaced the manhole cover to the drain adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage.

(H). POTHOLES - SMITHY LANE/SMITHY CLOSE:

The County Council repaired the potholes in Smithy Lane and Smithy Close.

(I). DENHAM LANE - BLOCKED GRID:

The County Council repaired the blocked grid on Denham Lane.

(J). GOWANS LANE - TEMPORARY CLOSURE:

Gowans Lane from Oram Road to Duxon Hill would be closed on 8th June from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. to allow BT to replace a defective pole. An alternative route would be signed.

(K). FOOTPATHS:

Footpaths 21 Breworth Fold,30 Sandy Lane,63 Underpass M65 and 44 Sandy Lane/Smithy Close were still to be attended to.

It was also reported that at Footpath 43 footpath closed signs had been erected and there was no longer a Finger Post at the junction of the farm track and Hillhouse Lane.

The Rights of Way department had been told.

Additionally the Parish Council had been invited to participate in the County Council's Public Rights of Way - Local Delivery Scheme 2020/21.

Under the scheme the Parish Council received a small grant for footpath improvement but had to employ a lengthsman to operate the scheme.

It was agreed not to participate this year.

(K). FLY TIPPING:

There had been several reported incidents of fly tipping throughout the Parish. The closure of Refuse Centres had contributed to this. The tips were now open on an appointments basis.

Further extensive fly tipping was reported in the passing places on Private Road, in Birchin Lane and by the bench on Denham Lane.

These would be reported to Chorley Waste Collection Services.

(M). ORAM ROAD LITTER BIN:

It was reported that the bench in Oram Road had become an attraction for walkers and cyclists during the current Coronavirus lockdown. This had led to increasing amounts of litter.

The Parish Council had in the past requested the siting of a litter bin near the bench but this had not proved feasible because of the lack of space.

There were no other litter bins for a considerable distance and it was suggested that a bin be located on land behind the street sign for Oram Road.

This suggestion would be put to Chorley Council.

(N). CYLING ON FOOTPATHS:

A local resident had reported that there had been there have been problems with cyclists using footpaths which had caused problems with horse riders and walkers being forced off the path. It was particularly a problem on Footpath 63 which lead from Brindle Road under the M65 underpass and onto Smithy Lane.

The Clerk had asked the County Council for a legal opinion.

4980. PLANNING REPORT:

(A) Decisions:

Applications had been granted for two separate developments at Windmill Lane, and three separate developments on Sandy Lane since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

(B). Applications:

Applications for planning permission at Windmill Lane, Duxon Hill and Pippin Fold and at two separate developments at Sandy Lane, had been made since the last meeting.

Details had been circulated to all Members and various comments had been made, these had been reported to Chorley.

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in the application at Duxon Hill and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon with regard to this particular application.

4981. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk reported the following accounts for payment had been received.

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| 1. CPRE | Annual Subscription | £32.00. |
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| 2. A.Harkness | Print Cartridges | £73.72. |
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| 3. Whitehead and Aldrich | Payroll Administration | £50.40* |
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| 4. A. Harkness | Salary and Expenses Quarter ended 31st March 2020 | £1040.36* |
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BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL - 1ST JUNE 2020

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| 5. HMRC | Tax on salary and expenses | £281.03* |
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| 6. A. Harkness | Print Cartridges | £71.00* |

*Payment in April 2020 approved by Chairman and Vice Chairman under delegated powers.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) the Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) and the Clerk were authorised to arrange payment of the outstanding accounts

4982. PRECEPT/CIL PAYMENTS:

The Clerk reported payment of the 2020/21 precept of £6,800.00 and a CIL payment of £1441.88 to 31st March 2020.

4983. AUDIT 2019/20:

The Clerk reported that due to the pandemic the Audit for 2019/20 would be on 1st September 2020.

Under the regulations as the Council's income and expenditure was below £25000.00 it could apply for a certificate of exemption from external audit.

It was still necessary for an internal audit to take place and the Independent Internal Auditor had examined the Parish Council's Accounts and procedures, confirmed that they were in order, agreed the Audit Report and submitted his report to the Parish Council for approval.

Also under the procedure it was necessary to approve an Annual Statement of Governance and that the accounts have been undertaken in accordance with prescribed regulations.

A copy of the Statement of Governance, the Annual Return, the Internal Auditor's Report and the certificate of Exemption was circulated.

Under the regulations copies of the Annual Return would be posted on the Parish Council's website and notice boards for 30 working days from 15th June 2020.

The Parish Council accepted the report of the Internal Auditor and agreed the fees of £50.00.

Acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirmed to the best of its knowledge and belief that the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 are true and correct and it had considered the statement of governance in connection with those accounts.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) was authorised to sign any necessary documents.

4984. INSURANCE PREMIUM - RENEWAL.

The Clerk had previously circulated details of the Parish Council's insurance renewal premium quotation for the period from 1st June 2020 to 31st May 2021.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL - 1ST JUNE 2020

In 2018 the Parish Council had entered into a three year agreement with the Insurers. The current renewal premium from Inspire Ltd is £385.73. Last year it was £375.93.

A sum of £450.00 has been included in the Parish Council's Estimates for this premium in 2020/21.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) had authorised payment under delegated powers and the Parish Council confirmed the action taken.

4985. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:

As reported the Competition had been cancelled this year and the Parish Council's application had been rolled over to the competition in 2021.

4986. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) and the Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) would agree the date of the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) declared the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

SIGNED

CHAIRMAN