

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 21st March 2016

at Orton Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Councillors S.Dunning (chair); M. Coates; Menna Lewis; M.Mawson; D. Potter; E. Potter

County Councillor Libby Bateman; District Councillor Adrian Todd

Members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence were received from K. Blue

2. Declarations of Interest - there were no declarations of interest received in respect of any agenda items

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18.01.2016 had been circulated and signed by the chairman as a true record

4. Clerk to the Council. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Chris Elphick be thanked by the councillors for his many years of service as clerk to the council. Following his retirement on 31st March 2016 it was resolved that Mrs. Margaret Longworth be appointed Clerk to the Council in his stead.

5. Bank Mandate. It was proposed by Clr Menna Lewis and seconded by Clr David Potter that Mrs. Margaret Longworth be authorised to sign cheques and operate the HSBC accounts held in the name of the Parish Council in place of Mr. Elphick and jointly with the remaining two signatories. This resolution was passed unanimously.

6. Purchase of Equipment. It was noted that the computer and printer used by the clerk to the council were jointly owned by Orton Parish Council and Ravonstonedale Parish Council and these are retained by Mr. Elphick, who remains Clerk to Ravonstonedale Parish Council. It was agreed that a new laptop and printer be purchased and the Chair of Ravonstonedale Parish Council would be approached about that council making a contribution towards the cost of the same. Mrs. Longworth would see if any grant money might be available to put towards the cost of the equipment.

7. The late Mrs. Judy Dunford. It was agreed unanimously that Mr. Paul Dunford be thanked for his offer to fund the purchase of a seat to be placed at Carsa Brow in memory of his late wife. Clr M. Coates agreed to discuss the details of the proposal direct with Mr. Dunford. A letter of thanks would be sent on behalf of the Council.

8. Litter Collection. This is to take place between Monday 11th April and Wednesday, 13th at times and locations convenient to all volunteers. Bags can be collected from Clr David Potter and filled bags are to be returned to the Market Hall by Thursday, 14th for collection. Clr Menna Lewis would arrange for posters to be displayed giving details of the scheme.

9. The Queen's Birthday Beacon. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not light a beacon in view of the practical difficulties that had been encountered in the past.

10. Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for Orton Fells area. This initiative was not supported by the meeting in view of the large amount of "matched funding" which would have to be raised locally and which could amount to a six figure sum.

11. Planning. District Councillor Adrian Todd updated the meeting on the outcome of certain recent applications for permission.

12. Finance. The amount of the VAT refund was noted.

13. Public Participation. The following issues were raised:

13.1 The repair of the little packhorse bridge near Frankland Park - it was thought this work had been done

13.2 The need for Minutes of Parish Council meetings to go on their website as soon as possible after meetings (in draft form if necessary)

13.3 A meeting was to be held on 30th March about the roll-out of broadband in the area

13.4 Two councillors will attend a meeting arranged by the Yorkshire Dales National Park on 12th April at the Westmorland Hotel to outline that authority's new role in the area

13.5 New bus timetables will be circulated and Clr Libby Bateman updated the meeting on the situation with regard to the 106 bus service

14. Correspondence Received. Noted

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

The next meeting will be on Monday, 18th April at the Market Hall, Orton at 7.30pm

Signed

Dated