

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
WATER ORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT 7.30PM IN THE PAVILION**

**In the Chair: Cllr Robinson (Vice Chairman)**

**Present: Cllrs. Robinson. Bevan, Chown, Triplett, Lee, O'Meara**

**Clerk: Daphne Robinson**

**B. Cllr J MacDonald, 7 Members of the public**

**Public Forum**

Cllr Macdonald thanked all those involved with the organising of the planters in the village, with special thanks to Mrs Serena Smith for her perseverance of getting the project to fruition.

Cllr Macdonald reported that the Water Orton Action Group have submitted three bids for 1. Funding for a new strategic survey of the station building, 2. Work on the station car park to create more spaces, LED Boards and improve level of CCTV, 3. To capture the heritage of the village and story of the railway. She explained that there was money available but it would be limited but the action group's priority would be the car park.

A resident complained of the speeding down Marsh Lane. It was advised by a member of the Speedwatch group that this was known as one of the roads that would be discussed with the police with regards to the Speedwatch initiative.

**148. To appoint a chairman.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr O'Meara to elect Cllr Robinson as chairman. With 4 for and 2 abstentions it was **Resolved** Cllr Robinson be elected as chairman.

**149. Cllr Robinson thanked members for their support and also thanked Cllr Coldrick for all that he had done for the parish council during his time as a member of the parish council and as chairman during what had been difficult times.**

**150. To co-opt candidates Mrs K. Hailstone and Mr Christopher O'Meara on to the parish council.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr Lee and **Resolved** (unanimously) that Mrs Hailstone and Mr O'Meara be co-opted as members of the council.

**151. Apologies for absence and reasons given**

C Cllr & B Cllr Dave Reilly

**152. Declarations of interest and request for dispensation on items to be discussed.**

There were no declarations.

**153. To approve the minutes of the meeting 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr Lee and **Resolved** (unanimously) That the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 be approved.

**154. Matters arising from the minutes**

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Jonathan Lord from HS2 and council members for 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Changes to the Website Model to conform with council website regulations were on going.

**155. To discuss delegating powers and responsibilities to working groups and nominated councillors.**

Cllr Bevan had asked if delegating powers and responsibilities to working groups and nominated councillors could be considered to try and speed up the process of council business between meetings.

The Clerk advised members that delegating powers and responsibilities to working groups and individual councillors was not good practice for councils and not encourage under any circumstances. Council committees could be given responsibilities through Terms of Reference approved by full council. As a safeguard for members of the council no power should be given to an individual councillor.

**156. To receive a report on the opening of the new school**

Cllr Lee advised the council that the new school was running well and that the children were very happy with their new surroundings. She said there were teething problems to be resolved. The developers had advised that the material used in the structure of the building would absorb noise but it was proving to still being noisy especially where there was supposed to be a 'quiet area'. The dropping off scheme seemed to be working well but it was agreed that parking on Plank Lane was a major problem. Cllr Lee advised that Cllr Reilly would be looking at the parking issues with Warwickshire County Council Highways in January. There had been a promise from the police that there would be some presence of officers during the first 2 weeks of the school opening to deal with parking issues, but this had not materialised. School Staff had dealt with this themselves. The PTA had an open day for villagers to look round the and this had been successful with a very positive response. The official opening would be in November which the chairman would be invited to attend.

**157. To receive an update on the registration to the Land Registry for the playing field.**

The clerk reported that the solicitors had received all the documentation they required and this had been sent to the Land Registry to be processed. There was no time given as to when it would be completed.

**158. To consider the options for an office for the clerk**

The clerk acknowledged that when she accepted the position she had agreed to work from home. However, it had become apparent that the duties of the clerk and the responsibilities of the council to be more proactive dictated that it would be more beneficial to have a designated office in the village. Unfortunately, options were limited and the only location available at the moment was an office at The Link. The clerk advised that she had spoken to Paul Tullett who had agreed to hire out the office to the council two days a week for £50. Councillors discussed if there were any other locations available and the clerk said that at the moment this was the only place available. She also said that she felt that being accessible to the residents

wanting to discuss council business was a service that the community could benefit from. The clerk suggested renegotiating the hire charge with the Church and that it could be on a six month rolling contract.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr. Lee for the clerk to renegotiate the charges and agree a six month rolling contract to use The Link as an office, it was voted 4 to 3 and therefore **Approved**.

**159. To receive a report on the play equipment**

Cllr Chown advised that he had carried out his monthly inspection and the slide on the playing field still needed some welding work done. He said he would contact Paul Collins to submit a quote. He advised that the lid on the dog bin by the gate of Vicarage Lane had disappeared. The clerk said she was aware that the bin needed to be replaced and would order a new dog bin.

**160. To receive an update on creating a working group to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and confirm the parish boundary.**

Cllr Bevan explained that before starting the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, the council were required to formally agree the parish boundary. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Lee, **Seconded** by Cllr O'Meara and **Resolved** to agree the current parish boundary. Cllr Bevan suggested that an open day be arranged for residents to discuss the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan and to recruit volunteers. He said that presentation boards with various maps and information could be produced to give residents an understanding of what was involved in developing a plan. It was agreed that the cost would be looked into by Cllr Bevan and the Clerk and that Cllr. Bevan would obtain some quotes from Hyperbole for producing boards.

**161. To receive a report from Water Orton in Bloom.**

Cllr O'Meara reported that a meeting of the Water Orton in Bloom group had met to discuss what plants would be planted in the planters. The locations around the village for the planters had been approved by highways. The group and volunteers met on 28<sup>th</sup> September when the planters were put in position and planted up. Cllr O'Meara said that there had been a lot of positive feedback from local residents. More businesses also wanted to sponsor planters so arrangements were underway to purchase another two planters.

**162. Maintenance – To consider work required on the pavilion guttering and roof and the outside lighting at the pavilion.**

Cllr Robinson reported that the guttering had been damaged when the shutter at the front door had been installed and that there were some leaks from the roof. He said he would speak to a roofing company to investigate the roof and ask for a quote. Cllr Robinson also reported that the outside lighting at the pavilion was very poor and needed to be upgraded especially with users having to lock up through the winter months. Cllr Chown said that this had been discussed previously and it had been decided it would be an expensive project. Cllr Robinson said he would speak to a local electrician and get a quote.

**163. To consider the option of adopting the telephone kiosk on Coleshill Road.**

The clerk reported that BT had advised NWBC that they would be removing the telephone kiosk on Coleshill Road and that the parish council had the option of adopting it. It would cost the Parish Council £1 to adopt. It was agreed by all members to proceed with adopting the kiosk as it was felt it was part of British heritage and should be retained. The clerk advised that it would not have a usable telephone in it and that a decision would need to be made by the council as to what they would like it to be used for.

**164. Financial Matters**

**a. To review the signatories for the Bank Mandate.**

The clerk reported that the newly elected chair and one other councillor were required to be signatories on the Bank Mandate. Cllr Robinson (Chair) and Cllr O'Meara were agreed as the new signatories. The clerk would arrange for the removal of previous councillor's signatures and for the new signatories to be added to the mandate.

**b. To approve the automated payments and future payments.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Bevan, **Seconded** by Cllr Lee and **Resolved** that the automated payments and future payments be approved. The Chairman signed the invoices.

**c. To consider the funding application from the library.**

The clerk reported that the library had applied for funding (£3000) to assist with the running costs. Cllr Robinson advised that he and the clerk had met with representatives from the library to discuss their application and that the money was required to help towards the electricity costs. He told members that he had advised them to look at how the library could make energy savings and that they had agreed to have an energy report carried. Cllr Chown said that the council had given money to the library before and that this was a lot of money. All councillors agreed. It was decided that Cllrs Robinson, Lee and Bevan would meet with the full library committee to discuss their application further. The clerk would arrange.

**d. To consider a grant application from Water Orton Brownies**

The clerk had received a grant application from Water Orton Brownies for purchasing new handbook packs and badges. The amount was £318.55. It was **Proposed** by Cllr O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr Triplett and **Resolved** (unanimously) to award the full grant amount to Water Orton Brownies.

**e. To agree a donation to a local charity in lieu of payment for office furniture acquired for the clerk's office.**

The clerk reported that she had received some office furniture from a company which had ceased trading. The company did not want payment but asked the council to make a donation to a local charity. It was suggested that a donation of £50 be given to the Water Orton Brownies. It was **Proposed** by Cllr Hailstone, **Seconded** by Cllr O'Meara and **Resolved** (unanimously) to give a £50 donation to Water Orton Brownies in lieu of payment for the office furniture.

**165. Correspondence**

a. The clerk advised that she had received a request from Bridget Slattery with regards to her supplying and installing a bench on The Green in memory of her late mother.

There were no objections from councillors, however, Cllr Robinson suggested the bench should be chosen by the council so that it was in keeping with other benches on the green. He also suggested that the council should draw up a specification for installation to include the laying of paving slabs for ease of mowing and to ensure the bench is installed securely. Members agreed this was a good idea.

b. The clerk reported that she had contacted highways to obtain clarity on their policy for signs being attached to railings on the highway as fly posting had started to become a problem in the village.

**166. Exclusion of the Public and Press – That the under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and organisations of the press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Robinson, **Seconded** by Cllr Bevan and **Resolved** to go into closed session to consider the following matters.

**a. To award the contract for the resurfacing of the pavilion car park.**

All copies of quotations for the resurfacing of the car park had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Robinson outlined the work to be carried out. He declared a semi interest in two of the companies who had quoted as both had also quoted for a project at the Cricket Club of which he was a committee member. With the exception of one quote, all quotes were very much within the same ball park figure. All the designs included a section of car park having ECOgrid installed. It was **Proposed** by Cllr. O'Meara, **Seconded** by Cllr Lee and **Resolved** by six votes and one abstention (Cllr Robinson) to include the ECOgrid and award the contract to Nedlon.

Cllr. Triplett left the meeting at 10.00pm

**b. Personnel Matters**

Cllr Lee reported on the personnel meeting held with the caretaker and that his main concern was that he would lose some hours. Councillors agreed that all employees should fill in timesheets and that a further discussion should take place to consider the time management of all staff.