

INGLETON PARISH COUNCIL

CORONAVIRUS

Owing to the serious health risks from the Coronavirus pandemic and the need to avoid the congregating of groups of people, Members of Ingleton Parish Council followed government guidelines by cancelling, until further notice, all scheduled meetings for 2020 in either the Jubilee Field Pavilion or the Village Hall.

However, because Parish Councils are required to meet at least three times in the year and also hold an AGM and Annual Parish Meeting, Members and visitors will be invited to meetings held via internet-links and these will be called in the usual manner, with a minimum 3 days notice and an agenda posted on the village notice board, the Parish Pump and the Ingleton Parish Council website.

Minutes will then be posted as normal on the noticeboard and the website.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 June at 7.30 p.m. via video link

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the visitors to the Council's first 'virtual' meeting on-line and explained that the details would be recorded but only until such time as the Clerk published the typed minutes; after which the recording would be deleted. He further reported that if Members did, in the future, decide to place recorded meetings on the website, any and all meetings recorded previous to that decision would not be included for website viewing.

- 1 Attendance:**
Councillors: Cllr Leech (Chairman); Cllr Hunton (Vice-Chair); Cllr Pressley; Cllr Vickers;
Cllr Cartwright; Cllr Humble and Cllr Mead
Visitors: 2
Clerk: J Mead

- 2 Apologies for Absence:** No absences to report.

3 Declaration of Interest

Members were asked to consider whether they might have a personal or a pecuniary interest in any matter included on the Agenda for this meeting. If so, it was requested that any such interest be declared now. If subsequently during the consideration of any matter it became apparent to any member that he/she does, indeed, have an interest, it should then be declared immediately.

No such interests were declared.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

4

Clerk's report on actions taken since previous meeting

Road Traffic Control at Springwell Junction

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had, before the pandemic crisis, arranged for a 7 day survey to be carried out and be reported back to the Parish Council but, given the lack of traffic, and available staff, this was postponed.

Members agreed that the clerk write to DCC to request they re-schedule the survey as soon as is practicable.

At this point one visitor to the meeting, Mr D Ormandy, spoke on behalf of the Speed Watch Team, reporting that once the lock-down was put in place the volume of traffic had been significantly reduced but that the average speed of some of those vehicles had increased. The number of pedestrians and cyclists also having risen, the increase in speed of such vehicles was of great concern.

He further explained that, pre-lock-down, the team showed they had effectively reduced the number of cars being reported to the police for speeding from 13-14% down to circa 3-4%. Subsequent rulings removed the ability for any Speed Watch Team to monitor such activities and so he asked that the Parish Council support their wish to return to their monitoring which they conducted between 8.30-9.30am when schoolchildren are most likely to be walking to school and vehicle users are going to work.

The chairman asked that the Clerk write to the Police Headquarters in Durham to confirm the support of the Parish Council Speed Watch Team and, because of the increase in speeding vehicles, to ask that they be allowed to return to their monitoring as soon as possible or for the police to take action themselves.

Clerk's Note: Subsequent to the meeting being held, and before the draft letter was approved, the Police Authority contacted the Speed Watch Team informing them that they could resume their monitoring.

Ingleton Parish Council Website

The Clerk reported that, although no meetings could be held to discuss the future design of the website, there had been some unsolicited contact made by the original web designers as they have confirmed the council's compliance during the Coronavirus crisis.

The Clerk is to contact them to enquire about the cost of redesigning the web page with a view to getting a new, more detailed, website up and running in the near future.

Planting of Replacement of Trees in Jubilee Field

The Chairman has successfully arranged for the purchase and replacement of damaged trees in Jubilee Field. BACS receipt for £94.64 received from DCC.

One donation of £10 received from resident for logs left in field.

Complaint of Parking of Vehicle on Parish Land

The Clerk reported that, as the vehicle had been removed by the owner's own volition, no further action was required.

- 5** **a) Public Participation:** Comments on agenda items
No issues were raised

- b) Public Participation:** Any other business.

Road Repairs in Ingleton

The issue of the potholes on the main thoroughfare through the village was raised. The Chairman's response was that there had, approximately 2 years previously, been some Commitment made by the County Council, to carry out resurfacing work in Ingleton. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to enquire when the work is scheduled to be carried out.

Floral Tributes on Highway

The Meeting was asked whether the Council could make enquiries in order to request that there be a cessation of floral tributes being placed on the pavement near to where an accident happened in 2018. The concerns raised in the discussion were that the tributes amassed to such a size that they were a distraction on a main highway; that it was upsetting for residents on and near to the site to get such tributes laid several times per year and that some hoped that, these having been laid for four years now, that the village could be allowed to move forward without any further reminders of that very sad time.

The Council, whilst sympathising with the bereaved family's loss, agreed to contact relevant authorities to ask what measures could be taken to resolve this issue to the satisfaction of every party involved.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS:

Issues of strategic importance that require priority attention.

6 Offers to Tender for Grasscutting Contract and Application to DCC for Grant Funding

Since there was only one tender offered the Clerk accepted emailed agreement from Members that CE Walker would again be our contractor for the coming 2 years. A contract was sent to him for signature along with a request for a copy of his valid insurance policy, not only for this, but also the grant funding application.

To date we are awaiting the individual public path costs as required by Durham County Council. The contractors were sent the map for ease of reference and have already given a cost of £100 per cut.

Proposal: That the Council confirm their approval of the named contractor being given a further 2 year contract for work to cut Parish owned grassed areas.

Proposed: Cllr Leech

The vote was unanimous

Hedge Cutting - Cllr Vickers to discuss.

Cllr Vickers reported that she has done an extensive amount of walking along the public footpaths and, as a general rule, she felt that landowners deserved a thank you for the excellent way the paths have been kept, ie by spraying weed killer to give a clear path for the walkers. However, there are a couple or more hedgerows that could do with being cut back to make access easier.

The Chairman clarified that Parish Councils are responsible for public footpaths at ground level only and that anything above this, such as hedgerows, are the responsibility of the landowner. In the case of householders then a friendly letter could be sent to them asking for their co-operation in trimming back the excess, but in the cases of agricultural hedgerows, then the farmers are restricted to cutting back at only certain times of the year.

One public pathway was highlighted where there was a need for trimming back and the Chairman requested that the letter to be sent asking if it were possible for the hedge to be trimmed back should also include the Council's awareness that this work may not be able to be done during a particular time of year and that the Council would be guided by the landowner's response to this.

7 Selling and storage of Items of Field Cutting Equipment

Following emailed discussions regarding equipment stored in the Pavilion, it was agreed that the cricket team's motor roller (previously stored outside under a tarpaulin) should replace the little-used 'Kelafri' flail mower.

Subsequent e-mailed responses from Councillors showed a majority vote for this to be sold and arrangements were made. All transactions were reported to Members regarding costs of selling and repair of the machine.

It was proposed that Councillors reaffirm their approval both for the sale of the machine and for the actions taken during that time in relation to the sale.

Proposed by: Cllr Leech

The vote was unanimous

8 The Northern Saints' Trails

The Meeting recorded its disappointment at the postponement of The Northern Saints' Trails walk until at least until the end of the personal isolation rulings. Referring to the official webpage, Members heard that the Rt Rev Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham said in the article, '... it would be wrong to walk the trails before the broad coalition of people behind the Pilgrimage Routes, led by Visit County Durham, had officially launched them.

'The Pilgrimage Routes are planned to be here for very many years ahead. A short delay, whilst disappointing, does nothing to diminish the delight and joy of this whole project.' Members wished it to be recorded that they look forward to the time when plans can again go ahead for the walks to take place.

Hedgerows were again raised at this point of the meeting when Councillors, keen to promote 'ease of access for all' said that there was a particular part of the actual Trail which would benefit from being widened for the sake of those possibly needing more room. This was because a hedgerow was growing across the width of the path at waist and shoulder level. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to the householder asking if it could be possible to reduce the width of the hedge to allow ease of access to the adjacent Public Footpath.

9. Northern Powergrid Tree Pruning

Mr S Anderson, Arboriculture and professional tree inspector for Amey, a company that works for Northern Powergrid, contacted the Clerk to request work to be carried out on trees within the parish to remove any potential problem for nearby power lines. Councillors gave permission for work to be carried out at the company's expense. Documentation being sent to Councillors enabled this to be officially agreed for the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Leech

The vote was unanimous

10. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

Members received and unanimously approved the following:

- (a) The Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20 conducted by Mrs Anne Collins.*
- (b) Annual Governance Statement 2019/20*
- (c) Accounting Statements 2019/20*
- (d) Approval of Certificate of Exemption - AGAR 2019/20 Part 2 whereby the Parish Council*

wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 given both their gross income and gross expenditure were less than £25,000.

Following these approvals, the Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement, Certificate of Exemption and Accounting Statements.

He also set the commencement date of 18 June 2020 for the exercise of public rights whereby the audit return is published on the Council's website and advertised as being available for inspection for a 30 working-day duration.

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to send the Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor.

11 Use of the Pavilion by Fitness Class

The Council discussed the request from a local fitness class tutor for permission for a local fitness class to use the facilities of the Pavilion and Jubilee Field, given that such meetings are permitted to go ahead using social distancing.

The fitness class has taken place in the Village Hall in the past but owing to the Village Hall being closed, the use of the pavilion was requested as a stop gap until the hall re-opened.

Members agreed that it was a very positive move towards normality and that the use of the pavilion should be encouraged as long as all regulations and duty of care was adhered to.

Proposal:

- (a) That permission be given for the running of a fitness class, subject to insurance cover being in place and that the group adhere, at all times, to the requirements of any current pandemic social regulations.
- (b) That the Council should waive any fees for the use of the pavilion during the 2020/21 tax year.

Proposed by: Cllr Leech

The vote was unanimous

12 Suggested Rerouting of Bus Routes to Include Ingleton

Members discussed a letter received from resident suggesting that the local bus company be approached to consider whether Ingleton could be included in the bus route between Darlington and Barnard Castle via both Gainford and Staindrop. This would provide our village with an hourly bus service to and from Darlington at what the resident believed would be at a low cost to the bus company.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Bus company to ask whether this suggestion could be acted upon for future bus runs.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

13 Minutes of previous meeting:

Members agreed that the Minutes of the Ingleton Parish Council Meeting dated 22 January 2020 offered a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr Leech

The vote was unanimous

14 IPC Finances

- a) To receive both actual and projected balances of IPC accounts for tax year 2020/21.
- b) Invoices for payment:
Members were directed to the Statement of Accounts where transactions carried out between the dates of 23/1/20 and 16/6/20 were recorded.

Members agreed that the Finances of the Ingleton Parish Council recorded a true and accurate record of the balances and transactions for each bank account held.

Proposed by: Cllr Leech

The vote was unanimous

15 Pavilion and Field Working Group (PFWG)

The Meeting discussed the best way of advertising tables and chairs held within the pavilion which were no longer required in such numbers. Cllr Vickers was asked to take a lead on advertising them and it was suggested her first point of contact might be the Teesdale Consortium of Village Halls, then asking within the community and subsequently, if there are still some left, they could be advertised further afield. Cllr Vickers to report at the next meeting.

LOCAL MAINTENANCE / VILLAGE ISSUES

16 Picnic Table Repair

Cllr Mead reported he had successfully sourced a replacement part for the damaged table and will complete the repair when the supplier's premises re-open. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mead for continuing with this work.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Ormandy asked it be noted that during the walks along the public footpaths there had been a marked reduction in the amount of dog fouling in the village and he wished to congratulate the Parish Council on their initiative which he believes has brought about this success.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ormandy for his kind observation and passed on his congratulations to the various Councillors who had brought this about.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be notified via the village notice board and Ingleton Parish Council website.

Joyce Mead, Parish Clerk
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