

# 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, including the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting, in either the Jubilee Field Pavilion or the Village Hall.

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

## MINUTES

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 7 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:** 3

**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 a senior technician in the Traffic Signals and UTMC section is awaiting the results of the survey he requested and will get back in touch with IPC when this is available.

Speedwatch in Ingleton

During the Parish Council's previous meeting the Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Police Authority in support of the Speedwatch Team to include a request for the

Chairman's Signature:

Team to be allowed to resume their monitoring of speeding traffic through Ingleton, but, before the letter could be sent, the Police Authority contacted the Speed Watch Team giving permission that same permission so no further action with regard to this was required. However, further discussion between Councillors and visitors ensued concerning the increased number of vehicles speeding in the village since the lockdown. Mr Ormandy reported that, on 20 August between 8.30 and 9.45am, the Speedwatch Team had recorded the highest number of speeding vehicles, 13 out of 84, where two had been over 45mph. Highlighting an article in the most recent edition of the Teesdale Mercury, Mr Ormandy suggested that Ingleton could benefit from the help Cockfield residents had received from the Police authority for the same problem. The Chairman asked Mr Ormandy if he could supply the Clerk with relevant information on this matter and asked the Clerk to write to the Police to raise the concerns of Ingleton Parish Council and ask for additional actions to be taken on drivers caught speeding through the village.

#### Hedgecutting in Ingleton

Two landowners whose hedgerows overhung public pathways were contacted with requests for the hedges to be reduced back for ease of access to the pathways. One landowner responded acknowledging that work could be carried out in accordance with the advice on the time of year such work could be carried out. The other resident, although making no written response, had, to some degree, reduced the hedge but it still overhung the pathway. Councillors asked that this situation be monitored.

#### Suggested re-routing of Bus Routes to Include Ingleton

Correspondence from Arriva bus service company acknowledged the suggestion that Ingleton be included in a bus route already in operation nearby but gave no indication that either the suggestion would be taken up or that any further consultation would ensue. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to the Liaison Officer in Durham County Council to ask for advice and further support on this issue with a view to getting a bus service for the Parish that is equal to that of neighbouring parishes.

#### DCC Road repairs itinerary for Ingleton

DCC indicated that the only work they had scheduled for Ingleton was some 'patching' of the Road between the bus stand near the Black Horse Inn and the exit road towards Hilton. This work has since been carried out. The Chairman and Members agreed that the condition of the roads in the Parish were generally good so no further action was required at this time.

#### Floral tributes on highways

DCC asked that no action be taken by the Parish Council regarding the advisability of floral tributes being laid at the roadside as they were in the process of making a Countywide response to this type of action. Members agreed to comply.

#### The Annual Audit

The Clerk/Financial Officer notified the meeting that the audit had been submitted, and that nobody had requested to inspect the accounts. No response as yet has been received from the auditors.

Chairman's Signature:

### Planting of Daffodils

Cllr Mead to purchase 500 daffodil bulbs for £36.00 and Councillors will carry out planting, guided by Cllr Mead's diagrams of areas where daffodils are not growing on the village greens

Proposal: That the Council approve the purchase of 500 bulbs for the sum of £36.00.

Proposed: Cllr Leech      Seconded: Cllr Mead      The vote: unanimous

### Use of pavilion by outside groups

As the query was essentially a fact finding one, the permissions were noted in the meeting for a fitness group to use the pavilion but, as no subsequent official correspondence has been Received, no further action is required.

Subsequent to this query, Members have given permission for the Chairman to have the use of the Pavilion on Friday evenings and Members were reminded that a group of musicians have permission to use the Pavilion with the benefit of them performing free of charge at a future fundraising 'gig' when social gatherings are allowed. The proceeds of such would be for the benefit of the upkeep/décor of the pavilion.

### Removal of excess number of tables and chairs from pavilion

Cllr Vickers has successfully donated the excess number of tables and chairs from the pavilion.

## **5 a) Public Participation: Comments on agenda items**

Further to the item above concerning removal of tables and chairs from the pavilion, it was noted that canvas and tents, along with metal poles, had been donated and/or removed from the pavilion, giving more space for storage.

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

No new business raised at this time.

## **STRATEGIC BUSINESS:**

Issues of strategic importance that require priority attention.

## **6 New Website and Government Requirements for Compliance**

The Clerk opened discussions with explaining that government legislation required any UK Parish Council websites item, in any format, to be easily accessible to all, including people with impaired or total loss of sight.

Councillor Mead reported he had taken a lead on getting the required Statement of Readiness concerning this onto the website by the deadline of 23 September and had discussed the needs of the Parish Council with the web designer of the NALC/ SLCC recommended web design company, 'Aubergine.' The outcome of the telephone enquiry was that if Aubergine were retained to design a fully compliant, brand new website then the Parish Council could take ownership of its domain address free of charge, overwrite the original pages with the new web paged, thus keeping the website at the same address as is held now.

Further discussions with web designers, 'Aubergine', gleaned that the ability already shown by the Parish Council in getting the website to its current temporary compliant position meant that any regular, and expensive, regular monitoring would not be necessary so the cost would be for web design and initial compliance checks for the sum of £1198 + VAT (the 20% VAT being retrievable by a VAT claim) and then an annual cost of circa £150 for the domain address. Cllr

Chairman's Signature:

Mead further reported that he had been told the website could be up and running by the end of October.

The Chairman voiced his appreciation to Cllr Mead and the Clerk for the work done in getting this information together and confirmed to the meeting that the purchase price, being lower than the amount required to implement the need for three estimates meant that the meeting could vote on what action to take straight away. The added benefit of retaining the services of a company recommended by the NALC/SLCC and the fact that, because it was already budgeted for each year, the annual cost of retaining the web domain address would not further impact on the taxpayer, persuaded him that he could make the following proposal:

Proposal: That, in order to obtain a new and working and compliant parish council website, the website design company, 'Aubergine', be retained to design a website for the sum of £1198.00+VAT and pay circa £150+VAT per year for the retention of the domain. VAT would be retrieved each year by the Clerk in VAT claims from HMRC.

Proposed: Cllr Leech      Seconded: Cllr Pressley      The vote: unanimous

## 7 **Review of Public Footpaths**

The Clerk reported that following recent discussions and correspondence between a resident, two landowners and the Parish Council, the need for a review of the public pathways was requested from the relevant officer from Durham County Council.

Three public footpaths have been named for review.

Pathway Number 3: The suggestion to the County Council is that the path be redirected some small number of feet eastward to link in with a pathway already in existence so that houses in Springwell are no longer built on a public footpath.

Pathway Number 4: This is a small 'hook' at the end of Path number 3 so, as it leads to no specific destination, it is suggested that this be removed from the register.

Pathway Number 6: This path diverts currently along a 'permissive path' north of the stream to meet Pinder House Lane and the Parish Council suggests it be diverted from across the field north of Pinder House Farm to the outside border of the field in order that farm stock and walkers alike may be kept separate and undisturbed.

A visitor to the meeting commented that the proposal to deviate the path around the field held merit as it was his experience in the past, when living elsewhere, that a Parish Council was sued for not monitoring the use of such land upon which there was a public footpath.

The Council is to await the response from Durham County Council.

## 8 **Playground Inspection**

The Clerk had previously distributed to the Meeting the Playground Inspection Report which raised a number of issues for the attention of the Meeting. These were:

1. The Wooden 'Trail' which combined wooden posts and chains was showing considerable amount of wear with regard to support posts being loose in the ground and damage to wood by strimmer machines. The inspector asked for the removal of the whole unit be considered by Members.
2. Chain links were seriously worn down and needing to be replaced
3. The need for impact surfacing below equipment
4. Huck Birds Nest showed signs of some corrosion of pin fixings and there was a suggestion that a no-impact surface below was not in place. The Inspector recommended that the unit be cordoned off for repair and safety concerns.

Chairman's Signature:

5. The newly repaired picnic table requires fixing into the ground

The Members' immediate response to the points were:

- a) for funding for the replacement of the circa 24 year old wooden trail to be investigated and at this point the Chairman asked the advice of Members of the IDCA as to whether they had a fund available from which they too could make a contribution. Members of the IDCA agreed that this could be possible and the Chairman asked the Clerk to write to the Committee outlining the situation and request.
- b) Any chain links found would be replaced
- c) Impact surfacing to be inspected and replaced as necessary
- d) Huck Birds Nest climbing tower to be cordoned off immediately, laminated signs to be placed around the unit and at the field entrances and notification be given to both the Whatsapp and Parish Pump communication outlets. Cllr Mead is to follow up on the supply of non-corrosive pins for the linking units on the tower and the supply company be asked to give a quote for making a full repair. Such firms could be sourced by linking with the school for advice.

**9 Precept 2021/2022**

The Chairman reported that he would be working on the precept requirements for the coming year and asked if anyone knew of any future demands on the parish council of which it was not already aware ie, the new website costs and the forthcoming 2021 election costs. Given no further costs were suggested the Chairman will report his calculations to the next meeting.

**10 New National Payscale for Parish Clerks**

The Clerk reported notification of new pay scales for Parish Clerks, as agreed between NALC and union officials. For audit and full transparency purposes the Clerk asked that the Chairman consult the new pay scale and communicate to the Clerk the new salary rate, backdated to 1 April 2020 as required by the NALC agreement.

**11 Conditional Clauses on Previously Purchased Council Properties**

The Chairman reported that the Council had received an enquiry as to whether Members were aware of what actions may have been taken concerning the conditional clauses on land that was previously owned by Durham County Council and which was sold with a clawback clause. One property had been noted as having been sold recently and the Chairman stated that this, on the one hand, was the business of Durham County Council but, on the other, there should be some reassurance available that the conditions which were designed to be a deterrent for the development of housing on this and other properties, would be fully enforced. Having already received a response from Durham County Council that did not fully answer the request for information, the Chairman asked that she write again to request reassurance that the full weight of the clawback has been instigated and not less under any arrangement, as described in her initial correspondence. This would protect the parish from any further random development, at least for the near future.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

**12 Minutes of previous meeting:**

The Minutes of the Ingleton Parish Council Meeting dated 17 June 2020 were duly signed as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman's Signature:

**13 IPC Finances**

The Statement of Accounts presented to the Parish Council Meeting dated 17 June 2020 were approved by Members of the meeting.

Cllr Hunton to discuss with NFU insurance cover for grass-cutting equipment held in the pavilion during 2020/21. The value of the new equipment is £2000 so it may be that the premium will be reduced.

**14 Pavilion and Field Working Group (PFWG)**

Cllr Vickers thanked Cllr Humble and all involved on the work in the pavilion toilets and the Clerk and Cllr Mead for installing the dispensers for sanitizer. Cllr Humble asked that particular thanks be made to Mr Allan Hall for repairing the cistern in the gents' toilets in his own time and at his own expense; the Parish Council thanks him very much for this kind attention.

The Clerk reported that the Council had received notification from the NHS that the pavilion would require to be registered as a venue where people might congregate and that a register would need to be set in place to record names and contact details. The Clerk to report once this is in place.

**LOCAL MAINTENANCE / VILLAGE ISSUES**

**15** Matters of local maintenance already discussed earlier in the meeting.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**16** Mr Ormandy asked the Council whether it had been informed that Ingleton had a new PCSO as he had met Steve Richardson who had introduced himself as the new officer for Ingleton yet the Police notice in the Village Hall still gives the name of the previous officer who acted as such, namely Paul Conroy who we believe has changed his job within the Police Service. The Clerk confirmed she had not been informed but would write to Mr Richardson congratulating him on his new appointment.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING (via Zoom Internet Link)**

**Wednesday 27 November 2020 at 7.00 pm**

Information on how to link in to the meeting will be advertised via our next meeting's agenda plus the village notice board, the Parish Pump and Ingleton Parish Council website.

**Joyce Mead, Parish Clerk  
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**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

All meetings take place on a Wednesday and start at 7 pm and, unless otherwise advised, will be via Zoom internet link. Future scheduled dates for meetings are:

**25 November 2020    27 January 2021    24 March 2021    26 May 2021**

Chairman's Signature: