

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday, 18 March 2020
at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Barmby Moor

Present: Councillors Smith (MS), Clark (SC), Haynes (CH), Emmison (BE), Robinson (KR), Wilkinson-Mudd (MWM), Dexter (GD) and Gregory (JG).

Apologies: Received from Councillor Appleton.

Declaration of Interest from members on any item to be discussed: None.

Delegation of the Powers and Duties of the Council:

SC explained that in normal circumstances the legal requirement is that decisions of the Council are to be made at Council Meetings at which members of the public are entitled to attend.

However, in exceptional circumstances when the Parish Council is not able to hold its public meetings it is possible for the Council to devolve most decision-making to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair where possible.

In view of the current circumstances with COVID-19, SC recommended a resolution that the Parish Council adopts a contingency plan that if the Parish Council is not able to hold its public meetings it devolves most decision-making to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair where possible to ensure that business can continue to be transacted.

This resolution was proposed by KR and seconded by MWM and carried unanimously.

Postpone Council Meetings due to the Coronavirus:

SC followed on stating that due to the Government advice on avoiding public gatherings, the requirements to self-isolate (which effects 5 members of the Parish Council) and due to a lack of a location to hold public meetings with the village hall and church both being closed from now on, that the Parish Council is not able to hold its public meetings.

SC explained that this would not mean the Parish Council shuts down, members are still contactable by members of the public, and Councillors will still be in contact with each other, just not together at meetings.

SC therefore recommended a resolution that the Parish Council postpones its Public Meetings until the Covid-19 situation improves and it is possible to hold public meetings again. This would mean that the resolution regarding delegation of the powers and duties of the Council passed previously would come into force.

This resolution was proposed by CH and seconded by GD and carried unanimously.

Finance:

NuLawn – (siting three village seats) - £720.00. (PC had to use Contractors approved by ERYC).

Invoice approved for payment by MWM and seconded by GD and carried.

Village Seats – CH questioned why there had been a change and a seat had been fitted on the Green and not the bench. SC replied that he didn't think that there had been a change. It was always the intention to have the two seats in the areas where it was considered they would be most used and that the bench was to be fitted in Back Lane as it was mainly to act as just a resting point not an area where people would sit for a longer period.

CH requested that minutes of the Parish Council be checked.

One resident near the seat on the Green had commented that the seat had been located near an inspection chamber that sometimes overflows with sewage. SC had responded to the Clerk that if that is the case Yorkshire Water needs to be requested to resolve the problem to ensure that it does not happen.

Another resident near the seat on the Green had complained about loss of privacy.

MWM commented that a number of local residents had submitted agreeable observations about the seats in the village on the Community Facebook page.

An informal discussion commenced:

Helping the Vulnerable During the Coronavirus Outbreak:

GD and KR were holding a meeting on Thursday evening (19th March 2020) with a group of volunteers who had offered their services to offer help and provide assistance to the elderly and vulnerable who may need such during the COVID-19 outbreak.

GD asked whether the Parish Council could make emergency funding available to those who needed it desperately. He explained he was thinking of those who needed shopping but were unable to get out to obtain cash. SC replied that the Parish Council would have to take advice on whether it has the authority to do this.

SC suggested to KR that she contact the Calley Trust to see if they could help with any funding requirements.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.