**ORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT**

**ORTON MARKET HALL ON 22 MAY 2017 AT 7.30 pm**

***Prior to the Meeting a Public Meeting was held to consider The Westmorland Dales Hidden Landscape Partnership Scheme. A presentation was made by Mr. Douglas Chalmers, the Chief Executive of the Friends of the Lake District; Mr. David Evans(development officer) and Nicola Estill (community engagement officer). Approximately 50 members of the public attended. Following questions from the floor, Mr. John Dunning gave an overview of the Scheme and its likely impact in the future.***

Present for the AGMwere Councillors Kyle Blue; Stephen Dunning; Mark Mawson; David Potter; M. Coates and J. Taylor.

6 members of the public; County Councillor P. Dew and the clerk

Councillor Kyle Blue (chair) presented the annual Report on the work of the Council.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Menna Lewis

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in any item on the Agenda

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18th April 2017**

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting

**4. Election of the Chairman for 2017/18**

Councillor Kyle Blue was proposed and elected unanimously

**5. Election of Vice Chairman for 2017/18**

Councillor Stephen Dunning was proposed and elected unanimously

**6. Planning**

Eden District Council application 17/0192 for an additional car park and HGV parking areas at Westmorland Services (Tebay West). No objection, but the clerk will write to Eden District Council and ask that the Parish Council be notified of applications before the commencement of works on site in the future.

**7. Finance**

The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Chair who also signed the Accounting Statement for the external auditors. The result of the internal audit was noted and the Councillors asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Renwick-Smith who carried out the internal audit.

The clerk presented the income and expenditure accounts for the year and these were approved.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

United Utilities 95.51

CALC annual subscription 180.54

Market Hall rent for March 2017 10.00

L.W. Thwaytes for Christmas trees 180.00

Came and Co. insurance premium (fixed for 3 yrs) 655.01

L. Potter – salary month 2 250.35

M.Longworth – salary month 2 140.00

HMRC 97.60

Amico Ltd for website domain and hosting 50.00

J. Huck – donation for scarecrow competition 100.00

**8. Playground Inspection**

A volunteer has come forward to visually inspect the play area on a weekly basis

**9. Website and Defibrillator**

Councillor John Taylor reported on the progress with the new website and the proposed community website.

The Chair signed the Hosting Agreement for the defibrillator which will be installed in the phone kiosk opposite The George public house.

**10. Correspondence Received**

The clerk will press the County Council Fire Officer for a report on the condition of the fire hydrants in the parish as United Utilities have now visited and surveyed the existing hydrants.

**11. Public Participation**

Wendy Higgins thanked the Parish Council for the donations towards the cost of running the 106 bus service; providing the Christmas trees and towards the expenses of the scarecrow competition.

There was a discussion about the low take-up of ultra-fast broadband in the area. Only 26% of households had signed up for this in Orton, as opposed to 56% in Tebay. It was explained that the cost was not significantly increased, but the benefits were substantial.

It was noted that the litter bin at the end of Street was missing and this will be looked into.

Councillor Kyle Blue undertook to speak to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority about the bridge out of repair at Reveley House.

**12. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th June 2017at 7.30 pm at the Market Hall, Orton

The meeting closed at 9.35

Margaret Longworth

Clerk to Orton Parish Council

Signed as a true record

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Date………………………………