**ORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Chair- Mr. K.Blue,Town Head, Orton

Clerk – Mrs. M. Longworth, Yew Tree Farm, Greenholme

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**MINUTES of a Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2018 at The Market Hall,**

**Orton at 7.30pm**

Present: K. Blue (chair); S. Dunning; M. Coates; D. Potter; M. Mawson; J. Taylor

County Councillor Phil Dew and District Councillor Adrian Todd

6 members of the public and the clerk

*Prior to the formal business of the meeting, Mr. Martin Lawson gave a short talk on B4RN; the organisation established to facilitate the provision of fast broadband to rural areas. He said that 56 parishes had already participated in the scheme but that it did need sufficient local interest, volunteers and finance. Farmers and others who provided equipment/labour for the scheme would receive a subsidy. Wayleaves over land would have to be agreed. Once in place, the equipment should last for 100 years or so. There would be a £150 connection fee and a further fee of £30 per month for the service. There would be a reduced fee for holiday lets.*

*Mr. Lawson answered questions from the floor and was thanked by the chair for a most useful and informative talk.*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Menna Lewis

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th October 2018**

The Minutes were signed as a true record of this meeting.

**4. Public Participation**

The seat at Kelleth by the noticeboard had broken due to deterioration of the concrete supports. The clerk was asked to source a new seat.

**5. Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider. However, an email had been received indicating that the Lake District National Park would offer a grant of £250 to facilitate the purchase of equipment to enable councillors to consider planning issues now that paper copies of planning applications were no longer sent out. The Chair would enquire whether the grant monies could be spend on acquiring Ordnance Survey plans of the three main settlements in the parish. It was suggested that enquiries should be made as to whether wi-fi could be connected to the Market Hall to facilitate parish business generally. Further enquiries would be made as to whether there already was a usable projector and screen in the Market Hall.

**6. Grass Cutting and Play Area**

The Invitation to Tender and draft contractual documents for the grass cutting were approved. The chair reported that the owner of the play area was prepared to sell the land to the parish council for £2500 plus his legal fees. It was agreed that this offer to sell would be taken up, subject to the precise terms being agreed

**7. Salaries**

It was agreed that the clerk’s salary would be increased to £240 per month (gross) from January 2019 and that the salaries would be reviewed each year in November. The clerk was instructed to prepare contracts of employment as required by law.

**8. Finance**

The cash book for August, September and October was circulated for approval.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Amey (grass cutting for 2018) £1413.24

The Play Inspection Company 78.00

Cumbria Payroll Services for November 14.40

L. Potter – salary for November 250.35 L.Potter – salary for December 250.35

M. Longworth – salary for November 140.00

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HMPG – PAYE for November 97.60

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Cumbria Payroll Services – fee for December 14.40

**9. Traffic Calming**

The outcome of the County Council traffic survey was noted. The Chair thanked the Speedwatch volunteers for their work in reducing the number of vehicles speeding through the village.

**10. Reports of District and County Councillors**

Adrian Todd reported on the progress of the Penrith Masterplan. He had been to the November meeting of the 106 Bus Partnership and reported that the finances of the partnership were healthy at the present time and the bus service should be available for two years.

County Councillor Phil Dew reported on his meeting with local police officers. He had also met with representatives of the gypsy community to consider the problems associated with the horse fair. He reported on initiatives to facilitate winter resilience including the provision of highway gritting; working with local farmers to clear snow and looking at the necessary insurance cover for farmers and the Working Together Project. He also mentioned work that was being carried out to enable NHS staff and local authority staff to act together to deal with unnecessary hospitalisation and “bed blocking”. Work was also ongoing to tackle rural isolation and mental health problems among young people.

**11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday, 21st January 2019.

The meeting ended at 8.50

M. Longworth (clerk)

Signed as a true record ……………………………………………..

Dated ……………………………………………..