ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of 19th February 2018 held at

Orton Market Hall at 7.30pm

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

District Councillor Adrian Todd

County Councillor Phil Dew

12 Members of the public and the clerk

*The meeting commenced with a talk on Orton Special Verges given by Sue Thurley, a Wildlife Conservation Officer with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. She explained that Paul Dunford had contacted her about Judy Dunford’s work surveying and photographing the verges for Cumbria Wildlife Trust. The verges are managed by Cumbria County Council who seek to protect the valuable species and who cut and maintain the verges to a Schedule prepared some time ago. She will be mounting a display of Judy’s work and there will be an exhibition in the Market Hall from 2nd – 16th May. The material will also be displayed at Shap, Hawes and Kirkby Stephen.*

*Ms. Thurley said that there would be a guided walk on 12th June and she hoped to recruit volunteers to make sure that the verges were being managed according to the agreed Schedule.*

*Ms. Thurley took questions from the floor and said that she could be contacted at the Authority’s office in Orton, or by emailing* [*wildlifeconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk*](mailto:wildlifeconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk)*. The Chair thanked Ms. Thurley for a very interesting talk.*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. M. Lewis declared an interest in item 6.1 on the Agenda and took no part in the decision-making relating to that item.

Cllr. M. Mawson declared an interest in item 6.2 on the Agenda and took no part in the decision-making relating to that item.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting of 15th January 2018 were signed as a true record of that meeting.

**4. Public Participation**

Members of the public expressed grave concern about the state of the roads in the parish with numerous potholes being reported. The clerk was asked to log dangerous potholes in Greenholme; at the Scar; Sunbiggin Tarn; Chapel Waste; Moor House Road and others. County Councillor Phil Dew said that the position was the same across the whole county and explained that the County simply did not have the manpower to deal with the necessary repairs.

**5. Defibrillator**

Cllr M. Lewis explained that this was working, although the light had been off. Cllr. David Potter explained the current position with regard to the pole taking the electricity supply to the defibrillator and it was agreed that a meeting would take place with the owner of the property where the pole is situated as he has requested that the pole be re-sited.

**6. Planning**

6.1 Application E/11/21 – Gardeners Rest Apartment, Orton Hall, Orton. Full permission for internal alterations to amalgamate ground floor and first floor apartments into a single dwelling and erection of orangery extension.

No objection.

6.2 Application E/11/4 – New House Farm, Orton. Full permission for conversion of three agricultural buildings to dwellings.

No Objection.

6.3 Applications E/11/1A and E/11/1B – Midfield, Gaisgill – appeals against non-determination.

The appeals were noted, but the meeting did not wish to add to the comments already submitted.

**7. Website**

Cllr. John Taylor reported on the progress with the Community Website and it was agreed that the first draft was attractive and appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the site be supported financially by this council for the first three years.

**8. Finance**

The following accounts were approved for payment:

L. Potter – salary for February 2018 £250.35

M. Longworth – salary for February 2018 140.00

HMRC – PAYE for February 2018 97.60

Gala Lights – Christmas lights 156.00

Community Heartbeat Trust – 2 Defibrillators and cabinets 6078.00

Waterplus – bill for period October 2017 to January 2018 57.10

9.1 Request for a donation to Orton School to support their Residential Visits Programme.

RESOLVED – a donation of £400.00 would be made

9.2 – 9.8 These items of correspondence were noted. With regard to item 9.2 (proposed Caravan Club site at Kelleth) the applicant attended the meeting to explain that she had followed all the correct procedures. This was noted and Cllr. K. Blue thanked her for her attendance.

An additional letter had been received from Marion Robinson asking for financial support for the annual Scarecrow competition.

RESOLVED – a donation of £200.00 would be made.

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

Councillor Adrian Todd mentioned that there would be a fund available from Eden District Council of £300,000 to support the work of all the parishes in Eden.

Councillor Phil Dew explained why the Council Tax would be increased for the coming year and the additional amounts going to the police and to fund adult social care. He said that there was a lack of manpower available to deal with highway repairs and agreed to look into the hours worked by the staff.

Councillor Phil Dew reported on the funding required to replace the Astroturf at the Kirkby Stephen School. He was advocating making savings from the highways budget by cutting the sum put aside for Appleby Horse Fair and spending this amount on a gulley cleaner. He had met with Highways England to discuss the duelling of the A66 to take place in stages over 10 years. He was opposed to the possible Kirkby Stephen bypass. He was advocating a community based police service in Cumbria as police officers were rarely seen in rural areas. His full report is annexed to these Minutes.

The issue of litter was raised, especially on the highway verges, and a litter-pick will be discussed at the March meeting of the parish council.

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

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

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed as a true record Dated

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