**ORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st May 2018 at**

**The Market Hall, Orton at 7.30pm**

*The Meeting commenced with a presentation by Mr. David Evans of the Friends of the Lake District on the progress of the Westmorland Dales Hidden Landscape Project. He outlined the funding available to finance various schemes to protect and conserve the natural and built heritage of the area. He said that one of the aims was to engage with local people and businesses and, with the co-operation of local people, to create a long term and lasting legacy. Work had been done in the local schools to raise awareness of the hidden landscape, sometimes overlooked by visitors travelling to better-known holiday resorts. He mentioned the “dark skies” and the possibility of the area becoming a dark sky reserve. Mr. Evans answered questions from the public about various on-going projects and how funding could be accessed.*

Councillor Kyle Blue then opened the AGM with a report on the activities carried out over the past year.

Present: Councillors Kyle Blue; Stephen Dunning; Menna Lewis; Mark Mawson; John Taylor; Malcolm Coates; David Potter

County Councillor Phil Dew

13 members of the public and the clerk.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor David Potter declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 on the Agenda (the Playground) and took no part in the decision-making on that item.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 23rd April 2018**

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting of 23rd April 2018.

**4. Election of the Chairman for the year 2018/19**

It was proposed by Steven Dunning and seconded by Menna Lewis that Kyle Blue be elected as Chairman for the year 2018/19 and the motion was carried unanimously.

**5. Election of the Vice-Chairman for the year 2018/19**

It was proposed by David Potter and seconded by Menna Lewis that Stephen Dunning be elected as Vice-Chairman for the year 2018/19 and the motion was carried unanimously.

**6. Public Participation**

The issue of traffic speeding through the village was raised and the Speedwatch campaign organised by Cumbria Constabulary was discussed in detail. The Parish Council would support this initiative and would arrange for a survey of traffic passing through the village to be carried out by Cumbria County Council so that the speed and frequency of traffic could be assessed. The County Council would also be contacted to see if a further speed awareness sign could be erected at the entrance to the village from the Shap road.

Concerns were expressed at the number of cairns being erected on Orton Scar, sometimes disturbing the limestone pavement. It was agreed that this issue should be reported to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and such informal structures should be dismantled, where possible.

There was general concern about the issue of dog fouling, especially in the area of the children’s playground. It was agreed that more signs prohibiting this were required.

It was noted that planning permission had been granted for the alterations to the property at 2 Raine Cottages, subject to conditions.

County Councillor Phil Dew presented his Report to the meeting (a copy of which is annexed to these Minutes).

**7. Planning**

7.1 Application E/11/26 to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – Acres, Raisbeck.

Subdivision of the property to form 2 separate dwellings.

No objection

**8. Finance**

8.1 The Certificate of Exemption from an external audit; the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and the Annual Accounting Statement for 2017/18 were circulated for approval and signed by the chairman.

It was proposed by Stephen Dunning, seconded by John Taylor and resolved unanimously that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the chairman as the annual turnover of the council was less than £25,000 for the period.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

L. Potter – salary for May 2018 £250.35

M. Longworth – salary for May 2018 140.00

HMRC – PAYE for May 2018 97.60

M. Longworth – ink for printer 10.77

M. Longworth - postage stamps 5.80

**9. Payroll**

It was noted that the clerk had been operating the payroll and that this work could be done expeditiously by Cumbria Payroll Services for a monthly fee of £14.40. It was agreed that the work be transferred to Cumbria Payroll Services to enable the clerk to concentrate on other pressing issues.

**10. Play Area**

The clerk presented three estimates for fencing the play area. I was resolved to accept the lowest estimate from Steelway Fensecure in the sum of £3212.52, plus VAT. Enquiries would be made as to whether it might be possible to purchase the site of the play area, or renew the current lease. This is due to expire in 2020.

**12. Speeding Signs on the Approach to Orton from Shap**

It was noted that Councillors Kyle Blue and David Potter and the clerk were to meet with a representative of Cumbria County Council on 23rd May to discuss whether a further speed awareness sign could be installed at the entrance to the village. The clerk will report back to the next meeting of the parish council.

**13. Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th June 2018 at The Market Hall, Orton at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

M. Longworth

Clerk

Signed as a true record of this meeting

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Dated ……………………………..