ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

*Chair – Mr. K. Blue, Town Head House, Orton*

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

*Email –* *bjarmi21@gmail.com*

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20th JULY 2020 AT 7.30pm.

The meeting was held remotely over the internet via “Zoom” due to the Government

restrictions on meetings during the coronavirus crisis.

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

County Councillor Phil Dew

4 members of the public and the clerk.

*The Chair, Cllr. K. Blue, opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public. He gave a brief talk on the work of the Parish Council over the past year, touching on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and thanking the proprietors of the village shop for their hard work and commitment in keeping the shop open during the outbreak. He mentioned that the community spirit of the village and surrounding hamlets had been very evident during a testing time. He outlined the planning applications considered by the parish council over the year, the new signage at the entrances to the village and the proposals for tree planting at Birkbeck Common and Crosby Ravensworth Common. The impact of the ash die-back disease was very evident and many failing trees might have to be removed in the future. He also said that plans were being made to improve the footway lighting in Orton.*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Dunning; M. Mawson and M. Coates. Also District Councillor A. Todd.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th June 2020**

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the above meeting.

**4. Election of Chairperson for the year 2020/21**

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Potter and seconded by Cllr. M Lewis that Kyle Blue be elected chairperson for the year and this was agreed unanimously.

**5. Election of Vice Chairperson for the year 2020/21**

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Potter and seconded by Cllr. M. Lewis that Stephen Dunning be elected Vice-Chairperson for the year and this was agreed unanimously,

**6. Public Participation**

The Council was thanked by the residents of Kelleth and Gaisgill for the new noticeboard at Kelleth and it was agreed that a further seat would be purchased to be sited near to the new notice board. Residents would assist with the fixing of the seat.

Cllr. David Potter outlined the work that had been undertaken by himself and Lynne Potter to bring the public toilets back into use following closure during the worst of the pandemic. The water had been tested for legionella disease. A water mixer tap would have to be replaced and it was agreed that a new hand dryer would be purchased.

It was agreed that the clerk would write to the proprietors of the village shop to thank them for their work in the community during the coronavirus outbreak.

**7. Finance**

7.1 It was proposed by Cllr.K.Blue and seconded by Cllr. M. Lewis that the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 be approved and signed.

7.2 It was proposed by Cllr. K. Blue and seconded by Cllr. M. Lewis that the Annual Accounting Statement for 2019/20 be approved and signed.

7.3 It was proposed by Cllr. K. Blue and seconded by Cllr. M. Lewis that the Certificate of Exemption be signed and sent to the external auditors.

7.4 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Lynne Potter – salary for July 2020 £312.75

M. Longworth – salary for July 2020 192.00

HMPG – PAYE for July 2020 48.00

Cumbria Payroll Services 14.40

Fee for Zoom meeting paid by M. Longworth 14.39

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

County Councillor P. Dew reported that an additional £2.2 million had been received and was being used to repair potholes. Appleby Horse Fair had been cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak and the money saved had been used to purchase a new road gulley cleaner. Schools were due to re-open in September but there were difficulties caused by the pandemic, especially round social distancing and school transport. A coronavirus outbreak control plan had been published for public comment. The issue of having a Unitary Authority for the area was being debated.

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

It was agreed that there would be no meeting in August. The meeting in September would be held on 21st of that month at 7.30, either at The Market Hall, Orton, or remotely via the Zoom app.

The meeting closed at 8.40

M. Longworth (clerk)

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

Dated ……………………………………………………………..