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 A MEETING OF 16th NOVEMBER 2020 HELD OVER THE INTERNET VIA THE ZOOM APPLICATION AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs. K. Blue (chair); M. Lewis; M. Coates; D. Potter; J. Taylor; S. Dunning; County Councillor P. Dew; six members of the public and the clerk.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from 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 19th October 2020**

The Minutes were agreed to be a true record of the above Meeting.

**4. Public Participation**

Concern was expressed about the Farmers’ Market moving to Shap. It was uncertain whether the Market would return to Orton following the end of the current pandemic. It was regretted that the move was put in place without any consultation with the Parish Council after the Council had offered to help them with a grant for a re-launch of the Market in Orton. However, it was acknowledged that the facilities at Shap were good, especially car parking provision.

A member of the public reported suspicious activity in the Kelleth area.

The chair reported on the new poles to be positioned in Orton by Openreach and a map showing the location of the poles was awaited. It was regretted that the facility could not go underground.

A member of the public was concerned that the grass around the noticeboard at Kelleth had only been mown by the contractors once during the year and the clerk agreed to look into this.

**5. Street Lighting**

The chair reported that he awaited a response to his application for a grant for new LED bulbs and the new lights would be sourced in the new year.

**6. Allotments**

Cllr J. Taylor reported on his investigations into possible sites for allotments and that six or seven sites were under consideration. He would take the matter further when the current pandemic “lockdown” was ended and approaches could be made to landowners. He explained that the individual allotments could be more or less any size and that the holders could put together their own scheme for the use of the site to ensure that it did not become an eyesore.

**7. Public Toilets and Play Area**

The current cleaner of the toilets was happy for these to remain open during the coronavirus lockdown and she had been provided with all the protective equipment needed to keep her safe. This was appreciated by the meeting. It was agreed that the play area could remain open.

**8. Finances**

The clerk had circulated the cash book for consideration and the following accounts were approved for payment:

L. Potter – salary for November and December £625.50

M. Longworth – salary for November and December 384.00

Cumbria Payroll Services for November and December 28.80

Lakeland Plumbing and Heating – repairs to public toilets 312.00

Amey – grass cutting for 2020 1413.22

M. Longworth – fee for “Zoom” meeting 14.39

CBS Electrical Ltd – replace hand drier in toilets 214.02

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

County Councillor P. Dew reported on the current coronavirus situation in Eden and that a “walk in” testing station was operational in the Sandgate car park in Penrith. He spoke about the proposals for local government reorganisation and the appointment of a new Chief Executive for the District Council. He mentioned the situation with the college at Newton Rigg and that the site had been identified for development, hopefully retaining and enhancing the existing college. He also explained that the depot for household waste was again operational at Hobson’s Lane with provision being made to assist disabled users of the site.

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

There will be no meeting in December and the next meeting will take place on Monday, 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm, either at The Market Hall, Orton or via the internet “Zoom” application.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

M. Longworth (clerk)

Signed as a true copy

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Dated …………………….