ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair – Kyle Blue, Town Head House, Orton

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

Email – [bjarmi21@gmail.com](mailto:bjarmi21@gmail.com)

Phone – 015396 24900

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th APRIL 2021 VIA THE INTERNET ZOOM APPLICATION AT 7.30pm**

Present – Cllrs K. Blue (chair); S. Dunning; Menna Lewis, M. Mawson; John Taylor; M. Coates; D. Potter.

Three members of the public and the clerk

*Prior to the meeting, Amanda Walters of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Landscape Scheme gave a presentation on the Interpretation Scheme and how this could apply to the village of Orton. The concept is to communicate the meaning of a place by means of leaflets, notice boards, audio presentations, etc. This would include the history of the place and how it has been shaped by agriculture, industry, etc. Some concerns were expressed that additional visitors to the village might cause car parking difficulties. It might be possible to direct visitors to parking areas at the perimeter of the village. It was agreed that the existing bus shelter could be used as an information point, but care should be taken to enhance and protect the existing art work in the shelter. Amanda will promote the scheme through The Link, the Community Website, etc.*

*The Chair thanked Amanda for her interesting presentation.*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Phil Dew and District Councillor Adrian Todd.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th March 2021**

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

**4. Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr. K. Blue outlined the various options for local government reorganisation and the Councillors read a paper written by County Councillor Phil Dew. They had also read details of the proposals in the local press and on the various local authorities’ websites. It was mentioned that the claimed savings to be made in each case were not clearly set out and the actual cost of reorganisation was not explained. Concerns were expressed that a unitary authority might not best serve local interests. Whilst it was agreed that a shakeup of the existing system could be beneficial, it was very hard to say which of the various options would be most beneficial. It was agreed that the councillors would respond to the consultation paper individually.

**5. Planning**

Yorkshire Dales National Park application E/11/49GDO at Park, Orton – a portal frame agricultural building.

Concerns were expressed that the small associated land holding did not need such a substantial building, although the size had been reduced from that originally proposed. These concerns would be passed to the planning authority.

**6. Outstanding Business**

Arrangements were made for an informal litter pick and it was agreed that the telephone kiosk (housing the defibrillator) would be repainted.

**7. Finance**

A paper summarising the insurance cover for the parish council for 2021/22 had been circulated and the various levels of cover were approved.

The cash book for March was circulated for information.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

L. Potter – salary for April 312.75

M. Longworth – salary for April 192.00

HMPG – PAYE for April 48.00

Cumbria Payroll Services 14.40

Defibrillator pads replaced 23.99

Water Plus –public toilets 109.75

Subscription for CALC 179.66

M. Longworth – fee for Zoom meeting 14.39

**8. Website**

It was agreed that the website should be updated in accordance with the guidance issued by CALC and that this could be done by the clerk in August when there would be no meeting of the council.

**9. Consultation on the Holding of Remote Meetings via the Internet**

It was generally agreed that the holding of remote meetings had been a success, after a slightly uncertain start. The clerk would respond to the consultation paper accordingly.

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

The next meeting would be the AGM and this would take place in The Market Hall on Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30pm.

M. Longworth (clerk)

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

Date …………………………………