ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

*Chair – Mr. 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 25th APRIL 2022 AT THE MARKET HALL, ORTON AT 7.30pm**

*Prior to the meeting Mr. Peter Apps of the Green Lane Association gave a talk on the work of the Association and why they felt it important to keep byways open to all traffic (BOATS) open for use by vehicular traffic. He said that the Association deplored the irresponsible use of green lanes and the damage that is sometimes caused, but they felt that the historic lanes should be kept open so that folk could be free to enjoy the countryside by car. He was asked whether it would be right for motor users to have to pay for such use and he agreed that there was a good case for asking for payment, such sums raised to go towards keeping the routes in good repair. Mr. Apps was thanked by the Chair for an interesting presentation.*

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

County Councillor Phil Dew, I member of the pubic and the clerk.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 21st March 2022**

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

**4. Public Participation**

4.1 Concerns were raised about the escape of effluent at Maisongill, Orton onto the highway verge. The clerk was instructed to write to Eden District Council about this matter.

4.2 Complaints had been received about a tractor parked on the pavement in the village, causing members of the public to have to walk in the road. The clerk was asked to write to the owner of the tractor about this.

4.3 There was some discussion about the war in Ukraine and the lack of an emergency plan in the event of the escalation of the war.

4.4 It was agreed that the outside of the bus shelter would be repainted. The renovation of the art work was a great success and the clerk was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the painters, Sue Leach and Helen Wearmouth.

**5. Planning**

Yorkshire Dales National Park application E/11/1F. Agricultural buildings at Midfield, Gaisgill.

No objection.

**6. Community Website**

Cllr John Taylor reported on the use of the website and the cost of maintaining the domain. It was considered that the cost was reasonable and that the website should continue for a further three years. Cllr Taylor was thanked by the chair for his work on this project.

**7. Jubilee Celebrations**

7.1 Cllr K. Blue reported on the arrangements for the Jubilee celebrations and mentioned that the proposed boundary walk would not now go ahead as a risk assessment had highlighted several matters of concern.

7.2 The clerk was instructed to enquire as to the design of the proposed memorial seat and table at Raisbeck.

**8. Correspondence**

8.1 It was noted that the Trustees of the Market Hall had emailed the chair about a proposed charging point for electric vehicles at Market Hall. They said that the electricity supply would be adequate. Car parking would have to be off-road. Cllr D. Potter agreed to make some enquiries as to the cost of providing a charging point and whether the project might be feasible.

8.2 Lake District National Park Authority survey on second homes. Councillors agreed that furnished holiday homes should not continue to receive small business rate relief and agreed that the provision of second homes should be regulated through the planning system.

8.3 Grass cutting and the preservation of wildflowers and grasses in our “special” verges. It was agreed that a compromise between conservation and general maintenance could be reached. The chair undertook to mention this to the grass cutting contractors.

**9. Finance**

It was agreed that a donation of £250.00 would be made to the organisers of the village scarecrow competition, as in previous years.

The cash book made up to 31st March had been circulated for information.

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

P. Thornley – provision of Jubilee commemorative water bottles £591.00

L. Potter – salary for March 2022 312.75

M. Longworth – salary for March 2022 248.00

HMPG – PAYE for March 2022 62.00

D. Potter – repairs to toilets; toughened glass windows to bus shelter and

repairs to children’s climbing frame 356.00

Water Plus Ltd – public toilets 105.75

Orton Market Hall – hire of hall 18.00

Cumbria Payroll Services 14.40

CALC – subscription 193.30

Cllr D. Potter was asked to go ahead with repairs to a spring in the play area, costing approximately £256.

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

County Councillor Phil Dew spoke about the forthcoming elections; the problems of staffing the Upper Eden Medical Practice and the closure of the surgery at Brough. He also spoke about the ongoing project to supply homes for refugees from the war in Ukraine and that this would put pressure on local services. He mentioned the Local Government Review and explained how the shadow authorities would work for the first year, before taking over the running of local government. He talked about the siting of local offices, that there would be a smaller workforce and fewer councillors.

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

The next meeting will be the AGM and will be held on Monday 16th May 2022 at The Market Hall, Orton at 7.30pm.

M. Longworth (clerk)

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