ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ORTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16th MAY 2022 AT ORTON MARKET HALL AT 7.30pm**

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

County Councillor P. Dew

2 members of the public and the clerk

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from District Councillor A. Todd and Cllr M. Coates

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 25th April 2022**

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

**4. The Report of the Chair for the year 2021/22**

Cllr Blue reported on the achievements of the past year, the chief of which was the making of the path through the Carsa Brow parkland. He mentioned that the path was well used and it was good to see parents with young children able to use the path with pushchairs. Also wheelchair users can now enjoy the parkland to the full. The project to install a speed indicator device on the Shap road was ongoing and volunteers had done a great job on restoring the bus shelter art work. The book swap was proving very popular and had raised considerable sums for various charities. The children’s play area was well-used and funds had been spent on routine maintenance. The Parish Council were supporting the group of volunteers organising the various events to take place to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. A grant had been obtained from Eden District Council of £1000 and this money would be put towards the costs of the Jubilee fireworks, street party, etc. The finances of the Parish Council were in good order, although the running of the pubic conveniences continued to be a drain on resources.

**5. Election of the Chairperson for 2022/23**

Cllr Menna Lewis proposed that Kyle Blue be appointed chairperson for the year and this was seconded by Cllr S. Dunning and agreed unanimously.

**6. Election of Vice-Chairperson for 2022/23**

Cllr D. Potter proposed that Stephen Dunning be appointed vice-chairperson for the year and this was seconded by Cllr M. Mawson and agreed unanimously.

**7. Public Participation**

Work to the tree guards at Carsa Brow was noted and it was agreed that a disused litter bin at the children’s play area should be removed. The owner of a dead ash tree in the village would be contacted to ensure that dangerous branches would be safely removed. There was an on-going problem with a tractor being parked in the village, partly or wholly on the pavement causing a danger to pedestrians who had to walk in the road to get round it. The clerk had already written to the owner of the tractor and the problem would be monitored. It was agreed to make a donation of £100.00 towards the cost of the stone picnic table and chairs at the Dame School in Raisbeck, constructed to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The chair thanked Alun Lewis for his hard work in repainting the telephone box housing the defibrillator.

**8. Audit and Governance**

8.1 The Governance Statement for 2021/22 was approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

8.2 The Accounting Statement for 2021/22 was approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

8.3 The internal audit had been carried out by Mark Renwick-Smith and all was in order.

**9. Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

Cllr D. Potter reported on his discussions with a member of Shap Parish Council and the scheme of EV Charging run by an organisation called Charge My Street. The clerk mentioned that the legal advice was that the chargers could be purchased by the Parish Council, but the council could not sell electricity as parish councils have no legal power to trade. It was decided that the clerk would contact the Trustees of the Market Hall to see if they would be prepared to sell power to the charging company. The clerk would also see if other organisations would be prepared to supply chargers and sell on the electricity at a reasonable rate. Cllr Blue mentioned that there would be room to park two cars outside Market Hall on Manor Court land.

**10. Finance**

It was agreed to make an ex-gratia payment of £ 150.00 to Mark Renwick Smith who had kindly carried out the internal audit.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

L. Potter – salary for May 2022 £312.75

M. Longworth – salary for May 2022 248.00

HMPG – PAYE for May 2022 62.00

Cumbria Payroll Services 14.40

D. Finch – community website hosting for three years 120.00

S. Leach – shelving for bus shelter 89.67

M. Longworth – postage stamps and stationery 24.24

K. Blue – bunting for Jubilee celebrations 233.08

M. Lewis – paint for telephone kiosk 52.99

J. Huck – refreshments for Jubilee celebrations 60.00

M. Robinson – donation for scarecrow exhibition 250.00

E. Capstick – painting four bridges 218.42

Rocket Sites – parish council website hosting 114.00

Gallagher Ltd – insurance premium for one year 1085.81

It was agreed to contract with the current insurance providers for three years as this would mean that the amount of the premium would remain the same for three years.

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

County Councillor Phil Dew reported on the result of the recent local government elections and the progress of local government reorganisation. The problem of sewage on the verge at Masongill was discussed and it was noted that this was being dealt with by the District Council. It seemed that United Utilities had decided that they were not able to assist the residents, although their decision might be appealed. Phil Dew updated the meeting on the preparations for Appleby Horse Fair and on the local Pub Watch scheme.

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

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20th June 2022 at The Market Hall, Orton at 7.30pm in the Supper Room.

M. Longworth (clerk)

Signed as a true record of the above meeting

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Dated

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