

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

Chairman
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Clerk
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Councillors:-

Mr A Waite (462922) Mrs S Glover (462383) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343) Mrs C Stringer (464781)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 5th November, 2020, at 7.30 pm. Due to the restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic this was a telephone conference meeting.

Present:- Councillors A Waite; Mrs S Glover; D Howarth; Mrs C Stringer; Mrs S Kelly.

Also present:- No members of the public had asked to be connected.

In attendance:- Apologies from Borough Councillor Dan Edwards.

47/20 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

48/20 Disclosure of interests. Requests for dispensations.

None.

49/20 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th August 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th August 2020 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Howarth. SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Glover.

Carried unanimously.

NB. No meeting in September and October because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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50/20 Matters arising from those minutes.

- a) 45/20 (c) Councillor Mrs Glover indicated that St Peter's Church had been advised that its hedges needed attention and that this had been done, as had others in the village. In particular, it was noted that Melton Terrace had been cleaned and tidied.
- b) 45/20 (c) The Clerk reported that outstanding matters relating to Tytup Smallholdings, and the apparent unauthorised development, were still the subject of discussions between the land-owner and Barrow Borough Council.

51/20 Attendance of officer from Cumbria Constabulary

PCSO Perry had reported, in advance, that there were no reported incidents relating to the Parish NOTED.

52/20 Revised Code of Conduct for council members.

The revised Code of Conduct, produced by Barrow Borough Council, and previously circulated to members, was adopted by the Council.

PROPOSED: Councillor Howarth. SECONDED: Councillor Waite.

Carried unanimously

53/20 Proposals re Unitary Authorities.

The Clerk referred to a virtual meeting called by Sam Plum, Barrow Council's Chief Executive, in order that she might advise on the subject of unitary authorities, and which had been attended by him and Councillor Mrs Stringer. Concern about the apparent confusion, duplication, waste etc to be found within local government, specifically because of overlap between county and district councils, had lead the Government to invite principal authorities, ie., excluding town and parish councils, to develop their own ideas for the formation of what are known as unitary authorities.

Broadly speaking, this would see the abolition of county and district authorities with new, single, authorities being formed to combine their responsibilities. The general concept of town and parish councils would remain the same within each new authority.

The Government required outline proposals to be submitted by 9th November 2020 with fully detailed proposals by 9th December 2020.

Cumbria County Council had already published its outline proposal which was for one single authority encompassing the whole of the county and incorporating the county council and the existing six district authorities. In addition, there were, as yet unpublished, suggestions by others that there should be two authorities within Cumbria, probably on a north/south divide.

The tone of the virtual meeting was that any reorganisation should recognize the widespread lack of support within the local community for the continuation of any administrative links with the rest of Cumbria. The Furness peninsula had been part of Lancashire until the 1972 local government reorganisation and it continued to look south towards Lancaster, Preston and Manchester for its economic and social links, with the Lake District mountains proving to be both a physical and psychological barrier to easy communication with the rest of Cumbria and its "capital", Carlisle.

As a consequence, Barrow Council had combined with South Lakeland District Council and Lancaster City Council, to formulate a proposal for a Bay Unitary Authority. The NHS had already moved in that direction with its well-established Morecambe Bay Health Authority, combining the management of all health services in that geographical area.

It was emphasised by Mrs Plum that much work would be needed to finalise the full proposal but at this stage all that was required was comment from the Parish Council on the general principle of the Bay plan. Clearly, there would be major problems to be tackled regarding any new authority in respect of staffing, finances, policies, buildings etc etc, and as far as town and parish councils were concerned, there would be significant issues regarding any change in responsibilities and the commensurate implications for size, staffing, buildings, finances etc.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Parish Council support the concept of a Bay Unitary Authority as suggested by Barrow Council.

Carried unanimously.

54/20 Remembrance Day arrangements.

Reference was made to the effect that the corona virus pandemic and the Government's lock-down arrangements would have on the traditional Remembrance Day activities, on Sunday, 8th November. It would seem that a limited ceremony would be possible at the individual War Memorials in Lindal and Marton, with a member of the clergy being in attendance for a very brief service and for wreaths to be laid. Social distancing would be an essential requirement.

It was AGREED that the usual arrangements could be followed, with the Clerk and a Councillor attending at Lindal and the Chairman at Marton.

55/20 Planning applications relating to the Parish

None.

56/20 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications relating to the whole of the Borough. The Clerk confirmed that the latest on-line list from Barrow Borough Council had been received and forwarded to Councillors. NOTED.
- b) Community Information and Safety. (including product recalls.) None.
(all such notices are displayed on the Lindal notice board.)

57/20 Finance.

- a) Account balances:- *Current - £50; Festivals - £1005.40 Reserve - £3726.99*
- b) Invoices for payment:- A Workman, lengthsman, £96.00.
- c) Payments, September/October for formal authorisation:-A Workman, £160; The Clerk, £300 and £79.28; D Howarth, £19.01; Dog waste bags, £39.30; Great North Air Ambulance, £100; A Workman, £64; British Legion poppy wreaths, £36.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Glover that items (b) and (c) be authorised. Carried unanimously.

58/20 Any Other Business.

- a) Councillor Mrs Kelly asked about the production of “Aspects” and it was confirmed that with production of the magazine having been temporarily suspended, all cheques received for adverts would be held over until such time as the magazine recommenced.
- b) Councillor Mrs Kelly drew attention to the pavement along the A590, from Pennington Lane towards Ulverston. The hedges had recently been cut but there had been no attempt to clear away the debris which was potentially hazardous for pedestrians. She also referred to street lights on the A590 in the same area which were not working. The Clerk undertook to pursue both issues.
- c) The Chairman reported that a parishioner had complained about vehicles being able to block the driveway entrance to the Buccleuch Hall, thus causing difficulties for wheelchairs etc gaining access to the Hall. Councillor Howarth undertook to follow this up.
- d) The Chairman enquired about the Christmas Tree arrangements for Lindal and Marton this year and it was confirmed that, whilst there would be no Christmas Fair in the Hall, nor any formal switch-on of Tree lights, such trees would be supplied, and dressed with lights, as usual. The Clerk would clarify dates etc.
- e) The Clerk commented on the savings which would accrue if the Council’s expenditure remained curtailed for the rest of the financial year because of the pandemic. Items such as the grants towards the Senior Citizens’ Xmas Party, and “Aspects”, plus other underspends, could see £1,000 to £1,500 being available and the Clerk suggested that members might like to offer their own ideas at the next meeting as to how such money should be used.

59/20 Date and Time of next meeting

The Date and Time of the next meeting was AGREED as Thursday, 7th January, 2021 at 7.30 pm, via telephone, unless circumstances dictated otherwise.

(Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes can be supplied by email to any resident on request and similarly, they can be seen, along with other documents, on the community website, www.lindal-in-furness.co.uk)