

Chetwynd Parish Council

Minutes of Extraordinary meeting of Chetwynd Parish Council held at Standford Bridge Service Station on Wednesday 22 July 2020

Attendees: Derrick Clancy, Eileen Dowd, Terry Griffiths, Paul Humphreys, Neil Robson, Mark Stefan, Tina Street, David Williams.

Also in attendance: Jane Allman (Clerk)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Kevin Grimston (Shielding).

2. Extrordinary Agenda Item – Authorisation of Absence from future meetings of the Parish Council due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to comply with Local Government legislation*, the Parish Council is required to hold a minimum of three meetings in a year between 1 April and 31 March. If a Councillor does not attend any meetings for six consecutive months during this period, that Councillor will be unable to continue in office if his/her absence has not been formally approved before the expiry of the six month period.

The following wording was proposed to ensure compliance with this legislation:

The Council is requested to grant approval of absence for all, or any, the following Councillors on the grounds that they are unable to attend meetings until May 2021 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic for which they are self-isolating (or as they are unable to access remote meetings – or both).

Cllr D Clancy, Cllr E Dowd, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr K Grimston, Cllr P Humphreys, Cllr N Robson, Cllr M Stefan, Cllr T Street, and Cllr D Williams.

This was proposed by MS and seconded by PH.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 situation, it is recognised that some members may be shielding or have other reasons not to attend a meeting in person. For this reason, the holding of remote meetings is permitted. This means that meetings may be held electronically provided that everyone in attendance can be heard, and where practicable, be seen, and can hear, and where practicable, be seen, by all other attendees. A meeting is considered quorate if one third of the members (in the case of Chetwynd Parish Council this is three) are in attendance. It was agreed that if it was not possible to hold future meetings in person, that they would be conducted via the online video conferencing platform "Zoom".

Under legislation passed in April 2020, the requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting is waived until May 2021. As a result, the incumbent Officers remain in place, without the need for re-election, until May 2021.

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. Proposed by TS, seconded by PH and carried unanimously. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

The issue of fly tipping in the lay by was raised again. Clerk will take more photographs and chase the matter with Telford & Wrekin Council again. *Note : this has been done and a response is awaited.*

4. Chairman's report

There was nothing to report except that a card expressing thanks for the donation to the League of Friends X-Ray appeal had been received.

5. Finance

The Accounts for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 were approved. Proposed by DW and seconded by MS.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 31 March 2021 was approved and duly signed.

A list of cheques issued from 1 April 2020 to 22 July was presented together with a predicted bank balance at 31 July. Clerk's expenses were approved.

6. Any other business

The matter of overgrown public footpaths and bridle paths within the Parish was raised, as was the lack of, or deterioration of, appropriate signage. The Clerk will raise this matter with the appropriate people at Telford and Wrekin and investigate further.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 12 November at 7.30 pm in Sambrook Village Hall, unless new restrictions are in place to prevent this. In this event, the meeting will be conducted by via Zoom.

*Paragraph 8 of Schedule 12 of the 197 Local Government Act.