

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Orton Parish Council, held virtually on Zoom during the coronavirus pandemic, on Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor Mr W. Little (Chairman), Parish Councillors M. Cork, G. Wills, E. Norman, L. Johnston, W. Reed & Cumbria County Councillor T. Allison

39/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Rickerby (resigned), E. Whitfield (work commitment), and Carlisle City Councillors J. Collier (family illness) & A. McKerrell (previous engagement).

40/20 Minutes

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 6th July 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Copy enclosed).

41/20 Public participation

Mrs Catherine Bellas, Head Teacher of Great Orton School attended the Parish Council meeting.

42/20 Declarations of notifiable pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of notifiable pecuniary interests.

43/20 Parish Councillors Notification of Change to Personal Interests

There were no changes to personal interests declared by the Councillors.

44/20 Request for Dispensations

No requests for dispensation were received.

45/20 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced with regret that Councillor A. Rickerby had submitted his resignation. A letter of thanks was to be sent to him in recognition of his 5 years of hard work and dedication.

46/20 Reports

County and District Councillor Report

Councillor Allison reported that the hole in the pavement in Great Orton was the responsibility of North West Electricity but they had no money at present to complete the work required.

District Councillor Report

Councillor Collier sent a message to say that £400.00 grant money had been awarded to Orton Parish Council; this was to be used to improve the play area. No report was received from Councillor McKerrell.

School Report

The Head Teacher reported that lots of work had been undertaken to improve the school environment by repointing the building, repainting, re-roofing outbuildings and tidying the nursery garden. There are 26 children on the role at the moment, of whom 73% are from outside Great Orton. It is hoped that more children can be attracted to the school. There are 3 teachers and a teaching assistant at present. The School Governors are looking at the viability of the nursery. Social distancing measures have made the walking school bus unsafe and also made work with other organisations impossible, hopefully this will ease in time.

Village Hall Committee Report

It was reported that a Committee meeting would take place in a week's time and it was hoped to open the hall to groups, within the Covid Regulations, in the near future. It was also planned that an AGM would be held soon.

Watchtree Report

It was reported that the site was offering cycling and walking to visitors at present. The kitchen and café are being refurbished but they should be open in October. Defra have agreed to the opening of the management centre, provided that wardens can control the numbers of people entering at any one time. The shop and food vendor on site have been very successful but they will cease once the café opens.

47/20 Planning

Carlisle City Council approval of the following application was noted:

Use of former stable building and erection of extension to provide storage facilities; reconfiguration of staff and visitor parking facilities; retention and extension of administration building; siting of polytunnel; erection of potting shed; erection of tray filling building; change of use of land from meadow to hardstanding; installation of standalone solar panels; erection of additional greenhouse (Part Retrospective) at Cumbria Wildflowers, The Stables, Great Orton, Carlisle. Ref:19/0869

48/20 Financial Report

It was **Resolved** that the Financial Report of 31st August 2020 be approved. There were no deviations from budget. It was noted that the following monies had been received:

a) HSBC (interest)	£0.63
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49/20 Payment of Accounts

It was **Resolved** that the following accounts would be authorised for payment:

a) Rocket Sites Ltd (Website design)	£720.00
b) P. Macdonald (Salary increased by 23p per hour)	£952.64
c) HMRC (PAYE)	£238.16
d) P. Macdonald (Stationary expenses)	£19.22
e) St Giles' Church (Grant)	£500.00

50/20 Complaint of waste deposits and rats in Moor Close, Great Orton

It was **Resolved** that these issues had been resolved but the situation would continue to be monitored. Councillor Allison agreed to visit the complainant and it was **Resolved** that an official complaint might be made to Impact Housing Association regarding the rats.

51/20 Poor state of repair of gullies, drains and pavements in Great Orton.

Councillor Wills had identified up to 45 drains and gullies in Great Orton, all of which were either blocked or covered over. Councillor Norman asked that a broken grid at Little Orton Village Green and a blocked drain at Little Orton House Stables be added to this list. Attention was also drawn to water running down the road at Custy Steps, Great Orton. Councillor Allison said that he would, again, report the problems to Cumbria County Council Highways Department and request that they be repaired.

52/20 Local government re-organisation

The impact of a unitary authority on the role of Parish Councils was discussed, along with the forthcoming changes to planning legislation.

53/20 Speeding traffic at The Pow

Councillor Allison stated that he had visited the Pow and felt that hedge cutting or mirror installation would not increase road safety. He suggested that a traffic counting system on the road would provide helpful information. It was **Resolved** that this would take place, at a cost of £140.00 for the application of the rubber strips.

54/20 Orton Parish Council website

It was **Resolved** that a new website be commissioned from Rocketsites Ltd at a cost of £600 (+VAT), so that it will be fully compliant with the legal requirements for accessibility and be easier to maintain. It was **Resolved** that contact details for Parish Councillors would be shown. Contact details for local businesses would also be included in a Directory on the site.

55/20 Great Orton Play Area inspection report & parish seat reports.

It was **Resolved** that the public seat outside Moor Close could be opened again. No further actions were identified as result of the parish seat reports. It was **Resolved** that the actions taken in July 2020 to prepare the play area for opening appeared to be successful. It was noted that application had been made for grant money to clear tree roots and reseed parts of the playing field.

56/20 Training Schedule

It was Resolved that Councillors W. Little, M. Cork and L. Johnston along with the Clerk, would attend 4 separate training sessions in the CALC 2020/2021 schedule.

57/20 Review of policies & procedures

It was **Resolved** that, following review of all the Parish Council policies and procedures, that they would next be reviewed in 2023, then 3 yearly thereafter.

58/20 Correspondence

Items of correspondence received since the last meeting were noted (schedule attached).

59/20 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next ordinary Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 2nd November 2020, at 7.30pm.

.....SignedDate

CORRESPONDANCE SEPTEMBER 2020

Clerks & Councils Direct
HSBC
ICO

July 2020 Issue 130
Erratum re: business overdrafts
Explaining late cheque presentation

*Staples
Littlethorpe*

*Trade literature
Trade literature*