**HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting held on-line during the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020

**Date & Time of Meeting**: Monday 30 March 2020 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Councillors – Gale (Chair), Gee, Parry, Thompson, Warren

**Apologies**: Councillors – Forrester and Soper

1. **Declarations of Interest** – None
2. **Public Participation** – None
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on 27 January 2020 were confirmed as a true record. The signing of the Minutes was held over until an appropriate post-pandemic occasion.

4 **Matters Arising**

**Min 8.1** No further information yet on the change of footpath route from Welch House Barn. Cllr & Mrs Thompson had not been able to attend a proposed meeting as they were out of the country. Cllr Thompson expressed the opinion that the lack of an opportunity to meet did not alter anything in their current opposition to the change of route.

**Min 8.4** Postponement of the Annual Parish Meeting caused by current situation. Ribble Rivers Trust aware of the situation. Will be invited again when the meeting can be reconvened.

**Min 8.5** The concerns about the increasing traffic speed on Preston Road for cars exiting Hotherall Lane had been passed to LCC Highways, but no actions to date.

5 **Emergency Powers enacted for period of pandemic**

5.1 **Annual Parish Meetings**  Postponed *pro tem* by the Government restrictions on meetings, the impact of which necessitated the current Officers continuing in post until the Annual Parish Meeting could be held.

5.2 **Annual Governance and Reporting** (Auditing of Accounts) The previously publicised compliance dates had been changed. The Exemption Certificate to be sent to the National Auditors by 31 July 2020; the period for public exercise of rights to be extended beyond normal period, and no longer essential for there to be a common time frame. New requirement for the public display of the accounts for consideration by residents to begin by 1 September 2020. All accounts to be finalised by 30 November 2020.

5.3 **Delegated Powers to Parish Clerk** Of the various powers suggested for delegation only Payments, Receipts and such items as renewal of Insurance Premium were relevant. The Clerk suggested that the existing system of seeking approval for payment from the Councillors, followed by raising the cheques and then making arrangements for the safe signing of same would continue without difficulty. Care would be taken about the physical handling of the cheque book, but beyond that no other safety issues could be identified.

**RESOLUTION:** It was **resolved (unanimously)** by the Council to follow the newly devised procedure and to act on any forthcoming changes to that procedure.

6 **To receive information from RVBC in respect of the current national situation and local responses** In the current situation, a great deal of information had been circulated to Town/Parish Councils. These had been passed on the Council for consideration. Of particular importance to the Borough was the establishment of a Community Hub aimed at vulnerable members of the community; extensive information from Citizens Advice in a Consumer Update, and alerts concerning Scams which particularly targeted residents’ concerns about Covid-19. This information had been welcomed, and it was agreed to include information on Government guidelines in the Spring Newsletter.(Done).

7 **Planning Applications and Recent Appeal (3/2018/0015)** There were no new/outstanding applications to report to the meeting. No outstanding applications awaiting decisions.

Appeal hearing for Higher College Farm (3/2018/1105) (Attended by Cllr Forrester and Parish Clerk) had been opened and then adjourned until after lockdown. No new date has been given.

8 **Financial Position** The current financial position (£1806) was reported to the meeting. The next anticipated expenditure was the Annual Insurance premium payment.

**RESOLUTION:** It was **resolved (unanimously)** that payment should be made to continue with the Parish Insurance Policy

9 **Matters relating to the Parish**

9.1 **Community support system** The existence of an informal community support system was reported to the meeting. Various residents were ‘buddying’ with vulnerable members of the Parish eg, getting shopping, dog walking etc. Whilst the example of the Ribchester Careline was noted (and the RVBC Community Hub) it was agreed that the informal systems seemed to be working effectively.

It was agreed that the RVBC Community Hub information be included in the Spring Newsletter (Done)

9.2 **Cancellation of Planned Events** The current situation had necessitated the postponement of two planned Spring Events, the Annual Parish Meeting and the Spring Clean. Advice was being awaited in respect of the Parish Meeting, and the Spring Clean had been postponed to September by the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign.

The Parish Walk was also in doubt, but this would be kept under review in the light of any changes to the current restrictions.

9.3 **Spring Newsletter** The draft was received and approved with some minor changes and the agreement to include information about local firms’ making home deliveries.

9.4 **Local Electricity Supply**. Local Electricity Bill to Parliament – details had been forwarded which, if passed would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy to local customers.

**Agreed** to support this campaign

10 **Proposed Date of Next Meeting**. Assuming that the meeting restrictions would continue for some time, it was agreed to hold another on-line meeting (if required) in the week commencing 13 July 2020