**HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting held via Zoom during the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2021

**Date & Time of Meeting**: Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.00pm

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

***Also*** –Cllr Judith Clerk and Four Residents of Hothersall

**NOTE**: Other residents had expressed interest in attending this meeting, but owing to (repeated) technical issues with access to Zoom, several were unable to attend. (Later confirmation that a more rigorous ‘signing in’ procedure would be implemented for any future on-line meetings.)

**Apologies**: Cllr J Rogerson

1. **Declarations of Interest –** None
2. **Public Participation -** None
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on Monday 11 January 2021 were confirmed as a true record. The signing of the Minutes was held over until an appropriate occasion.
4. **Matters Arising**

**4.1 *MIN7.3*** – Re. the flooding problem on Hothersall Lane. It was confirmed that the gulley had been cleared and the water can now freely flow away. It was noted that a real improvement had been observed.

**4.2** MIN7.4 November Minutes **–** The frequently recurring issue of the speed limit problems on Ribchester road were reviewed once again. The Clerk was requested to raise this matter again with the LCC Highways Department. It was noted that this had been raised on numerous occasions in the past without resolution. On this occasion, an email had been received from a resident which made a very cogent case for raising the matter once again, and provided specific instances which should be taken into consideration. ACTION: Further application to LCC to investigate the problem and to initiate change; using the case put forward by resident. (**DONE**). **Post Minute Note: Despite this being actioned in March, no response received yet from the Speed Management section of LCC. (See footnote to these Minutes).**

**5 Finance**

It was **reported** that the current account was in credit to the sum of £2129. 31 at the end of December (latest Bank Statement). The next statement would show a balance of £1769.31 from March and from 1 April this would rise to £2769.31 upon receipt of the annual Precept.

**5.1 *Funding request from Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue*:** The content of the letter received about the urgent need for funds was discussed. This elicited a discussion about the legality of Parish Council funds being given to support charities and other local organisations. It was confirmed that all Councils (at whatever level) had grant-making powers. This being accepted, the discussion focused on fund-raising within Hothersall to support such requests. The suggestion was a ‘Hothersall Challenge’ to raise money for good causes. Cllr Gee to devise a suitable project, and this to be included in forthcoming Newsletter.

**5.2 *Marking Mabel Armitage’s 100th Birthday Celebration****:* The meeting noted, with great pleasure, the forthcoming birthday of Mrs Armitage, formerly of Hothersall and a former Clerk to the Council. The reimbursement of the cost of flowers to be sent for her Birthday to Alston Lodge was **approved.**

**5.3 *Dog Waste Signage on Hothersall Lane*:** A request for signage on Hothersall Lane advising dogwalkers to clear up after their dogs had been received. It was noted that this is a major problem for the County. It was noted that printed signs could be acquired at low cost. Agreed that the Clerk would obtain some suitable posters and that these would be sited in appropriate areas on the Lane. Cllr Thompson and Mr Dewhurst to organise. (**DONE:** Signs delivered by return of post from RVBC – no charge - and positioned along the Lane within a few days. Notes of thanks received from Residents).

A further suggestion of the installation of a dog waste disposal bin was made**. (Not yet actioned).**

1. **Planning Applications**
	1. ***Application No. 3/2020/1089***. The Woodlands, Hothersall Lane. Outcome – APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

***6.2 Application No***. 3/2020/1063. Ribble View Farm, Alston Lane, Longridge. – Outcome – at time of meeting – No decision. **Post Minute Note** – APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

1. **Matters Relating to the Parish**
	1. ***Council Elections.*** It was noted that there would be County Council Elections on 6 May 2021. There was a strong emphasis on electors making use of postal votes during the current pandemic.
	2. ***National Census.*** It was noted that the National Census would take place this month.
	3. ***Update on Council Website:*** It was noted that work was continuing on the updated Council website. Via Zoom, it was possible to share the site with the meeting. The numbers of visitors to the site was queried, but a full answer could not be provided. The data is not very clear on the site. The numbers appear very low, and even these might be repeat visits by the same individual (or indeed just the Clerk). Work will continue in order to fulfil the legal requirements for such a website.
	4. ***Planning for Hothersall Annual Events.*** The Annual Litter Pick was discussed but it was decided to postpone the event until next year. Residents were currently keeping the Lane clear of litter during the pandemic and the environment was relatively clear at present. On-going problem was with dog waste, which was being addressed by other means. Annual Barbeque. It was not possible/practical to arrange a BBQ given the current situation of lockdown. It was **agreed** that when the restrictions were lifted one should be arranged as a celebration. The Autumn Walk. Anticipating that such an event would be possible, it was agreed that plans should be put in place for the Autumn Walk. (Cllr Parry to organise this, and include information in forthcoming Newsletter).
	5. ***Newsletter.*** It was agreed that there should be Spring Newsletter this year. Various items had already been suggested for inclusion: and in addition various other topics could be considered, for example, the Hothersall Challenge fund-raiser, information about the problems with speeding on the main road encouraging residents to register complaints, perhaps some interesting stories about Hothersall, and a reminder that the Hothersall Calendar would be published this year. (Call for more photographs had been posted on the Website and several have been received).
	6. ***NoticeBoard.*** Mr Walker had kindly provided a design diagram and the measurements. He had also confirmed that there would be no charge for the Board. The anticipated time for completion would be the end of May.

**8 Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting had been scheduled for **Monday 14 June**: it was noted that IF the current ‘roadmap’ out of the lockdown was achieved, then it should be possible to hold a physical meeting of the Council. The date is, therefore, provisional *pro tem.* It will be confirmed in due course. The alternative method of meeting via Zoom will continue should a physical meeting not be possible.

There being no further business, the meeting (having been reconvened a second time) closed at 8.20pm

Confirmed as a true record: Chair……………………………………….Date:………………..

 Clerk………………………………………..Date:………………

**FOOTNOTE TO MINUTES – FYI. (Will not be recorded in Minute Book)**

In respect of the issue of Speed concerns,, further investigation has shown that the reports to speedmanagement@lancashire.gov.uk do not produce a response, other than the advice to report concerns about speeding in the county to another site, viz, <https://lanscroadsafety.co.uk>. When this is accessed it is evident that this is forwarded on (or back?) to the Lancashire Speed Management Group. This appears to be ‘ever-decreasing circles’ and it is little wonder that all the previous reports undertaken by Hothersall in the past do not produce any action. Should you wish to access this site, you will find a number of conditions in place which do not instil confidence that actions will be taken, and further there is information that any previous report will not be revisited within 3 years. Should you still wish to proceed you will find a section ‘Enforcement’ under which you will find a list of areas of concern. Nothing is listed (that I can find; perhaps user error?) which covers the concerns registered for Hothersall. One suggestion at the meeting was that a ‘campaign’ should be started by encouraging all Hothersall residents to write to complain and register their concerns about the speeding. However, you will see that one of the conditions is that ‘Repeat Submissions will be automatically closed’.

Perhaps, rather than everyone going around in circles with this, it might be advisable for Hothersall Council and residents to take a look at the advice in the Community Toolkit (on the same site). It shifts the onus on communities to take action to reduce traffic speed.

I anticipate that this Item will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.