**HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting held via Zoom during the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020

**Date & Time of Meeting**: Monday 11 January 2021 at 7.00pm

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

***Also*** – Five Residents of Hothersall

**Apologies**: None

1. **Declarations of Interest –** None
2. **Public Participation –** A query was raised about the absence of a Gritter on Hothersall Lane during the recent freezing weather. It was confirmed that the Lane had been lethal on certain days in the month, however the grit box had been restocked at the top of the hill, as organised by one of the residents.
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on Wednesday 15 July 2020 were confirmed as a true record. The signing of the Minutes was held over until an appropriate occasion.
4. **Matters Arising**

**Min 6:** Planning Application 3/2020/0507 – Land South of Blackburn Road. This had been AGREED with CONDITIONS after the last Parish Council meeting date. Although Hothersall PC had requested a full Planning Meeting decision, it had in the end been decided at the Planning Officer level.

Planning Application 3/2018/1105– Higher College Farm. This application had been under consideration for a long period of time. The final stage had been through the Appeal process, but it was finally DISMISSED. It was noted that this decision will stand for 6-7 years.

**Min 7.3**: Flooding on Hothersall Lane – Road Safety Issue. In the absence of a response to the report made to LCC Highways, residents had taken the matter in hand, and the gulley was due to be cleared at the following weekend.

1. **Financial Matters**

**5.1** It was reported that current finances were in a healthy position at the bank with an account balance of £2129 at the end of December 2020. The only outgoing amount since the last report was that of £92 – being the delayed payment to Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team from the donations from the previous year’s Parish Meeting.

It was further reported that the receipt of the Application for the 2021/2022 Precept of £1000 had been acknowledged by RVBC. Payment is due at the beginning of April 2021.

**5.2** The Clerk updated the Council on matters relating to the Parish Council website. It was confirmed that the current website was in serious need of updating, not least to comply with the current regulations regarding ‘Accessibility’. Having worked with a Web Development company to restructure the Ribchester PC website (which is now fully compliant with these regulations) the Clerk had received an offer from the company to undertake the same work for Hothersall PC but with the set-up fee waived. This information generated an in-depth discussion of the requirements and also the annual cost of the monthly fee payable to the Web company. £23 + VAT(reclaimable) = £331.20. Concerns were expressed about the payment of this amount out of the limited annual income to the Parish Council. Balanced against this was the acknowledgement that the Accessibility regulations were a legal requirement for Parish and Town Councils (and all other public bodies)

**AGREED:** that the Clerk should undertake the necessary updating of the current website *pro tem (***ON-GOING**); and that further research be carried out as to the possible implications of not being fully compliant. Clerk to contact Lancashire Association of Local Councils for advice and guidance. (**DONE).**

**5.3** It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payment of the Clerk’s honorarium (£360) for the half-year period to January 2021.

1. **Planning Applications**

Planning Application 3/2020/1089 - The Woodlands, Hothersall Lane: Variations of Conditions. No objections were raised by the Council about the application, but a comment was sent to the Planning Department about the disparity in the closing date for responses listed on the weekly bulletin (listed as 29 January) and the date given on the website as 12 January. RVBC was asked to consider matching the deadline dates on the various sources of information. Email posted to RVBC planning website, but no response (or changes made) in respect of the comments.

Planning Application 3/2020/1063 – Ribble View Farm, Alston Lane, Longridge. This application elicited another complaint to the RVBC Planning Department, for non-notification of the adjoining Parish. The application falls within the purview of Longridge Town Council, however, it is normal custom and practice to inform adjoining parishes where there is close proximity to the property under consideration. This had not been done and the closing date had long passed before it was considered at the PC meeting. However, the objections of the Parish Council were published on the website, and these confirm that it was in full support of the objections made by residents in respect of the noise nuisance, the impact of traffic and the road safety. **(NB: No decision yet recorded on the website**)

1. **Matters Relating to the Parish**

**7.1 –** Activity at Hothersall Lodge over summer months 2020. (*Carried over from previous meeting*). Cllr Forrester outlined the various disturbances on Hothersall Lane in and around Hothersall Lodge during the summer months. It was reported that there had been a need for Hothersall Lodge to be used to house a ‘*protected person’* during the summer, but it was confirmed that the person had now been moved from there. There had been various other incidents – but all unrelated to that circumstance. There had been a fire, which required attendance by the Fire Service, and a theft from the Lodge, of which nothing further had been heard.

**7.2 –** Postponement of the Hothersall 2021 Calendar.For a number of reasons, it had not been possible to produce a 2021 Calendar, however, it was proposed to launch the 2022 Calendar in the late Summer/Autumn of 2021 to have sufficient time for sales leading up to the end of the year. **AGREED** – information to be placed on up-dated website (**DONE)**

**7.3** Parish Notice Board Replacement. The donor of the new Parish Notice Board – Mr Walker - was present at the meeting and was able to confirm that the work would be undertaken to replace the old wooden board as soon as practicable, given other work commitments. The Council expressed its thanks to Mr Walker and looked forward to its installation on Hothersall Lane. **AGREED**. Clerk to liaise about construction when work was to be undertaken.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm

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

 Clerk………………………………………..Date:………………