HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at The Bungalow, Hothersall Lodge

**Date & time of Meeting:** Monday 27 January 2020 at 6pm

Present**:** Hothersall Councillors:

Gale (Chair)

Forrester

Gee

Parry

Soper

Thompson

In attendance: Ribble Valley Councillors: Judith Clark & Jim Rogerson. One resident

The Borough Councillors were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, and thanked for their attendance

**Apologies for absence** – Cllr Warren

1. **Declarations of Interest** - none
2. **Public Participation** – none

1. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on Mon 25 September 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Chair.
2. **Matters Arising**:

Matters relating to the previous minutes were taken as substantive items, which appeared on the current meeting Agenda.

5. **Principal Committee Reports:**

Cllr Rogerson and Cllr Clark were able to update the meeting on recent developments at Borough Council level.

Cllr Rogerson reported on the ***Planning Committee*** commitment to work on the baseline figures for housing. There is an on-going appeal in respect of this figure. It was reported that there had been some animosity with regard to this figure, but it was acknowledge that it was necessary to take into account the average house prices above four times average earnings have to increase. The figure is based on a national calculation. Cllr Rogerson reported that a full review of the Core Strategy was currently being conducted, so the baseline figure will be adhered to for the time being. An important consideration would be the amount of land available for building on.

Cllr Clark reported on the ***Policy and Finance Committee*** which had decided that the Ribble Valley ought to be more active in the field of climate change and had formed a working group. (Cllr Clark to chair). There would be a forthcoming announcement where RV residents would be encourage to share ideas for ameliorating environmental issues (eg, establishing more cycle ways, planting trees, reducing traffic etc). In respect of Planning matters, she reported that there was a RVBC concern that developers were only working to the bare minima in respect of the regulations. The Government has given powers to Councils make the regulations more stringent.

A general discussion following on from the two reports noted above. Questions were raised in respect of linking the Guild Wheel cycle way with Longridge; environmental issues in respect of the use of National Standard by building Developers (rather than their own interpretations); recycling issues – including the role of the Council as an ‘enabler’.

The positioning of Longridge as a Service Centre was also discussed. The benefits of this were considered, in such terms as transport links and the overall benefits for Longridge businesses.

Final report was from the ***Parish Councils’ Liaison Committee*** which had considered environmental issues with reference to the Rotary Challenge for Tree planting in the Ribble Valley. A major project recently launched was in the field of identifying the level of Substance Misuse in the Borough. Residents were encouraged to pass on any evidence of such misuse in public areas.

6.  **Planning**  **Applications Update**

***Planning Application 3/2019/0666***. This was a controversial application which generated extensive discussions. Concerns were expressed about the apparent process for decision-making in respect of such an application, where objections had been raised by the Parish Council. The Borough Councillors clarified that they were all bound by the planning regulations and could only make decisions on the basis of those regulations. The meeting was desirous to explore this process in more detail, but the Borough Councillors confirmed that only the regulations and their own impartiality could be employed in the making of decisions. The debate continued with an exploration of the relationship between the planning regulations and the impact of a ‘Right of Way’ dispute about the land under consideration. It was confirmed that a ROW issue was a civil matter and did not fall within the Planning Regulations. When clarification was sought, it was confirmed that the Councillors could only rely on the professional advice received from the Borough Council officers.

There was no action resulting from this discussion. The planning application was due to go to appeal. This will be a recurring Agenda item.

ACTION: To assist HPC Councillors, Clerk to source and send further information about the allowable objections to Planning Applications for future reference. (DONE)

7. **Finance**:

It was reported that the ***Current A/C*** for Hothersall PC was in credit to £2,240.06 to the end of December 2019 (no further statement received to date).

It was further reported that the ***Precept*** for 2020/2021 had been applied for at the same amount as the current financial year; ie £1000.

In the matter of the ***Clerk’s Honorarium***, a claim for £433.10 was received, being the half-year honorarium, plus travel and other minor office expenses. The Councillors RESOLVED that the payments be made.

8. **Matters Relating to the Parish**

***Welch House Barn*** – in the matter of an application to divert a footpath. This was of concern to Cllr Thompson who owns the property which would be affected by the change. He itemised all the reasons for the objections. These were accepted by the Council.

***Spring Newsletter***. – It was confirmed that the Spring Newsletter would be circulated in the next month. To include information about the Parish Clean (scheduled for 28 March 2020), the Parish Walk (date TBC) and its possible link to the Heritage Days scheduled for September.

***Parish Calendar*** – It was reported that a Resident had proposed the re-instatement of the Parish Calendar for 2021. Photographs to be requested to be sent to Clerk (ACTION – notice to be displayed, requesting same. DONE)

***Speaker for AGM to be approached.*** Ribble Rivers Trust to be approached (ACTION – Clerk to approach. Initial contact made – DONE)

***Matter raised by Resident.*** Danger on Preston Road for traffic emerging from Hothersall Lane. Concerns had been expressed about the position of speed limit sign which added to confusion. (ACTION – Clerk to contact LCC for advice about removal, change of speed limit etc DONE)

***Shooting –*** problem over Christmas period. Residents had experienced a problem over the Christmas period with almost continuous shooting on one particular resident’s land. It was acknowledged that landowners can shoot at any time, and can give others permission to shoot. No resolution found

***Condition of Parish Notice Board.*** It was noted that the condition of the Parish Notice Board had deteriorated over the recent months (probably contributed to by the torrential rain). (ACTION – Clerk to investigate prices for replacement Board – DONE)

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

**Clerk……………………………………..Date…………**

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