**HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Date & Time of Meeting**: Wednesday 15 July 2020 at 7.00pm

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

**Apologies**: Councillors – Parry, Thompson

1. **Declarations of Interest** – None
2. **Public Participation** – None
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on Monday 30 March were confirmed as a true record. The signing of the Minutes was held over until an appropriate occasion. (Post Min. note: **Done**)
4. **Matters Arising**

**Min 4.1.** In the absence of Cllr Thompson, there was no further information available about the proposed change of footpath route impacting on his property.

1. **Planning Applications Update**

**Planning Application 3/2020/0303 Hothersall Hall Farm.** It was reported that no objections had been made in respect of this application, and this had been communicated to the Planning Dept on 11 May.

There were no other applications pending at the time of the Council meeting.

1. **Financial Matters**

It was reported that the annual accounts had been audited during July (complying with the amended requirements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return: AGAR) by Mr C Sharples. Councillors had been sent the figures to consider. It was confirmed that the gross income for the financial year 2019/2020 was £1092 and the gross expenditure was £790. It was confirmed that the Exemption Certificate should be applied for within the new timescale.

(Post Min. Notes: Certificate signed, dispatched and confirmed before the end of the month. Dates for the period for the Exercise of Public Rights were extended to September as per the Covid-19 advice. No requests to examine the Accounts were received).

It was reported that the financial position as at 5 June was £2588 in the bank. Further noted that the £1000 Precept had been received in April.

1. **Matters relating to the Parish**

**7.1 Broadband**. Following on from previous Council discussions about improving broadband within Hothersall, information had been received about B4RN from a Ribchester resident in respect of poor reception within the Ribchester parish. The information was considered, but it was noted that there was a £150 installation charge + £30 monthly fee for this community Fibre Broadband.

The subsequent discussion confirmed that Open Reach was currently working in the Hothersall Lane area and that connection would soon follow. It was noted what there were some charges in respect of connection, but Cllr Gee confirmed that it would be connected for free if there were lots of outages experienced.

Discussion was left in order for the progress toward connection to be assessed and for Cllr Gee to speak to the Ribchester resident (known to her).

**7.2 Planned Events during September 2020.** The Council had previously planned a re-scheduled *Parish Clean* and a *Parish Walk* in September. There had also been some early consideration of arranging the Parish Walk within the period of the Heritage Open Days in that month. Unfortunately, as the Covid-19 pandemic was still *extant*, it was decided to abandon plans for both this year. It was, however, noted that Hothersall Lane did look very attractive at present, with no noticeable increase in litter. It was assumed that during lockdown community-minded residents had kindly been collecting any rubbish which was accumulating in the area.

**7.3 Calendar 2021.** It was reported thatsome very attractive photographs had been received, but there wasn’t a wide representation of the different seasons – which is the usual feature of a calendar**. Agreed –** Clerk to send out further request.

**7.4 Newsletter.** The matter of another Newsletter for the Summer/Autumn was considered, but in the absence of the various events to report on, it was decided to postpone this until more items could be included.

**7.5 Parish Notice Board.** The present dilapidated state of the wooden notice board near the top of Hothersall Lane was reported to the Council.Whilst this has been diligently repaired and maintained (by Cllr Warren) over the years, it is now getting beyond repair. EG, the back board is chronically warped and the doors no longer close securely. The Clerk has some information and price lists from companies specialising in these installations. To advise Council.

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

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

Clerk………………………………………..Date:………………