

DRAFT

NORTH FRODINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held by email between Wednesday 6th May and Monday 11th May 2020.

Members Mrs A Bernard (Chair), Mr M Doyle, Mr M Duff, Mrs J Syers, Mrs A Greaves, Miss S Watson, Mr Brian
Circulated: Rookes, Mrs Patricia Bigger, Mrs Anne Mahl and Mr C Silcock.

1. Not Circulated: Mr D Stead (No email address unable to circulate by hand as clerk isolating due to Covid 19 in household)
2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 9th March 2020 signed as a true record.
3. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: None declared
4. Ward Councillors Update: Emailed but no response received.
5. Matters arising: From the February minutes – none mentioned
6. Administration
 - (a) No meeting of the Parish Council was held in April due to the international pandemic caused by Coronavirus.
 - (b) Update re footpath and bridge to Foston. ERYC could no longer wait for the Environment Agency, who failed to take action, and ERYC Countryside Access funded the temporary repair of the bridge and re-opened it. Message of thanks sent.
 - (c) With regard to the remedial work on trees in cemetery, a start date is unknown due to Covid 19.
 - (d) Website accessibility. The creator of our current website has indicated by email that he cannot ensure that it is compliant with new legislation. I will find quotes from Website Designers that specialise in Local Authorities as we have specific legal responsibilities. Sadly, this is not an option but a legal obligation.
 - (e) Due to the outbreak of Covid 19 an Extraordinary Meeting of the council was set up for Monday 23rd March. The speed of the virus transmission coupled with Government advice resulted in that meeting being cancelled to protect the health of those involved. This created an issue of how to get business completed. Clerk found an existing High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy which was tailored to our council and enabled the temporary transfer of power to make decisions, to the clerk, with oversight of Chair. This policy was implemented by our first ever email vote on 26th March 2020, which at the time was not a legal means. However, it is doubtful that any court would uphold such a ruling under such circumstances as we really did act in good faith. This enabled the council to deal with planning applications with a four strong planning committee and for the approval of cheques to pay our debts by the clerk in conjunction with Chair. Since that time Government has written into law that meetings can be held online which will need to be explored. I believe that the High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy should remain in place until Council can effectively hold valid and meaningful meetings online. Consideration will have to be given to including those Councillors without access to technology and to facilitating public access.
 - (f) At the start of the outbreak of coronavirus a letter was hand delivered to all North Frodingham residents which gave them the Clerks contact details in case any help was needed. In addition, the Friends of Frodingham Facebook Group was used to disseminate messages. The messaging on this site and others indicated, in my opinion, an excellent community spirit with amazing kindness shown and helped us to divert resources to those who needed it. In my view, North Frodingham residents stepped up to the plate and settled the village down. I can only hope that, in hindsight, no-one has slipped through the net. The membership of the Facebook group grew massively and has become a brilliant medium for seeking views and I pay thanks to those who set it up originally as it has served a great purpose.
 - (g) Payment of Cheques – since the Clerks household has been visited by the virus the Chair now considers that it would be unsafe for the signatories, who are of an age to require self-isolation or shielding, to receive and sign the authorised payments. This causes some problem as we have a legal and moral obligation to make such payments. I therefore seek the advice of council as to how to get the chequebook cleansed and passed to Chair until these circumstances have passed.
 - (h) I have been contacted by a resident of Brigham, on several occasions, who has asked MP Greg Knight, to arrange for footways to be introduced in Brandesburton Road, Cross Road and Grange Road. The MP has forwarded Mr Myers request to ERYC Highways and I have a feeling that I know

what they will say. Nothing in the MP's letter requests the support of the Parish Council although I did mention to the resident that funding for a footway after one of the biggest historical dents to the global economy is unlikely.

- (i) The Parish Council minutes for 2015 to 2019 have been sent to York for binding to keep as archive. The archiving of legally signed minutes is a legal obligation.
- (j) The Insurance for Parish Council assets, staff and 3rd party liability has been renewed with Zurich with the premium being approximately £2 more expensive that last year.
- (k) For various reasons, I have tended my resignation as Clerk, to the Chair, Ann Bernard. I have not included a date as it is unfair to council to try and find a replacement in the current circumstances. I will remain in post until Council can establish means to interview prospective applicants. I would ask that you consider setting up a small committee to tackle the process as I aware of the toll it took on the Chair when I was appointed.

6. Planning Applications:

- a/. Notice of Decision
- b/. New Application Land South East of Grange House, Grange Road re Access track for Dogger Bank Wind Farm Project. A no objection reply has been placed on planning portal.
- c/. Notice of Appeal

7. Accounts:

Barclays Community Account as at 4th May - £1843.55
 Barclays Premium Account- £20816.55

- Debit:
- Millenium Garden - £75.00 Cheque No. 100855
 - ERNLLCA - £400.86 Cheque No. 100856
 - Clerk Salary (April) - £172.80 Cheque No. 100857
 - Zurich Insurance - £417.99 Cheque No. 100858
 - York Bookbinding - £55.00 Cheque No. 100859
 - Millenium Garden (April) - £72.00 Cheque No. 100860
 - Clerk Salary (May) – £172.60 Cheque No. 100862

Proposed Cllr Mahl and seconded by Cllr Bigger and voted for unanimously.

Credit: Half of Precept - £3750 Received 30th April

Other: Application for Certificate of Exemption. This item requires a vote. As we are a council with neither annual income nor expenditure exceeding £25000, then we are able to apply to the external auditor for an exemption from external audit provided we are internally audited and we fully advertise the accounts for a specified period of time. Government has extended the time for us to advertise until later in year due to coronavirus.

Proposed by Cllr Bigger and seconded by Cllr Mahl and voted for unanimously
 Year End Finances (Attached to email)

8. External Meetings

None

9. Correspondence and Documents of Interest:

None

10. Councillors Reports:

- Nothing mentioned in emailed replies

The next meeting would be held on Monday the 8th June at 7.30pm by way of Zoom Video Conferencing.