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## Cold Ashby Parish Council Wednesday 3rd February 2021 Minutes

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30 p.m. By Zoom

**Present:** Councillors Bailey (chairman), Harpham, Peel, Williams Rd, Williams RI, Varley; the clerk. District Councillor Chantler. 10 members of public.

**Interests:** Councillor Varley indicated a pre-registered interest in item 10 and his intention to leave the meeting at that point.

1. **Apologies:** none
2. **Minutes:** to **approve** minutes of the meeting of the Council on the 6th January 2021
3. **Matters arising:** no matters were considered.
4. **Open forum:** Concern was voiced over item 10. Residents wondered why it had arisen now, what its implications were and asked that the resolution be removed from the agenda, since it did not relate to an actual planning application. A formal community group was being formed on the basis of 92 signatories. A letter about this evening's meeting had been sent to interested households, but not generally distributed.

The chairman explained that he had been informed of rumours circulating that the PC had adopted a stance on the future of the public house and had seen a letter circulated to some residents which could be seen as critical of the PC. He said item 10 on the agenda was intended to clarify the council's position and powers and indicate that, in fact, the PC was currently unconnected with any support or opposition to the future of the public house. It would take a view on a planning application when one arrived and would do so having considered residents' views and the interests of the community as a whole.

The chairman was asked if the PC could indicate at the current meeting that it would oppose any application for a change of use, were one to arrive. The chairman said it would not be legal to do so. The chairman agreed to a form of words which he would take as an amendment to the current resolution at item 10, which would clarify the council's regret at the closure and its wish to retain a pub for the village.

Councillor Rd. Williams said that the sole purpose of the PC was to serve the community and reflect its views to others. Had the council been made aware of the 92 signatories at the September meeting, a different outcome could have been expected.

5. **Election of new council member:** following the withdrawal of one of the candidates in favour of the other, Alex Taylor was elected by the council to serve as an elected parish councillor (filling the May 2018 vacancy) unanimously. Councillor Taylor will serve until the next parish elections in May 2025.
6. **Accounts:** the balance reported at meeting was **£20,846.06** (£14,564.23 current (including £4,085 NPCC grant) and £6281.83 investment). Details of payments and receipts and the new balance reported in **annex 1 were agreed and approved for payment**
7. **Calendar of meetings:** a revised calendar of meetings **was agreed.**

8. **Lengthsman: resolved: to retain David Gardiner-hill as lengthsman for a trial period of one year on a self-employed basis for an annual fee of £600 at £20 per hour plus materials. Work beyond 30 hours will be calculated at the same rate.**
9. **Parish Assembly agenda:** No November AGM was held for the Village Hall and **it was agreed that** the assembly would be an opportunity to combine this with the general meeting. The future of the VH would provide a separate agenda item. Members were asked to contribute ideas at the next meeting.
10. **'Black Horse' Public House:** The council confirmed its position on the status of the 'Black Horse' by endorsing the following amended statement by resolution: **the council regrets the closure of the Black Horse public house and welcomes attempts to retain its status as a public house. The council will make its observations on any planning application, should one be made, solely from the perspective of the benefits to the local community. Planning application decisions are made by Daventry District Council (or its successor body), which may accept or otherwise the observations of the Parish Council.**
11. **To receive any verbal reports from councillors with representative functions on other bodies.** Capfa's AGM would be held by Zoom on 9<sup>th</sup> February. All welcome.

District councillor Chantler outlined arrangements for elections to the new authorities and confirmed that this would be his last attendance at the PC in an official capacity, since he would no longer represent this village. Given the uncertainty surrounding the election, he urged everyone to apply early for a postal vote. Councillor Chantler was thanked for his interest in the village and the PC and for the support he had given in the past.

**12. Post: none**

**Graham Jones 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Meeting ID: 994 851 9733**

