**STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York YO325XW

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Chairman : Mr A H Fisher

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 09th MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

**Councillors Present:** Andrew Bolton Chris Chambers John Chapman Dr Helen Cox Catherine Donohoe Tony Fisher \* Duncan Hill Lawrence Mattinson Susan Nunn Kevin Ogilvy

**In Attendance:** Fiona Hill - Parish Clerk

**Public Present:** 0

\* City of York Council Strensall Ward Councillor

Cllr Chambers would act as Chairman, as Cllr Fisher would be late arriving

1. **a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:** Tony Gavin and Paul Doughty\*

**b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

1. **To receive any declarations of interest under the Parish Council Code of Conduct or**

**Members register of interests:** None

1. **To approve the minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 09th February**

**2021 and to endorse the approved Planning Committee minutes of 23rd February 2021:**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

Resolved – Endorsed (Unanimous)

1. **Public Session** - None
2. **To receive matters raised by/with City of York Ward Councillors -** None
3. **To discuss the Ordinary Vacancy following the Local Elections 2019 and two casual vacancies that have arisen due to persistent absence:**

Ordinary Vacancy – NTR

Casual Vacancies – These had arisen due to the persistent absence of Denis Baxter and Ray Maher.

Resolved – At the first face-to-face meeting, Cllrs would discuss the possibility of co-opting Denis Baxter back on to the Parish Council, due to his many years of experience/knowledge. The Parish Clerk would write to Denis to inform his of the Parish Councils intentions.

Cllr Fisher joined the meeting

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters arising/ongoing issues:** (a) Flooding within the parish

Cllr Fisher reported that he had again requested that CYC investigate by camera, the drains under the railway, to investigate why Lords Moor Lane floods so badly. Cllr Fisher is in the process of requesting some sandbags to be stored in parish.

(b) Dog fouling within the parish

Cllr Donohoe reported that the primary school head teacher was very keen to involve the children in scheme to help educate dog owners to clear up after their pets.

Resolved – Cllrs Donohoe and Nunn, along with the Parish Clerk would form a committee, who would report back to the Parish Council.

(c) North Yorkshire Police monthly report

The Parish Council noted the content of the email circulated by the Parish Clerk

(d) Traffic Study 2015

The Parish Clerk had circulated the report for the benefit of the newer councillors

(e) Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman of the Working Group had circulated the final version ready for submission.

Resolved - The Parish Council formally accepted the documents as accurate and therefore support the intention to start the submission procedure.

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters raised since last meeting:** (a) Preparing for the possible return of face-to-face meetings

In the 22Feb20 edition of White Rose Update, Y.L.C.A. reported “*The regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely apply to local authority meetings that are required to be held, or held, before 7 May 2021. This means that, without any further action from the government, all local authorities including local councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7 May. NALC is working with a number of national bodies to press the government to extend these regulations beyond this date and will continue to stress the urgency and importance of this issue. However, at this time government has no plans to extend these regulations and so councils should start preparing for the real possibility of face-to-face meetings from May. NALC’s position remains that all local councils should continue to meet remotely while the regulations are in force. The guidance below has been written to help local councils prepare for the scenario that remote council meetings cannot lawfully take place from 7 May 2021. There is still much uncertainty around how legislation or COVID-19 risks may change over the coming weeks and months. NALC will update this guidance as the* *situation evolves. Each council will have to decide which course of action will best fit their needs and manage risks*”.

The Parish Clerk reported that using the current guidance, along with any subsequent updates, she would advise the Parish Council on a weekly basis, but face-to-face meetings would one day be a reality, so the work would be useful, no matter when this did happen.

(b) Annual Parish Council Meeting/Annual Parish Meeting

The A.P.C.M. would take place remotely on Tuesday 04th May 2021

The A.P.M. would take place remotely on Tuesday 27th April 2021

(c) Towthorpe and Strensall Household Waste Recycling Centre/Non-essential car journeys (Covid 19)

Cllr Fisher explained that government guidance was not definitive and CYC were concerned about the amount of people visiting the centres. The Parish Clerk asked North Yorkshire Police if it was correct that they would start issuing fines to persons visiting the local “tip”, as it was not an essential journey during the Covid restrictions. Insp. Lee Pointon, had replied as follows – “No, I think there have been many issues with the tips but we certainly don’t have a policy to say that. I think our stance is asking people not to attend unless really necessary”.

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action, on any correspondence received:**
2. SCYSA – Grant Request

Resolved – The Parish Council would write to the applicant expressing concern about erecting a MUGA in light of the issues experienced by the Parish Council regarding the MUGA, which used to be situated within the Kirklands Play Area. Details of any consultations conducted with neighbouring householders would be requested. If funding was granted, it would be done so retrospectively, to ensure the funds were used for the purpose stated. (Unanimous)

1. Resident – Land lying to the North of Brecks Lane/Heath Ride

Resolved – The Parish Council would reply saying they noted the content of the letter and were aware of the issues raised. The Parish Council shares the concerns, but has no powers to act and would urge all residents to report unlawful acts to North Yorkshire Police.

1. Strensall & Towthorpe Lawn Tennis Club – Grant Request

Resolved – The Parish Council would grant £2000.00, which would be paid retrospectively, on receipt of the paid invoice. (Proposed Cllr Nunn, Seconded: Cllr Fisher, Unanimous)

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action in matters raised by committees:**
2. Cemetery Committee

The Parish Council noted receipt of the minutes of the meetings on 01Jul20 and 26Jan21

1. Finance Committee

The Parish Council noted receipt of the minutes of the meeting on 24Nov20

1. Play Area Committee

The Parish Council noted receipt of the minutes of the meetings on 30Jun20 and 22Oct20

1. Trees, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee

The Parish Council noted receipt of the minutes of the meetings on 09Jul20, 14Oct20, 27Oct20, 04Nov20, 10Nov20, 01Feb20 and 23Feb21

1. **To discuss matters raised by/with Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**

a) Balance Accounts as at 28Feb21: A/c No

Treasurers £49127.02 11104098

Contingency £62504.62 93981827

Premium £18660.07 22422018

Cemetery £9203.80 03839958

Premium Bonds £10000.00 30712310

Contingency Bonds £15000.00 90712515

£164495.51

b) Income in Feb21:

Bank Interest £0.67

Allotment Rent £152.50

HMRC £454.15

Cemetery £966.75

c) Expenditure in Feb21:

Parish Clerk £

Zoom Pro Subscription x 3 months £43.17

Mobile Phone £20.21

BT (3 months) £206.60

River Foss Society subscription £28.00

d) Internal Control Checks - conducted by Elker Bookkeeping, both remotely and in person (observing social distancing), as they are local to the Parish Clerk. The bank balances and some purchase invoices were checked and all found to be in order.

e) Policy adoption/re-adoption would now be dealt with at the A.P.C.M.

f) Parish Council Office – Nothing to report

1. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 13th April 2021 @ 7.15 p.m.**

Resolved – Agreed

Forthcoming remote meeting dates:

Tue23Mar21 Planning Committee Meeting

Tue13Apr21   Planning Committee Meeting Parish Council Meeting

Tue27Apr21      Planning Committee Meeting Annual Parish Meeting

Wed05May21 Annual Parish Council Meeting

Probable first face-to-face meeting:

Tue11May21   Planning Committee Meeting Parish Council Meeting