**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 13th APRIL 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

The Chairman started the meeting with a minute’s silence marking the death of His Royal

Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG., KT.

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

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

N/A

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 March**

**2021 and to endorse the approved Planning Committee minutes of 09th and 23rd March 2021:**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

Resolved – Endorsed (Unanimous)

1. **Public Session** - None
2. **To receive matters raised by/with City of York Ward Councillors -** - CYC Executive would shortly consider proposals to introduce a 30MPH speed limit through Towthorpe Village - Cowslip Bridge – Alison Newbould, CYC Rights of Way Officer had emailed as follows - “*Richard has passed your email on to me for a response as I have more recently been  working on this issue.*

*To bring you up to date on things we are doing behind the scenes regarding putting a bridge in at this location; following the redevelopment of the area around the National Railway Museum and Leeman Road, we are currently looking into the possibility of reusing the current Leeman Road foot bridge at a couple of locations to the north of York.  One of them being the river crossing at Cowslip Hill.*

*Consultants are currently working on a feasibility study for reusing the bridge, to see firstly whether it can be done and also to see if it is a financially viable option.*

*As always the main issue for the Cowslip Hill location is one of access.  Access along the PROW on the northern side is not feasible due to the steep drop from down from the Sherriff Hutton Road and the landowner’s opposition to having access across their land. As there is currently no bridge in place, we do not have any statutory powers of entry onto land.  We are now looking at whether it is feasible to access the site from the south.*

*Once the feasibility study has been completed we will be in a better position to decide which location would be achievable, if indeed either of them is.*

*There is of course still the problem of funding the bridge, whether that is the reuse of the Leeman Road bridge or a brand new bridge.  There are a number of high cost issues on the existing PROW network that require work, including bridge replacements and river bank slips.  This is something that I have been working on and I have managed to secure additional funding for the next few years to sort them out.  That being said the Cowslip Hill bridge scheme will still have to compete with these other high cost schemes, the majority of which are also in Strensall.  It may be that the bank slips will have to be prioritised first, given the fact that they present a danger to the public using the riverside paths in the area.*

*Given the above information, I’ll give you a further update when the Leeman Road footbridge feasibility study has been completed”*.

The Parish Council would include on a future agenda, to discuss this further.

1. **To discuss the Ordinary Vacancy following the Local Elections 2019 and two casual vacancies that have arisen due to persistent absence:**

NTR

The Parish Council noted receipt of the email from Tony Gavin, in which he resigned from the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk would proceed with the Casual Vacancy procedure.

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters arising/ongoing issues:** (a) North Yorkshire Police monthly reports

The Parish Council had received the March 2021 report and noted the incidents listed.

The issue of anti-social and criminal behaviour was discussed at length and is recorded within section 20/94b

(b) Preparing for the possible return of face-to-face meeting

The Parish Clerk reported that legislation allowing remote meetings expires 06May21 and although NALC had taken the government to High Court, the Parish Council must consider a route forward.

Resolved – The Parish Council would re-introduce delegate powers to the Parish Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, which would be reviewed monthly, until it was safe to meet in person.

(c) SCYSA Grant Request

Since the last meeting the Committee had emailed as follows – *“Thank you for your email. There seems to be a terrible misunderstanding! The MUGA has been in situ for years and we have never had complaints about the location of the MUGA. We are not looking to site a new MUGA, just resurface the one that is there. (The current surface is old, slippery and dangerous and therefore unplayable)*

*I would be very grateful if you could please let people know, so our request for a) funding and b) tax relief on the surfacing, can be considered.*

*I totally understand why the PC is cautious about MUGA after what happened at Kirklands, but ours is a different request and issue entirely”*.

The Parish Clerk advised that the Parish Council would be able to assist with the reclaiming of VAT.

Resolved – The Parish Council would grant £2000.00 towards the cost of the MUGA resurfacing, which would be paid on receipt of a copy of the paid invoice, when the work had been completed.

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters raised since last meeting:** (a) Planter Plants

Resolved – The Parish Council authorised Cllr Nunn to spent up to £250.00 on plants for the planters and village signs.

Cllr Nunn would supervise the planting of the planters and Cllr Fisher would supervise the planting of the village signs.

(b) Alleged drug taking and anti-social behaviour on land behind Barley Rise

Cllrs discussed this at length, as there is an issue with anti-social and criminal behaviour within the village, which was causing distress to a number of parishioners. There was a concern that incidents were not reported to North Yorkshire Police, so they did not have a true picture of the situation.

Resolved – The Parish Council would make the topic of the Annual Parish Council Meeting “Anti-social and criminal behaviour within the parish”. North Yorkshire Police, the M.O.D. and any other agencies, who may have an interest would be invited to attend.

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action, on any correspondence received:**
2. Bus shelter near Northfields - seating

A resident had emailed suggesting a seat was added to the bus shelter for the benefit of disabled persons. The Parish Clerk would gather information and costs ready to present to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

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

The Parish Clerk had updated the burial and memorial application form

1. Finance Committee

The Parish Clerk reported that Ruth Prins would conduct the Internal Audit on Wednesday 21 April 2021

1. Play Area Committee

Cllrs reported that both dog and human poo had been found around and on play equipment, which had been removed.

Cllrs Chapman and Fisher had met with David Meigh, CYC to discuss option should they be given grant funding

1. Trees, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee

Footpath between Lords Moor Lane and Moor Lane - the Parish Clerk was still awaiting quotes for drainage works

Oaks in Northfields Play Area – The Parish Clerk had reminded the Parish Council that at the meeting on Tue08Sep20, it was resolved that these trees should be subject to annual climbed inspections starting 2021. However, it was noted that in Year One the trees were to be subject to dead wooding, so another climbed inspection would not be necessary this year.

Cllr Chambers left the meeting

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

a) Balance Accounts as at 31Mar21: A/c No

Treasurers £47950.31 11104098

Contingency £62505.47 93981827

Premium £18660.48 22422018

Cemetery £9316.00 03839958

Premium Bonds £10000.00 30712310

Contingency Bonds £15000.00 90712515

 £163432.26

b) Income in Mar21:

Bank Interest £1.26

Cemetery £122.50

c) Expenditure in Mar21:

Parish Clerk £

Cartmells £558.00

Village Hall £150.00

Defibrillators £126.00

Land Lease Annual Rent £80.00

YLCA Training £67.50

Website Cost £25.00

Mobile Phone £20.21

Water Rates £10.30

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.

1. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 11th April 2021 @ 7.15 p.m.**

To confirm near the date

1. **To confirm the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held remotely on Wednesday 05**

**May 2021 at 6.00 p.m. (Time Limit One Hour)**

Resolved**/**Confirmed (Unanimous)

1. **To confirm the Annual Parish Meeting to be held remotely on Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 7.15 p.m. (following the Planning Committee Meeting)** Resolved**/**Confirmed (Unanimous)