MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillors Henry Clark (Chair), Sally Jackson, Emma Crowson, Anne Tuley and David Fovargue.

Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk)

1. Members resolved to conduct the meeting as an annual parish council meeting.

2. Election of Chairman: Cllr Jackson proposed, Cllr Tuley seconded that Henry Clark be appointed as chair.

All agreed by show of hands.

3. The Chairman was reminded of the requirement to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman provided and to return a hard copy to the Clerk.

4 Apologies were received from Cllrs Greg Prior and Gary Wright. Cllr Prior also apologised for his non-attendance of the April meeting.

5. There were no declarations of interest.

6. Election of Vice-Chair: Cllr Clark proposed, Cllr Crowson seconded that Cllr Jackson be appointed as vice-

chair. All agreed.

7. Members appointed to serve on the planning working group were Cllrs Fovargue and Crowson. Cllr Prior

to be consulted on any tree matters.

***Clerk to contact Cllr Wright to confirm whether he wishes to remain on the group.***

8. Representatives to/for the under-mentioned bodies were agreed:

(a) Media/ Publicity - Councillors Crowson and Jackson

(b) CAPALC - Cllr Clark

(c) Peterborough Parish Liaison Committee – this may become defunct, but Cllr Clark to continue

(d)) Planning Users Forum – Cllr Fovargue

(e) Northern Footpath Forum – Cllrs Clark and Jackson

(f) Village Hall Committee – Cllr Fovargue

(g) Cllr Prior confirmed as Tree Warden

(h) David Hankins confirmed as Flood Warden and Community Emergency Response Co-ordinator.

9. The dates and times of ordinary meetings for the period January 2021– December 2021 (third Monday in the month) were agreed and Tuesday 11th May as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

***Clerk to check dates and book with Village Hall.***

10. Public question time: no members of the public were present.

11. The minutes of the previous meeting dated 20th April 2020 were approved.

12. Correspondence:

12.1 Countryside Voices, CPRE magazine to be circulated to Cllrs Crowson, Tuley and Fovargue.

12.2 No other correspondence had been received.

13. Planning:

13.1 Members noted application 20/00553/CTR –to fell 1 sycamore and remove lower branches from further sycamore at The Chestnuts, Chestnut Close. No objections, Clerk to respond accordingly.

13.2 There were no other planning matters.

14. Finance:

14.1 The budget review to 30 April was noted.

***Cllr Clark to view on-line banking and sign***

14.2 Approval given to payment of Home Working Allowance in the sum of £10 to Mrs A Hankins for May.

14.3 Approval given to payment of invoice to Mr R Harding in the sum of £280 for grass-cutting for April.

14.4 The Clerk advised that the report from the internal auditor had not yet been received.

14.5 Approval given for the appointment of Mr Rod Gall as internal auditor for a further year.

14.6 Members approved the renewal of membership subscription to CPRE in the sum of £36, Cllr Jackson taking no part in the decision.

14.7 A revised asset register was agreed.

***Cllr Fovargue to inspect all the assets in July for updating of the risk register.***

15. Maintenance:

15.1 The amended quotation received from Willow Tree Services for work to trees on the Village Green in the sum of £300+VAT was noted.

The Clerk advised that the work is to be undertaken on 4th June.

15.2 Village Green trees - the Clerk advised that John Wilcockson had inspected the horse chestnut tree and advised that despite some further die back on a dead limb there is nothing of major concern. He had conferred with Colin Last of Aragon and agreed that unless there is a significant change there is no need for another resistograph test. The full (2-year) 2020 survey will be arranged after 1st August.

15.3 No report had been received from JB Restoration in relation to minor repairs to the Village Monument and the cost involved.

***Clerk to chase.***

15.4 Other maintenance matters: a resident had raised concern about water rising out of the drain on Deeping Road outside Chapel View Cottage/ Heartstone House and running off into the field.

***Clerk to check with Anglian Water for any intended repair work and to request drain cleaning from the City Council.***

16. Further to correspondence with Came & Co in relation to the insurance renewal the Clerk advised that the value of street furniture had been increased to £16,383. There was no increase in premium resulting from the amended value. No quote for cover for the Village Monument had been sought as advice was still awaited from JB Restoration in relation to the rebuilding cost. Members approved index-linking of the insured items and payment of the invoice from Came & Co in the sum of £417.32.

17. Cllr Jackson reported from the Climate Emergency Working Group – due to the lockdown nothing had happed as yet, but she advised that a lot of what had been proposed for the Climate Emergency Group to undertake is covered by the John Clare Countryside Project. The focus will be on undertaking an audit and producing a plan.

18. The John Clare Countryside Project: Cllr Jackson reported that the virtual all-Parish meeting held to discuss Habitat Creation Plans had been well attended. Cllr Jackson suggested a group meeting of the Wildlife/ Climate Emergency to undertake a survey of the parish via a questionnaire. Cllrs Tuley, Jackson and Crowson to get together to agree questions. Members confirmed the Parish Council’s support to the aims of the John Clare Countryside Project and wish to be involved in producing a nature recovery plan.

It was noted that the survey should extend beyond the boundaries of the parish to identify areas important to Peakirk residents, such as Betty’s Wood and the Welland Valley Footpath.

19. Training:

19.1 Members approved expenditure on Chairmanship Training for Cllr Jackson in the sum of £50.

19.2 A report was presented by Cllr Fovargue on “Communities Prepared Training”. On-line training freely provided to give knowledge and tools to parishes for floods, utility breakdowns and such. Training very in-depth and comprehensive.

***Cllr Fovargue to provide copy of his report to the Clerk for circulation. Clerk to notify Emergency Plan co-ordinator and team leaders of the resource for their possible use.***

20. Road safety and Speed Sign Data: Cllr Fovargue advised that the next download of speed data was due on 8th June. Analysis of the last 4 downloads show 211,000 vehicles passed through the village, 31% exceeding the speed limit and an average speed of 35mph. Cllr Fovargue to provide figures to Cllr Wright, figures to be made ready to put to the City Council. Cllr Hiller to be involved if needed. It was noted that Cllr Wright is awaiting an update on the Ongoing Audit of Road Safety issues from Highways. He is also awaiting a response from Cambridgeshire Constabulary in relation to the use of a digital photograph of a vehicle exceeding the speed limit shown on the VAS logger for prosecution purposes.

21. Cllr Clark reported on the mini Video Conference for Parishes held on 15th May, attended by 15 people, and likely to become a regular event. Cllr Clark advised that he attends the Local Community Resilience Group each week that deals with food parcels, domestic violence, homeless and mutual aid.

***Cllr Clerk to provide Cllr Crowson with contact details of Wendy Greg***

22. Cllr Crowson advised that no further assistance to the Peakirk Covid-19 Mutual Support Group was required from the Parish Council.

23. The Clerk updated members on the allotments. An alternative quote for possible legal work is being sought.

***Clerk to clarify with Mrs Acker whether she has the title deeds and any legal representative in the UK.***

24. To receive Councillors reports: Cllr Jackson reported that the Northern Footpath Forum had been unsuccessful in their funding application to LEAP.

25. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 15th June. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm.