MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF PEAKIRK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2020 AT 7.30PM.

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

Also in attendance: Angela Hankins (Clerk)

26. There were no members of the public present for question time.

27. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Prior.

28. No declarations of interest were recorded.

29. Following a minor amendment the minutes of the previous meeting dated 19th May 2020 were approved as a true record.

30. Correspondence:

30.1 Clerks & Councils Direct – May Edition – to be circulated to Cllrs Crowson, Tuley and Fovargue.

30.2 Consideration was given to correspondence received from the editor of The Village Tribune.

***Clerk to seek price for small box notice for parish council details and to confirm it is a not-for-profit organisation.***

30.3 No other correspondence received.

31. Planning:

31.1 Consideration was given to application 20/00661/FUL – proposed tennis court and lighting, with screening and soft landscaping at 11 Meadow Road. Cllr Fovargue advised that the tennis court is intended to be screened with fruit and apple trees and a hawthorn and blackthorn hedge and would not be seen from the road. The floodlights may be seen by neighbours but were not considered to be a problem.

The council agreed that that there were no objections to the proposal but encourages the applicant to liaise with Cllr Jackson who can help in revising the planting scheme to improve biodiversity. This would fit with the council’s aim to enhance biodiversity within the village.

31.2 Members noted the approval given to application 20/00482 proposed garage extension to existing playroom and erection of timber fence.

31.3 There were no other planning matters.

32. Finance:

32.1 The budget review to 30 May was noted.

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

32.2(2) Approval given to payment of invoice to Mr R Harding in the sum of £280 for grass-cutting for May.

32.3 Members received and noted the annual internal audit report.

32.4 Members approved the Annual Governance Statement contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2019/20.

32.5 Approval given to the Accounting Statements contained with the AGAR.

32.6 Members approved the Certificate of Exemption from the requirement for a limited assurance review.

32.7 Members discussed the commencement date to be set for the exercise of public rights.

***Clerk to action***

32.8 Approval given to payment of invoice to CAPALC in the sum of £50 for Chairmanship Training.

32.9 Approval given for repair work to steps on the Village Monument in the sum of £200.

33. Maintenance:

33.1 The delay to the commencement of works to trees on the Village Green by Willow Tree Services

due to nesting birds was noted.

33.2 Approval given for work to steps on the Village Monument to be carried out by JB Restoration.

***Clerk to action.***

33.3 The Tree Officer’s reports for May and June were noted and appreciation recorded for the watering undertaken.

33.4 There were no other maintenance matters.

34. Allotment Update – the Clerk advised that a response was still awaited from the owner who had confirmed that she did not have the title deeds.

***Clerk to write to owner offering payment of reasonable legal costs.***

Consideration to be given to whether a water supply would be appropriate and costs involved.

35. Climate Emergency and John Clare Countryside Project (JCCP): Cllr Jackson provided an update and advised that she has now become a member of the committee for the JCCP. The current issues relate to community engagement, governance and a nature recovery plan. The Langdyke Trust are working with Bainton, Castor, Helpston and Peakirk, each area having an allocated advisor. Involvement with the Beautiful Burial Grounds Project will also be included. Community Engagement is considered vital, with a bottom-up approach. A questionnaire put onto the Peakirk Wildlife Facebook & Tribune Facebooke had very little response. Cllr Jackson advocating a leaflet drop around the village as soon as possible –

***Cllr Jackson to arrange a meeting with Cllrs Tuley, Crowson and Clerk and David Hankins.***

The importance to residents of walks between the neighbouring villages of Glinton and Northborough was noted. Cllr Jackson advised that both Northborough and Glinton parish councils had now appointed representatives to the JCCP. Concern voiced that Parish Council involvement might lead to delays.

Cllr Jackson suggested that certain areas within the village could be maintained less – idea to be discussed further. Other ideas to be sent to Cllr Jackson.

36. Road safety and Speed Sign Data – Cllr Fovargue reported on data taken from the VAS on St Pegas Road covering the period 05/04 – 08/06. The number of vehicles was 20,000 less due to the lockdown. 30% of the total number were over the limit and the fastest recorded 70mph.

***Cllr Fovargue to pass this data to Cllr Wright.***

Cllr Wright reported that following advice from the CPS the VAS could not be used for prosecutions but can be used as a speed watch camera. Cllr Clark suggested that a simple tuning fork could be used for calibration – ***Cllr Clark to contact Westcotec for information.***

Cllr Wright advised that he will get a report out using both the Speed Watch Data and Traffic Flow (VAS) data and that the City Council seem to be amenable to low-cost speed reduction methods such as additional VA signs, village gateways etc

***Cllr Wright to liaise with the City Council about a covert speed monitoring device.***

37. Cllr Jackson reported that the Chairmanship training course recently attended, with Cllr Clark was very useful.

38. Staffing matters – one of the good practice recommendations at the Chairmanship training course was to

have a staffing committee to deal with employment matters and personnel management. Committee to consist of Cllrs Clark, Jackson and Wright.

***Clerk to send a copy of a recent article in the Clerks & Councils Magazine on the Council / Clerk relationship.***

39. There were no Councillors reports.

40. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 20th July.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:56pm.