

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday 15th March 2021, at 7.00 pm – conducted remotely.

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chair), Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Handford, Marshall, Stannard, Swales and Wills. DCllrs Brockbank. The Clerk Christine Downey. And one member of the public.

- 311 Apologies from members unable to attend.
 311.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllr Hill.
 311.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 312 Declaration of interests: -
 312.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
Cllr Wills regarding item 315.1.2, planning application.
 312.2 To approve dispensation requests.
None.
- 313 To Receive Comment & Concerns: Public Participation – to hear matters raised by members of the public or Cllrs with an interest (that are allowed to speak) either on agenda items or for future consideration.
 (NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purposes of clarification).
- Cllr Marshall asked;**
A) What are the arrangements for councillors who are not assigned to a committee to attend that committee meeting, and
B) Where a councillor is unable to attend a meeting of a committee to which they are assigned, and as a result that committee meeting would not be quorate, what are the arrangements for another councillor to attend in their place?
- It was reported that all meetings are open to the public and that anybody can attend all the meetings. Therefore, if a councillor is not assigned to a committee, they may attend that committee meeting as a member of the public.**
- It was reported that in the past when a councillor was unable to attend a committee meeting, arrangements were made for another councillor to attend in their place, if this was necessary to keep the meeting quorate. The Clerk reported that this matter should be covered in the terms of reference for the committees, and that the terms of reference for all the committees are currently under review.**
- 314 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 1st March 2021. (Paper 2021/42)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of 1st March 2021 are agreed and be signed.
- 315 Planning: -
 315.1 To consider and comment upon new planning applications: -
 315.1.1 2020/22230/HH Regularisation application for garage, glazed sun room, garage conversion as built at 2 The park, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7FN.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on to this application.

- 315.1.2 2020/22363/FUL Conversion of an agricultural barn to a single dwelling at Little Croft Barn, Sunderland House, Burton in Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 3LN.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on to this application.
- 315.2 To receive correspondence on planning issues and agree a response, if any.
- 315.2.1 2021/24473/RETRES Prior approval notification for a proposed change of use of a building from mixed use, combining use as a dwellinghouse with financial and professional service, to two dwellinghouses. At 6 Station Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7Lf. (Paper2021/43)
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on to this application.
- 316 To consider a request from a local resident for a letter confirming what work will be undertaken on the heritage trail path that crosses his land.
RESOLVED: Clerk to clarify the position by reference to earlier minutes, particularly those concerning email from Mrs Duncan.
RESOLVED: To establish which individual requested this letter of explanation from Thomas Brown.
RESOLVED: Thomas Brown to be instructed not to gravel the public footpath.
RESOLVED: Clerk to establish if a letter of apology is appropriate, and if so to send.
- 317 To receive an update on the unfinished special projects.
- 317.1 Replacement public noticeboard.
 No response to repeated requests for a quote from Johnny Lawson. The clerk will now request quotes from Stephen Frankland and Ben Lawson.
- 317.2 Youth Café oak door replacement.
 Replacement of the door is on hold while the future of the building is under discussion. In the meantime, a repair that was approved by the buildings committee has been performed on the door by Stephen Frankland today.
- 317.3 Wording on Philip Harvey sign.
 Quotes for the wording and QR code are being pursued by Cllr Bridgeman.
- 317.4 Heritage trail and footpath update.
 Is in hand, Thomas Brown is working on it.
- 317.5 Street lighting replacement project.
 Ongoing and discussed recently at Open Spaces committee meeting,
- 317.6 Defibrillator project.
 Defibrillator to be ordered by clerk. After delivery Cllr Stannard will organise the installation, he has been in contact with Adam Carr regarding this matter, and a date will be booked in due course.
- 318 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
 A planning application that would require another full council meeting before the next scheduled meeting on 5th April has been received. DCllr Brockbank recommended that the clerk ask for an extension to the deadline. She advised that there is leeway for this to be allowed, and that other parishes often request, and are allowed, extensions.
 The garden at the cemetery car park (the strip that has been cultivated on the left-hand side facing in) does not belong to Bentham Town Council; it was confirmed that it belongs to NYCC.
 An account for payment which has an unresolved query could not be included for consideration at this meeting because of the query which remains unresolved. Further clarification on the expenditure has been requested and the invoice will be presented for consideration after the query has been fully resolved.
- 319 Date of next meeting: 5th April 2021.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.31.