

**MINUTES** of the **REMOTE MEETING** of **SILKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020** via Zoom Conferencing facilities as permitted by paragraph 10 of the Local Government Act 1972.

On 2nd April 2020 HM Government published 'The Local Authorities and Police and Crime panels (Coronavirus) Regulations which allows Silkstone Parish Council to hold remote meetings until 7th May 2021. The Council's Standing Orders have been amended by the Clerk using delegated powers to confirm the procedures for holding a lawful and effective meeting, including voting rights, how members of the public can access documents and allows remote access for members of the public and press.

## **PRESENT**

**Meeting Chaired by:** Cllr Meryl Liddell

**Zoom Host:** Richard Bell, Parish Clerk

**Councillors:** Derek Liddell, Ron Stier, Peter Millar, Debra Smith and Richard Leech.

**In attendance:** Parish Clerk, Cllr Robert Barnard, Cllr John Wilson and Barnsley Chronicle reporter.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Stier reported the damaged stile behind 31 Cone Lane; Cllr Barnard will make representations with the PROW Officer.

Additionally, Cllr Stier reported that following resurfacing works on Viewlands and Moorend View that the road surface did not appear to have been swept and as a result there was grit everywhere which may block the gullies. Cllr Barnard will make enquiries with Highways.

Cllr Leech reported that following road works on the A628 just before the 30 mph sign heading from Hoylandswaine, the 'Dragons Teeth' road markings had not been reinstated. Cllr Barnard will also raise with Highways.

A question was raised by Cllr Leech of Ward Councillors concerning the reinstatement of grass cutting in the Parish; currently volunteers are cutting BMBC land. Cllr Barnard suggested that it may be as a result of redeployment of staff but will make enquiries; Cllr Wilson not aware of a void in grass cutting but will investigate.

Cllr Stier reported a discussion with a resident about road sweeping not having taken place outside their home. Cllr Stier made the point that the road sweeper was unable to do so due to parked cars.

Cllr Stier pleased that the bottle bank in Silkstone Common was being filled and emptied as all proceeds go to CARE.

Cllr D Liddell raised the issue of the broken wooden steps in Orchard Wood; Cllr M Liddell explained that CARE were intending to undertake the work just prior to lockdown but there were

issues with the new wood. Cllr D Liddell asked whether the steps actually need repairing or can be removed.

**All Members were asked by the Chair to state their name prior to the commencement of the Meeting.**

## **STATEMENT FROM CHAIR**

Prior to commencement of the Meeting and in accordance with guidance, a statement was read by the Chair outlining the procedures to be undertaken to hold a lawful and effective remote meeting including the requirement for Councillors with voting rights to observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.

Members are reminded to note the addendum to the Standing Orders of the Council under paragraph 27 - Remote Meetings.

The Clerk will mute all participants except the Chair - if anyone wishes to speak could they please clearly raise their hand. Voting will be undertaken by the same method.

## **20-011 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED** to note no apologies received.

## **20-012 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note no declarations of interest.

## **20-013 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Silkstone Parish Council Annual meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 as a true and accurate record. The Chair signed the minutes. The signed document will be collected by the Clerk within 7 days.

## **20-014 GRANT AWARDING POLICY**

The Clerk has suggested amendments to the Grant Awarding policy; Cllr Thompson raised the issue of National Charities being excluded at paragraph 7 from applying for grants even though charities such as Marie Curie are doing great work in the Parish supporting ill residents despite reductions in their funding during the Coronavirus national emergency. He suggested that an amendment noting that grants could be made in exceptional circumstances.

Cllr M Liddell was of the view that grants can only be made within the Parish using public money. Cllr D Liddell thought that there would have to be a change in legislation to allow this, but in any event he would be against this as there are many groups currently operating in the parish who could benefit from grant funding. Cllr D Liddell also raised the fact that the Council does not currently have the power of general competence.

Cllr Thompson disagreed.

Cllr Smith suggested that at Section 3 the word “applications” be added but was of the view that this should be allowed in exceptional circumstances as groups should get their applications submitted in good time.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will investigate the legal position and if legislation was such that the Parish Council were unable to award to national charities, that the amendments put forward be agreed.

#### **20-015 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 101**

**RESOLVED** to approve an extension to the delegation of power to the Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer for an additional 3 months period from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 or to withdraw by resolution of Council at any time.

#### **20-016 ASSET REGISTER UPDATE**

Cllr Smith asked if the Council had an ‘Asset policy’. Cllr M Liddell confirmed that there was no such policy, only an Asset register. Cllr Smith thought it unusual that low value items, such as dustbins are included in the Asset register and suggested that something would not be regarded as an asset below a certain value to be agreed.

Cllr Leech pointed out that if we were to start removing assets, we needed to be conscious of how this is demonstrated to external auditors. The Clerk stated that any removal of assets had to be done by resolution of Council. Cllr Smith asked if this was the case even if the asset no longer existed; which was affirmed by the Clerk.

The Clerk though that all assets regardless of value need to be recorded in the asset register but will investigate. Cllr M Liddell agreed that she thought that was the case.

Section 3 the word “applications” be added but was of the view that this should be allowed in exceptional circumstances as groups should get their applications submitted in good time.

**RESOLVED** to approve the updated Asset Register.

#### **20-017 FINANCE REPORT 2019/2020**

**RESOLVED** to note that this item is to be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **20-018 RESERVES REPORT 2019/2020**

**RESOLVED** to note that this item is to be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **20-019 MEETINGS**

Cllr Alan Thompson	None.
Cllr Richard Leech	Media Committee Meeting (Remote)
Cllr Derek Liddell	South Yorkshire Community Foundation (Remote)

Cllr Meryl Liddell	Media Committee Meeting (Remote)
Cllr Ron Stier	None.
Cllr Debra Smith	None.
Cllr Peter Millar	Media Committee Meeting (Remote)
Clerk	Media Committee Meeting (Remote)

## 20-020 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

**RESOLVED** to note the following correspondence:

Shrubbery on Woodland View still an issue for residents.  
 Falls Wood – ongoing issues in and around Fall Wood.

## 20-010 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next remote meeting of Silkstone Parish Council will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 via Zoom conferencing facilities commencing at 6.45pm.

*The Chair closed the meeting at 7.25pm.*

Chair's Signature	Date
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