

CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Clay Cross Parish Council Meeting held at Clay Cross Social Centre on Tuesday 28 July 2020 at 7.00PM

Present: Councillor G Morley Chair

Councillor Mrs M Jones	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor E Mansbridge	Councillor G Skinner
Councillor D Rossiter	Councillor B Wright

Also Present: Dawn Kershaw, Parish Clerk
Jane Briggs, Administrative Assistant

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

County Councillor/District Councillor Matters

Councillor Wright gave a report on County Council matters for the benefit of members present. Councillor Barry Lewis has now pledged £15M to help with the economic recovery across the County post Covid-19. Plans to close seven care homes were stopped by the Government, not the Council. However, it has come to light that the Council are blocking The Spinney Care Home in Brimington from accepting long-term residents and have stated that only emergency repairs will be completed. Toby Perkins MP has written to Councillor Lewis to request an explanation and to ask whether all seven of the homes originally proposed for closure are being prevented from taking on long-term residents and to request full details of any plans to improve current facilities, or build new ones. Members have been given more funds in their Community Leadership Scheme; Councillor Wright has pledged £500 to a number of local community groups. It was confirmed that Market Street has been temporarily widened to assist with social distancing. The voluntary sector has been provided with £53,000 in additional funding and seven libraries across the County have re-opened. Universal Credit claims have increased from 28,103 claims in May 2019, to 41,260 claims in February 2020 and to 74,306 claims in May 2020 (an increase of 164%). The Council are outsourcing 800 school cleaners and caretakers on 1 September 2020 and abolishing their trade union agreement; the company they are transferring to is majority owned by Suffolk County Council. A mobile Covid-19 testing facility would be established in Ashford.

Councillor Morley gave a report on District Council matters for the benefit of the members present. Councillor Martin Thacker has stepped down as Leader of the Council; he has been replaced by Councillor Alex Dale and the new Deputy Leader of the Council will be Councillor Charlotte Cupit. It was confirmed that an email had been received from the District Council advising that the weekly updates to Parish Councils which commenced

during the Covid-19 situation have now ended and that the Council are reviewing how information is shared. Members present expressed their concern regarding virtual/ZOOM meetings; the meetings proffer little opportunity for debate and interaction. It was also noted that some members are not comfortable with the technology and felt excluded from proceedings and the democratic process.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

Members were reminded to declare an interest as appropriate.

2080/20 Apologies for Absence

To receive and approve Apologies for Absence and reasons given. Councillor M Holmes (Covid-19 Shielding), Councillor A Reader (Personal Reasons), Councillor Mrs T Reader (Personal Reasons) and Councillor Ms K Rouse (Covid-19 Shielding). ***Resolved That: these Apologies and reasons given are approved.***

2081/20 Exclusion of Public

To determine which items, if any, from Part I of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded. ***Resolved That: no matters be taken in exclusion.***

2082/20 Minutes of Last Meeting

To receive Minutes and, subject to any changes necessary, to approve the Minutes of the meeting as a correct record. ***Resolved That: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 23 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.***

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

2083/20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

2084/20 Planning & Environmental Matters

Councillor Wright declared an interest in Planning Matters as a member of the County Council Planning Committee.

To receive the Minutes of the Planning & Environment Working Group meeting held on the 15 July 2020 and to receive recommendations for resolution. ***Resolved That:***

- 1. a memorial bench can be placed at Meadow Farm Fishing Pond subject to satisfactory installation, siting and the bench being robust/fit for purpose**
- 2. following Allotment Inspections, Tenancies are not renewed with holders who are not maintaining their plots in accordance with Tenancy Rules & Regulations**
- 3. the Minutes of the Planning & Environmental Working Group meeting held on the 15 July 2020 be received**

Work In Progress

Further to minute no **2009/19(2)** regarding North Street allotment site and demolition of plots C1&C2. Councillor Morley and the Parish Clerk reported that a contractor has been appointed and work to demolish plots C1&C2 has begun; it was confirmed that asbestos had been identified in the on-site buildings so arrangements are being made for their safe disposal.

2085/20 Street Scene Matters

To receive the Minutes of the Street Scene Working Group held on the 6 July 2020 and to receive recommendations for resolution. At this point, Councillor Morley gave an update on matters regarding the Clay Cross Town Board and Town Investment Plan. There will once again be an opportunity for residents to comment on the draft Town Investment Plan. After a poor community response in the previous consultation (389 individuals as compared to the 8,000 who had received the postcard), this latest consultation will run for three weeks, from Friday 31 July to Friday 21 August and will ask for views on the emerging plans for Clay Cross. Key responses to the first phase included improving the town centre and its appearance, improving leisure facilities (specifically Sharley Park) and better management of traffic movement through the town centre, including pedestrian access. Kenning Park along with the existing Adult Education Centre, the Social Centre, former Primary School and the land off Broadleys will also feature in the Masterplan. **Resolved That:**

- 1. the Bus Station Public Toilet Block is re-opened from 9AM to 3PM Monday to Saturday; this is to accommodate existing resources and allow for additional cleaning in accordance with the Covid-19 Risk Assessment**
- 2. Parish Council playgrounds and outdoor gym areas maintained by the District Council are re-opened in accordance with the NEDDC Covid-19 Risk Assessment**
- 3. Councillor Mrs Jones, Councillor Mansbridge, Councillor Morley, Councillor Rossiter and Councillor Wright assist the District Council in carrying out footfall counting in the town centre in August and December**

4. *the Minutes of the Street Scene Working Group meeting held on the 6 July 2020 be received*

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

2086/20 Climate Change Matters

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

2087/20 Cemetery Matters

To receive the Minutes of the Cemetery Working Group meeting held on the 10 July 2020 and to receive recommendations for resolution.

Resolved That: the Minutes of the Cemetery Working Group meeting held on the 10 July 2020 be received

Work In Progress

Further to minute no **2073/20(1)** regarding the Cemetery Cabin. Councillor Wright reported that a site meeting had been held on Friday 24 July 2020 with Rob Fryer, the Parish Clerk was also in attendance. It was confirmed that Rob has now provided the necessary Risk Assessments and a copy of his Public Liability Insurance. **Resolved That:**

- 1. *Rob Fryer proceeds with works to refurbish the Cabin***
- 2. *a monthly credit account is opened with Markovitz Ltd (Clay Cross) so materials can be ordered and invoiced to the Parish Council for VAT reclamation purposes***

2088/20 Social Centre & Events Matters

Councillor Wright declared a pecuniary interest regarding the management of the Social Centre bar.

It was reported that members of the Parish Council have attended two meetings with representatives from Rykneld Homes regarding the future of the Clay Cross Area Housing Office. Rykneld Homes have claimed that the number of people using their Area Housing Offices was already in decline before the Covid-19 pandemic, and that this period of closure has demonstrated that 99% of Tenants and customers have successfully moved to other ways to pay and make enquires. In addition, they have advised that the costs of operating the Offices are cost prohibitive and no longer represent a value for money/service option. It was noted that an Equality Impact Assessment had been carried out prior to Tenants being consulted about the closure and that the decision appeared 'a fait

acompli'. Clay Cross Parish Council are totally opposed to any closure and this has been fed back to Rykneld Homes Management. **It was agreed to raise the profile of the proposed closure in the Press.**

Parish Clerk reported that Rykneld Homes will be hosting 'drop-in' sessions in the Social Centre foyer area for two weeks from Monday 27 July – Friday 7 August during the hours of 10AM – 2PM, Monday to Friday.

Work In Progress

Further to minute no **2074/20** regarding the re-opening of the Social Centre. The Risk Assessment - Social Centre re-opening (post COVID) was discussed and considered. **It was agreed that for the time being the Social Centre remains closed; Risk Assessment to be updated and considered again at the next full Parish Council meeting.**

2089/20 Finance Matters

To confirm as a correct record, the budget report/reconciliation from the computerised accounts detailing account balances, payments issued and payments received (circulated). **Resolved That:**

- 1. the monthly statements for April 2020, May 2020 and June 2020 be accepted**
- 2. the Financial Budget Comparison between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 inclusive is accepted**
- 3. the cheques/BACS payment authorised by designated signatures, are confirmed**

STAFF WAGES (TAX MTH 4/WK 15)	£4,045.37
PARISH TV LICENCE REFUNDS: 10@ £25	£250.00
DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: PENSIONS FOR JUNE 2020	£404.20
HMRC CUMBERNAULD: NI & TAX FOR JUNE 2020	£270.44
NEDDC: CXPC CONTESTED ELECTION 2.5.20 FEE (NORTH & SOUTH WARDS)	£8,109.69
CROWN GAS & POWER: SOCIAL CENTRE GAS 31.12.19 TO 31.1.20	£482.20
YK ELECTRICAL: ELECTRICAL TEST WORK 30.6.20 (FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT)	£180.00
ZURICH MUNICIPAL: PARISH INSURANCE 1.7.20 TO 30.6.21	£6,810.38
DERWENT WASTE MANAGEMENT: SKIPS FOR SOCIAL CENTRE/NORTH STREET	£762.00
E.ON: HILL STREET LIGHTING 1.4.20 TO 30.6.20	£14.53
BUSINESS STREAM: SOCIAL CENTRE SEWERAGE/SURFACE WATER CHARGES 2.3.20 TO 29.5.20	£242.31
ANDREW LOWE: PARISH BUS SHELTERS/SOCIAL CENTRE WINDOW CLEANING	£200.00
KONICA MINOLTA: COPIER/PRINTER HIRE COSTS 10.5.20 TO 9.8.20	£144.76
CROWN GAS & POWER: SOCIAL CENTRE GAS 31.5.20 TO 30.6.20	£112.86
TOTAL:	£22,028.74
4. the following Income is noted:	
HMRC JOB RETENTION SCHEME GRANT	£669.68
RYKNELD HOMES: CXAHO SERVICE CHARGE APRIL TO JUNE 2020	£1,500.00

WATER PLUS: SOCIAL CENTRE WATER SUPPLY REFUND	£165.04
KENNING PARK COMMUNITY GROUP: AGREED CONTRIBUTION TO BRIDGE/RAILINGS REPAIRS	£207.50
CEMETERY LODGE RENT	£258.00
PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND DIVIDEND PAYMENT	£8.31
TOTAL:	£2,808.53

2090/20 Items for Decision & Information

Parish Clerk reported that there were no Items for Decision & Information this month.

2091/20 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved That: the next Parish Council meeting will be held at Clay Cross Social Centre on Tuesday 22 September 2020.