

28 August 2020 – Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

www.crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk

Clerk to the Council: Christian Barnes, West House, Tenter Row, Crosby Ravensworth, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3HY. t. 07584 251 448, e. clerk@crosbyravensworthparish.org.uk.

Via Zoom video conference at 7:30pm

Councillors: Cllr D Graham, Cllr. J Raine, Cllr D Hewitt, Cllr V Holroyd, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr R McIvor, Mr C Barnes (Clerk).

No members of the public attending.

Apols Cllr Neil Hughes

023/20 **Welcome**, Councillors were welcomed to the meeting. This was the council's first video conference meeting. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest. Concern was expressed that Cllr Beatham may not have been able to join the meeting as no prior apologies had been given. The Clerk would check that Cllr Beatham was able to participate in future video conferences.

024/20 **Public Participation**

Cllr Hewitt reported that a member of the public had raised a concern with him over the condition/possible undermining of the beck road at Dalebanks. It was agreed to survey the bank from the field side and report findings to Highways at Cumbria County Council regarding any undermining of the road. The Clerk had circulated a photograph of an Ash Tree on Tenter Row having been alerted to its condition by the arborealist. Councillors had been asked to look at the tree. The tree had been affected by dieback disease and it was thought possible that it might shed limbs in the near future, placing powerlines at risk and potentially undermining the riverbank. It was agreed that the Clerk would press the arborealist for the annual report which was overdue. The council would discuss this issue at its next meeting. The tree was not owned by the council but the council had acted before to remove trees that presented a hazard. The Clerk would seek advice from Nicola Child Trees officer at YDNPA as the tree stood in a conservation area.

025/20 The Chairman was authorised to sign the **minutes** of the previous meeting held on the 3rd August 2020 as a true record.

026/20 **The Local Government Act 1972-Section 85(2A)**. This extraordinary meeting had been called to circumvent the risk of a councillor's disqualification after six months absence from meetings after the 2nd September and to practice the use of video conferencing. It was agreed that the circumstances surrounding the absence were exceptional and arose directly from the unanticipated suspension of meetings for a period of 5 months during the Covid 19 lockdown. The councillor involved had provided reasons for absence for the meeting on the 4th August which had been accepted by the council, '*unwell: absent to comply with a covid risk assessment for in person meetings*'.

Advice had been sought from the monitoring officer and will be fed back to the council in due course over whether an apology for absence deals with any such

issues in future. It was AGREED that a further extension of the period (6 Months) for which councillors may be absent from a meeting without being disqualified where grounds for absence were associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic. A question was raised as to whether this needed to be added to the standing orders.

027/20 **Planning.** Councillors had received a schedule of the planning applications that would be considered at the ordinary meeting on the 7th September. As this would again be a virtual meeting, councillors were asked to look at the applications carefully prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion.

028/20 **Reagill Swings.** A volunteer had overhauled, cleaned and painted the swings at Reagill Village Green to an exceptionally high standard after this years inspection. It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to the individual concerned. It was proposed (DG1:JR2) and agreed that the Greens at Reagill/Maulds Meaburn should have signs to indicate that they were Village Greens managed by the Parish Council.

<ends 20:20>