MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF ACTON EDLESTON AND HENHULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Les Hobson
Councillor Carol Mace
Councillor Paul Weaver
Councillor Philip Percival
Councillor Tom Doyle

APOLOGIES: Councillor Dave Taylor

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

DISPENSATIONS

No Dispensation Forms were submitted.

MINUTES OF REMOTE MEETING – 23 JULY 2020

AGREED: That the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held on 23 July 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PAUL HURDUS – CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Paul Hurdus was going to attend the Parish Council Meeting regarding the S106 monies from Kingsbourne Developments. However as he was having a meeting at the beginning of October to discuss said monies and the allocation of and he deferred attending until the Parish Council's next meeting. The Parish Council should have a Designated Officer in place after this meeting.

AGREED: Carol Mace to invite Paul to the meeting on 26 November 2020 to be held at the Parish Hall.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Carol Mace had nothing more to report at present on the Plan. This item can now be removed from the ongoing agenda.

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Les Hobson suggested that where possible future meetings be held at the Parish Hall. Tom Doyle offered his help in cleaning/sanitising the Hall before and after the meeting.

PLANNING – GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS TO CHANGE PLANNING

Les Hobson reported that he had read about Government Proposals to change planning – the Government to dispose of Local Plans. The Parish Council was concerned if this became Law would the Neighbourhood Plan be irrelevant.

Paul Weaver had access to said Government document and would email to all members after the meeting.

AGREED: That the Parish Council strongly oppose the Government proposals and that the status quo remain. Carol Mace to submit the Parish Council's objections to this. Deadline is 1 October 2020. Also a letter should be sent to our MP, Edward Timpson.

This item to be put on the next agenda.

DORFOLD ESTATES

Nothing more to add to this – Application should be going to Southern Planning on 28 October 2020. Clerk to contact Committee Officer at Cheshire East to ask to be kept informed of developments.

ANNUAL PARISH NEWSLETTER

Dave Taylor was putting a report together on this but could not attend the meeting. Carol Mace to speak to Dave.

It was felt that a message should be relayed to constituents that the Parish Council was still operating, still available but operating on a remote basis. Something to this effect to be put on the website and on the noticeboard.

Clerk to contact Simon Warbrook to ask how many "hits" the Website has received. Carol Mace and the Clerk are looking into revamping the current website. This item to be put on the next agenda.

DOG BINS MALBANK WATERS

Paul Weaver reported that the bins were still overflowing. RMG were not emptying the bins on a regular basis and he felt that there was not much that could be done as RMG a private company.

Carol Mace suggested contacting Environmental Health. Clerk to contact Cllr Stan Davies to ask him to put this through the Members Enquiries Service.

CLERKS SALARY

AGREED: The National Pay Awards 2020-2021 increase be paid to the Clerk and backdated to 1 April 2020.

WIFI FOR PARISH HALL

Carol Mace reported that Open Reach had been to connect Wifi to the Parish Hall on 23 September. However a problem had occurred because a cable needed to be run across the garden of the neighbours next door to the Parish Hall but they have objected to this. Another route needed to be sourced and a consultation with the Electricity Company by Open Reach to hopefully connect across the road. The line is ready, just needs to be connected.

The Office in the Parish Hall had been decorated and a desk, chair and filing cabinet were to be placed in there – the Parish Council to source this.

Carol Mace reported that the Parish Trustees were looking for a fare rent for the office. The Parish Council felt that as they were paying for the Wifi - £29.95 per month for 2 years initially, and that the room would not be used much, paid for the hire of the Parish Hall for meetings and also made a donation to the Parish Hall on a yearly basis of £250, that the rent should be waived in this instance. This item to be put on the next Agenda for further discussion.

DONATION TO BURIAL GROUND

Philip Percival had emailed the Clerk with a request that the Parish Council support the cost of maintenance in the Churchyard at St Mary's Church, Acton. This year there has been very reduced income due to the Pandemic. The cost of upkeep is about £9,000 per year, the summer months being the most expensive time due to the cutting of grass which is required to keep it tidy, at a cost of £850 per summer month.

Les Hobson asked if a breakdown of the Church's costs could be sent to the Parish Council. He felt that as the Church of England are the biggest landowners in the Country they should pay towards these requests.

AGREED: The Parish Council make a one-off donation of £1,000 for this financial year.

CAR PARK

Countrywide Grounds Maintenance had carried out their first maintenance of the car park. It was felt that generally speaking it was OK for a first attempt.

The Car Park is in need of some resurfacing work but with the possible changes due if planning application 19/5211N – Land to south of Monks Lane and West of Chester Road, Acton is passed, the Parish Council was unsure as to whether to carry out works or not.

Philip Percival said he would take a look at what needs doing to help fill in the potholes etc and would report back to the next meeting.

Paul Weaver reported about the holly bush by Acton Cottage at the entrance to the Car Park was encroaching onto the footpath. Tom Doyle said he would speak to Sylvia Latham and look at trimming back the bush.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following were **AGREED** for payment from the Parish Council Account:

(a)	Clerk's Salary – Aug and Sept and Back pay due to Pay increase	£305.00
(b)	Shires Payroll – 2nd Quarter	£ 41.40
(c)	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance – Car Park	£475.20
(d)	Simon Warbrook – Domain Renewal and Hosting Fee – Website	£ 80.00

PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Carol Mace reported that the PCSO, Sharon Jones, had trained 6 people in the use of the Speed Gun and that they were all ready to go out. Julie Griffiths is co-ordinating this. Carol to contact Julie to find out if there is a schedule in place.

Paul Weaver asked about “Litter picking kits”. No further kits had yet been purchased but Carol had a spare kit that Paul could borrow.

Philip Percival reported that the culvert in Welshman’s Lane had been repaired although the repair job was not a good one. He also reported that the Lane was still in a terrible state of repair.

Paul Weaver asked about the possibility of resurfacing the Car Park as it was getting to be very busy and used more. He asked what would be the cost of resurfacing? Dave Taylor had had a quote 18 months ago – Carol to ask Dave for the information.

Les Hobson asked that the Clerk record in the Minutes of this meeting the Parish Council’s thanks to Dave Taylor for all his help and input into the Parish Council over the past years and the great contribution he has made.

Les Hobson also reported that he would be stepping down from the Parish Council in May 2021. He asked that the Clerk contact the Elections Team at Cheshire East Council on the possible costs of an election – the next Town and Parish Elections are scheduled for May 2023. Clerk to report back to next meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm. Next meeting - Thursday 26 November 2020.