



OLD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Rosemary Bury Clerk & RFO Lorna McGoldrick

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th December 2019, in the Community Centre, Townson Close, Old at **7.30pm**

Mr. Danny Moody, Chief Executive of NCALC (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) called the meeting to order, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He introduced the Councillors co-opted for the meeting, Alicia Schofield, Assistant Town Clerk at Higham Ferrers, Peter Rowbotham, Parish Clerk for Brixworth and Great Oxenden and himself, Danny Moody. They have been appointed as temporary Parish Councillors to Old Parish Council alongside Councillor Rosemary Bury and the Parish Clerk Lorna McGoldrick.

Mr. Moody explained that a Parish Council is required constitutionally and legally to have a quorum of a third or 3 Councillors whichever is greater as there are 8 seats on Old Parish Council the quorum is 3. As so many Councillors resigned leaving one Councillor in place, this meant that the Council was not properly constituted and has no powers to make legal decisions. In this situation the District Council has reserve powers to intervene and the intervention is normally to appoint sufficient Cllrs to make up that quorum. So the District Council on this occasion has appointed 3 members to make up the Council, leaving 4 vacancies and it is those 4 vacancies that are here to fill this evening. Once that has happened the 3 appointed councillors will resign, leaving 3 vacancies and the intention is that at the meeting on 8th of January 2020 to fill those 3 vacancies by Co-option. Therefore the meeting on the 8th of January will be a very short meeting with just that item on the Agenda, to coopt Councillors to fill the 3 remaining seats, unless there is some urgent business to be considered.

The vacancies are going to be filled by Co-option, each member of the Public who wished to be Co-opted will give a 2, minute presentation. The Council had 8 expressions of interest and 7 places to be filled so 7 Councillors will be Coopted to make up the full compliment of 8. Whoever is coopted will be in place until May 2020 when there will be an ordinary election in this Parish. If the newly coopted Councillors put themselves forward for election and are duly elected they will then serve a full term, which in this case is 5 years.

The Council has to understand its resources, Cllrs' Time, Clerks' Time and the money it receives from the precept. It is important to recognise that the Councillors are not volunteers they are elected officials who give their time freely. There are expectations on Cllrs to act in their capacity as Cllrs but there is a limit. Cllr Bury has spent many hours working with NCALC, other officials and The Clerk to bring the Council to this point and NCALC has been heavily involved in resolving the situation in which Old Parish Council finds itself. The Clerk is currently contracted for 4.6 hours per week for Old Parish Council and for a Parish like Old that is not very much. Mr. Moody thanked the Clerk for extra hours worked to bring the Council to its current position and the New Council needs to address the Clerk's role. Having looked through the records of the Council it has suffered from not having enough officer support.

Mr. Moody also stated that the Council Meeting is a Meeting in public not a meeting of the Public. It is at the Council's discretion that there is a Public Session not a requirement although it is usual to have a public session and it is good practice to have contributions from the Public to voice their opinions.

The key decisions for the Council in January are the budget and precept, as the precept demand for the next financial year has to go to the District Council at the end of January. The Precept is the amount of money that the new council will be spending in 20/21.

A proper meeting is to be held in January 2020, which is an ordinary meeting of Council, following the meeting of the 8th of January. The meeting will consist of Cllr Bury and the 4 members who have been coopted onto the Council and the Cllrs who will have been coopted on the 8th of January 2020 and together they will make the decisions

It was proposed to move, under standing order 6; item number **5/12** to the beginning of the meetings, this was agreed.

5/12/19 Appoint Chairman of the Council: Mr. Moody nominated Cllr Rosemary Bury this was 2nd by Peter Rowbotham, followed by a unanimous vote for Cllr Bury to be appointed Chair. Cllr Bury signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Newly elected Chair welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for offering their much needed time and support, and also thanked Clerk for her work, Danny for all his time and support and Alicia Schofield and Peter Rowbotham for enabling the Council to be properly constituted.

1/12/19 Conduct a Public Session: (Duration and content at Chairman's Discretion) Public Session closed at: 7.50pm
A resident asked if the meeting was being recorded and was informed that it was. The resident felt that information following the resignations of a number of Councillors was insufficient his comments were noted.

A resident advised that the minutes did not reflect the full discussion that took place during the last Parish Council meeting. This was noted.

2/12/19 In Attendance : Cllr Bury, Mr. D Moody (DM), Alicia Schofield (AS), Peter Rowbotham (PR), Parish Clerk Lorna McGoldrick

Present: 12 members of the public

3/12/19 Record any Declarations of Interest: None Declared

4/12/19 Minutes: Council **Resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2019.

6/12/19 Councillor Vacancies: 8 applications and 7 vacancies, 7 candidates gave a 2 minute talk to the Council, the 8th applicant had forwarded information for the Council so that he could be considered in his absence. The Council voted to Coopt 4 Councillors

- Sonal Dearden
- Edward Green
- Ruth Greenfield
- Dominick O'Connell
- 3 New Councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7/12/19 Planning: Planning Applications:

- DA/2019/1012 The School House, Church Lane, Old the Council **Resolved** to support this Application
- DA/2019/1034 The Poplars, Walgrave Road, Old, the Council **Resolved** to support this Application

8/12/19 Playground Inspection: The Clerk provided a report, this report identified that the areas beneath the swings needed cleaning, it was **Resolved** to approve inspection report.

Action: Clerk to get quotes for cleaning of areas identified in Report

9/12/19 Community Defibrillator: Cllr Bury provided the Clerk with the EMAS template record of Inspections carried out to date for the archived records. There were no advisories. It was **Resolved** to approve the Report.

10/12/19 Mobile Speed Camera: The mobile Speed Camera is out of warranty, the Council did not take out the extended warranty and the Company does not do an extended warranty retrospectively

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes to bring to January meeting

11/12/19 Finance and Administration: Resolution to approve items 1-4

1. **Payments:** Council **Resolved** to approve payments at this meeting

Date	Payee	Detail	Chq No.	Amount Ex. Vat	Vat	Total chq Amount
18/12/19	Maximow	Grass Cutting	979	£327.07	0	£327.07

18/12/19	Ladywell Accountancy	PAYE year 2019-2020	980	£75.00		£75.00
18/12/19	L McGoldrick	Salary Home Working	981	£203.20 £18.00	0	£221.20

2. **Bank Balances:** Council **Resolved** to approve the Bank Balance of £16,086.14 on 16th December 2019
3. **Receipts and Payments: Budget Summary, Bank Reconciliation for year to-date:** DM proposed that the papers should be posted on the Website and made available to the public
Resolved to approve both 2 & 3 above.
4. **Bank Signatories:** DM suggested that all new Councillors should be made signatories.
- DM moved that Financial Officer Lorna McGoldrick be a signatory on the bank proposed DM and Seconded by AS, **Resolution** to Approve
 - That Financial Regulation 6.4 be suspended in respect of the 3 payments approved at tonight's meeting **Resolution** to Approve
 - DM proposed in that way so it is for the 3 payments at tonight's meeting however it is for the Council to decide if it wishes to alter it's financial arrangements so the decision made tonight is not a permanent arrangement.
 - DM proposed that the 4 new Councillors coopted tonight be added as signatories and that the subsequent Coopted Councillors should also become signatories.

Meeting Closed at 9.10 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date:

Date of next Meeting

TBC