

CLITHEROE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 22 March 2021

**PRESENT:- The Town Mayor, Councillor Stewart Fletcher, in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Simon O'Rourke
Councillors Ian Brown, Mark French, Jonathan Hill, Sue Knox, Mary Robinson
Donna O'Rourke and the Town Clerk**

(Prior to the meeting there was a presentation by three employees of United Utilities regarding the HARP project (Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme).

09.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Allan Knox and Jenni Schumann

10.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

11.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

12.21 MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11 January 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

13.21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications received for weeks ended 19 & 26 February 2021 and 05, 12 & 19 March 2021.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That no objections be raised to the following applications:-
3/2021/0020, 0102, 0114, 0129, 0154, 0156, 0157, 0172, 0193, 0200, 0201, 0241
and 0266.**

14.21 TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021/2022

The Town Clerk tabled a proposed schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2021/22. It was explained that, with effect from 07 May 2021, face-to-face meetings of the Town Council were supposed to resume as the legislation allowing remote meetings would expire.

RESOLVED: THAT the schedule of meetings of the Town Council for 2021/22 be and is hereby approved.

15.21 CHESTER AVENUE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that plans, proposals and a quotation had been received from Playdale regarding the re-development of the Chester Avenue playground. The proposals had been deemed suitable by the group of Councillors involved in the meetings with Playdale and were accordingly recommended for approval. It was noted that the quotation was below the total of \$106 monies due from the developer.

RESOLVED: THAT the plans, proposals and quotation received for the re-development of the Chester Avenue playground be and are hereby approved.

16.21 TOWN CENTRE PLANTERS

The Town Clerk explained the recent history of planters in the town centre and also outlined an email from the Civic Society requesting that consideration be given to the re-introduction of a smaller number of planters which could be sponsored by organisations in the town. It was noted that careful consideration needed to be given to suitable positions for the planters due to obstruction issues and that there were practical difficulties with ongoing maintenance. It was also pointed out that previous attempts to foster interest in sponsoring planters had not met with success and that the planters in Whalley were the responsibility of the Chamber of Trade, not the parish council.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Civic Society be asked to devise a formal plan which could then be shared with appropriate Councils and the Chamber of Trade.

THAT efforts continue to be made to engage with local organisations involved with the planting of trees to whom a suitable donation could be made in lieu of planters.

17.21 CHRISTMAS NATIVITY CRIB 2021

The Town Clerk explained that an offer had been received from a local business prior to Christmas 2020 to construct a new crib shelter for the town for 2021. The Town Clerk requested permission to initiate a conversation with the local business concerned in order that the matter could be progressed in a timely manner rather than left to autumn when time would be more pressing.

RESOLVED: THAT contact could be made with the local business who had offered to make a new nativity crib shelter in order that the matter could be progressed.

18.21 MAYOR-MAKING 2021

The Town Clerk explained that regulations currently allowing local authorities to hold meetings remotely would expire on 07 May 2021. As the Town Council's Annual Meeting would be on 04 May 2021, before the expiration date of the regulations, the meeting could be held remotely and the recommendation from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) was that local councils should continue to meet remotely whilst the regulations were in force.

RESOLVED: THAT the Annual Meeting of the Town Council would be held remotely on 04 May 2021.

19.21 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

i) Ribble Valley Choir, Joy to the World

A request for financial assistance was tabled from the Ribble Valley Choir who required funds for their proposed Joy to the World concert to take place in December 2021. It was noted that funding had been included in the budget for 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Town Council make a donation of £100.00 to the Ribble Valley Choir with the proviso that the donation is made nearer the time of the event when it is known that the event will definitely take place.

ii) Ribble Valley Raiders

A request for financial assistance of £500.00 was tabled from Ribble Valley Raiders. It was noted that the Town Council supported the town's cricket clubs on a rotational basis with each receiving £250.00 so it would not be appropriate for one of the clubs to receive a larger amount.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Town Council make a donation of £250.00 to Ribble Valley Raiders.

20.21 ACCOUNTS PAID FEBRUARY 2021

The Town Clerk submitted details of the accounts paid in February 2021 for approval. It was noted that the annual grounds maintenance bill had been received from Ribble Valley Borough Council and another large water bill for the West View allotments.

The meeting closed at 20.20 pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting thanks were expressed by the Town Council to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Stewart Fletcher, for serving two years in office in difficult, unprecedented circumstances.

Signed:
Chair