

**CLITHEROE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT: (Via Zoom) The Town Mayor, Councillor Stewart Fletcher in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Simon O'Rourke  
Councillors: Ian Brown, Mark French, Jonathan Hill, Allan Knox  
Sue Knox, Donna O'Rourke, Jenni Schumann  
Town Clerk**

**21.20 APOLOGIES**

**Cllr Mary Robinson**

**22.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**There was no public participation.**

**23.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**There was no declaration of interest.**

**24.20 MINUTES**

**The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 July 2020 were proposed and seconded as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.**

**25.20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Consideration was given to planning applications received for weeks ended 4,11,18 and 25 September 2020.**

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT no objections be raised to the following applications:-  
3/2020/0595, 0653, 0662, 0664, 0670, 0682, 0695, 0707.**

**THAT Ribble Valley BC be advised that the Town Council wished to object to this application on the grounds of potential excessive light pollution from floodlights and potential noise disturbance from flag halyards. If the Planning Authority is minded to approve the application it is requested that the flagpoles should have internal halyards to minimise any rattling noise for local residents.**

**26.20 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020**

**The Town Clerk advised that the sub-committee had met and were proposing to hold a short service at the war memorial on Sunday 08 November 2020 which would incorporate the two minutes' silence and the laying of wreaths. The general public would be excluded from the war memorial area by barricades and the presence of the police which would allow the wreath layers to observe social distancing regulations. There would be no street parades either before or after church services. The Clerk advised that the Royal British Legion, Clitheroe, had been made aware of the revised arrangements. Ribble Valley Police**

were also aware of the plans and had agreed representatives would attend the service at the war memorial.

The Town Clerk confirmed that it was intended to live stream the service and that the service would also be broadcast on Ribble FM. An announcement was to be made in the coming days indicating what would not be happening which would be followed by another announcement detailing what would be happening nearer the time.

#### **27.20 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (“PROWs”) – CLITHEROE**

Maps detailing PROWs in and around Clitheroe had been previously circulated as had an email from Cllr French regarding certain of these PROWs. It was agreed that PROWs should be protected, especially in areas where there was new development. It was suggested that the relevant authorities should be asked to ensure a PROW through open countryside remained a similar experience, despite development, rather than becoming a walk through an industrial or built-up environment.

The Town Clerk advised that the lengthsman had been having meetings with Alan Boyer of RVBC to try and establish who was responsible for maintaining certain PROWs. It was agreed that the lengthsman should be asked to maintain as many PROWs in Clitheroe as was possible, also considering his other duties, in the hours he was contracted to work.

Cllr Allan Knox advised of the background to the parish lengthsman scheme, noting that Lancashire County Council was actually ultimately responsible for footpath maintenance.

**RESOLVED: THAT the Town Council endeavours to protect PROWs in and around Clitheroe to the greatest extent possible.**

#### **28.20 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Town Clerk advised that letter regarding the town centre Christmas lights scheme would shortly be issued to businesses. It was envisaged that, due to the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic, there would be fewer businesses in the scheme this year as certain shops had ceased trading. The lighting contractor had advised that he would be willing to provide some trees as infills if certain areas of the town were especially poorly lit. The Town Clerk advised that prices for trees would remain the same as the previous year as it would not be appropriate to increase costs this year.

The Town Clerk further advised that prices for the two large trees had increased but that she had agreed that both should be purchased as there was an expectation that there would be a tree at the Castle Gates and outside the library during the festive period.

The Deputy Mayor queried what would be happening with the Christmas crib this year and various suggestions were made. It was agreed the matter should be addressed in the coming weeks and a number of alternatives explored.

#### **29.20 ACCOUNT BALANCES AND ACCOUNTS PAID SEPTEMBER 2020 TO DATE**

**The Town Clerk submitted details of the account balances as at 31 August 2020 and the accounts paid in September 2020 (to date) for approval. It was noted that half of the annual donation to Roefield Leisure had been made in September 2020. The Town Clerk explained that certain other donations which were usually made, relating to specific events, had not yet been made as it was not known if these events could take place this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was suggested that Councillor consider any areas of need in the town which could possibly benefit from financial help from the Town Council.**

**RESOLVED: THAT the account balances as of 31 August 2020 and the accounts paid in September 2020 (to date) be approved**