

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 'Electronic' Meeting Held on Tuesday 24th March 2020

Unapproved.

Electronic Attendees

Cllrs: Chris Jones (Chairman), Marjorie Jones (Vice Chair), David Bardsley, Ruth Beaumont, Gary Fletcher.

I confirm that all the above persons have responded to me confirming their decisions and comments relating to the Agenda.



Parish Clerk.

16/20 Minutes

The Chairman was unanimously authorized to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th January 2020, as a true record
Proposed by Cllr R Beaumont
Seconded by Cllr M Jones

17/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr R Beaumont, declared an interest in Agenda item 4, as an immediate neighbour to the applicant.

18/20 Public Participation

No members of the public have raised any points or issue with the Clerk by noon on Tuesday 24th March 2020, as requested in the publicised agenda.

19/20 Planning Applications

Planning Application 18/0052 – In respect of retrospective application for change of use from domestic and plant equipment store to erection and testing of wooden yurts. Concern had been raised as to whether the conditions of the application approval were being met.

Clarification: - Following the Clerk, on behalf of the Parish Council, seeking clarification of this issue from the Eden District Council Planning Enforcement Officer, their formal response is below: -

[From the Planning Enforcement Office – Eden District Council](#)

[I can confirm that an alleged breach of the planning conditions attached to the planning approval was brought to the Councils attention and investigated accordingly, under planning enforcement case 19/5070. A site visit was duly conducted and the owner contacted.](#)

Following the onsite findings and discussions with the owner, the investigation conclude with the following:-

In considering whether a breach of planning condition four had occurred in terms of the length of the 'testing' time, the definition of testing in the dictionary was to be considered, in order to apply it to the wording of the condition. The dictionary states the definition of a test as 'a procedure intended to establish the quality, performance or reliability of something, especially before it is taken into widespread use'. Taking this into account I can only conclude that the works currently being undertaken on the yurt fall within this definition; and are therefore considered to be ongoing lawful operations, within the terms of planning approval 18/0052.

Furthermore, the wording of the condition provides no form of program of works relating to the testing element and therefore there is no clear timescale or deadline for the testing period to adhere too. In this regard a legal opinion was sought to confirm the department's interpretation of condition four and the definition of testing. Advice given suggests that the wording of condition four is not deemed precise enough to consider a breach of condition and that the current operation of the site is deemed to be lawful due to the ongoing testing taking place.

It is acknowledged that condition 2 (plans compliance) makes reference to an email supplied by the site operator which states that a single yurt would take 3-9 months to build. There is no timescale provided for the time taken to test the product, consequently it is logical to assume that there is no time limit on this element of the manufacturing process.

Planning Enforcement Office – Eden District Council

20/20 District Councilors Report

At its meeting on Feb 27th Council took some major decisions which will affect the people of Eden. The overall Budget for 2020/21 was approved. Within the budget was authority to proceed with the One Eden Project which forms a major part of the Corporate Plan. The full details of the One Eden Project should be circulated to Parish Councils for comment. It can also be viewed on the Eden DC website. The main thrust is to make the Council operate more efficiently and to save money. How this will affect services is not yet clear. Also within the Budget was approval to raise Council Tax. This will rise by £5 for a Band D property. I did not support the proposal to increase Council Tax.

The other major item on the Council agenda was the decision to purchase Voreda House and convert it into the new single site office for the Council. This is a massive project involving expenditure of around £1.7m. These funds do already exist as the single site project was originally put in the Budget a few years ago and has been carried forward annually. This subject provoked a great deal of debate much of it acrimonious primarily because many members felt that insufficient information was being provided especially on costs and the futures of the existing Town Hall and Mansion House buildings. However because of the size of the Rainbow Coalition the proposal was passed despite a large number of Members voting against it and ultimately leaving the meeting. Many members felt that with the Government proposals currently circulating about forming a Northern Cumbria Unitary Authority (abolishing CCC and combining Eden, Allerdale, Carlisle City and rural, and Rydale Councils) that to commit Eden to such high expenditure at this time was inappropriate. I did not support the purchase of Voreda House for these reasons.

The Council, which already has a good record of dealing with homelessness, adopted an even stronger programme for dealing with the problem.

Because I am classified as being High Risk, as regards Conavirus, I am not attending any EDC meeting, although with reduced staff, which may mean it takes longer to get reply/action. I will not be attending PC meetings until situation normalises, but am available via e-mail or phone.

Please all stay safe.

Rob Orchard EDC Councilor, Hartside, March 24th 2020

21/20 County Councillors Report –

A detailed, monthly County Councillor report, can be found on the website www.melmerby.org.uk

22/20 Finance (Incl. Vat)**22.1 The Following Balances Were Notes as at:-**

	17/3/2020
	£
Barclays Current Account	385.38
Barclays Investment Account	6450.00
Vat due	199.01

22.2 The Following Accounts Were Ratified

Clerks Salary Jan/Feb 2020 @ £224.68	449.36
Office Provision Jan/Feb 2020 @ £15	30.00

22.3 There Were No Accounts for Payment**22.4 To Report Any Receipts**

There were none

22.5 To Report Transfers

From Investment to Current Account	500.00
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22.6 Presentation of Interim Accounts for Approval

The interim set of accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposed by Cllr C Jones

Seconded by Cllr G Fletcher

23/20 Covid – 19 - Action Taken by the Council Regarding Those Considered ‘Vulnerable’ in the Parish.**23.1 The Councils Emergency Plan** has been implemented, namely: -***Identification of Vulnerable Groups within the Community***

Namely:- *The elderly and frail, those pregnant and or with very young infants, the infirm or those with special needs.*

Action:- *Parish Councillors are asked to make themselves aware of all such persons in their immediate locality and to alert the emergency services and other appropriate bodies in the event of an emergency.*

It shall be policy to encourage a ‘Good Neighbour’ attitude at all times.

23.2 Identifying those Parishioner who are ‘Self-isolating’ or are ‘Vulnerable’

Councillors, friends and neighbours have been very active identifying those in the Parish requiring assistance, acting where appropriate.

To assist in the organization of this help, Cllr David Bardsley offered to take a lead in organizing volunteers, with Cllr Gary Fletcher deputizing.

23.3 Parish Letter and Help Card.

It was reported that the following letter had been circulated to all Melmerby residents along with a ‘Help Card’

TO ALL RESIDENTS OF MELMERBY

Your Parish Councillors wish to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the village at this tricky time.

Please keep the enclosed “HELP” card somewhere you can quickly access it, perhaps on your mantelpiece, and do not hesitate to use it to contact us if you are self-isolating or a vulnerable person. We are not doctors, nor, sadly, do we have any magic powers, but we will be organizing volunteers who may be able to help with some of the problems that self-isolation imposes. Things

like the shopping, dog walking, chatting to someone on the phone to help keep in touch with village news, collecting medication etc.

We also seek volunteers who are prepared to assist. There will never be an obligation to do anything and you could always say "sorry cannot help this time". If you feel you have something to offer please phone one of the councilors and record your details. The data will only be used in respect of this emergency, will only be used by Councilors and will be destroyed when it ends. The Parish Council is a registered data keeper under the data regulations.

We know that some people in the village are already supporting some of our more vulnerable residents. Please make us aware of these arrangements to help us to identify those who remain and may be in need of support. Additionally, we may be able to organize back up if you are unable to assist at any time.

All of your Councilors urge you to follow the Prime Ministers requirements that you stay at home except for the exceptional reasons. When you are out of the house remember Social Distancing. A lot of lives and the ability of the NHS to cope depend on everyone acting responsibly.

Our church, St John the Baptist, is open for quiet reflection.

I and my fellow Councilors wish you well during these difficult times.

*Sincerely
Chris Jones, Chairman*

HELP CARD

We are your Parish Councilors and we are here to help you to live with Self Isolation. Please contact us to discuss how we can help, to identify people with needs, or to register yourself as a volunteer.

Chris Jones	01768 881839	07887 800211	chrisjones.mpc@gmail.com
Gary Fletcher	01768 889372	07881 815280	garyfletcher.mpc@gmail.com
David Bardsley	01768 882557	07881 371432	davidbardsley.mpc@gmail.com
Ruth Beaumont		07901 820850	ruthbeaumont.melmerby@gmail.com
Marjorie Jones		07901 766253	marjoriejones.pcm@gmail.com

Village Shops

Melmerby Village Shop Lilly 01768 881915 Will organise deliveries by arrangement.

Tea Room Closed

Old Village Bakery 01768 881811 Is offering takeaway meals

Shepherds Inn 01768 881439 Closed from Monday but watch Facebook for possible takeaways and opening

NHS Helpline 111 Life Threatening Illness 999

On the back of the Help card is the Clerks name, address, phone number and email address.

23.4 Parish Clerks Comments

23.4.1 'Parish / Town Council Intelligence'

The above document, drawing together all the actions being taken by Parishes, circulated by CALC, has been completed and returned. listing all the above mention actions, being taken within Melmerby Parish.

Details of the grocery, delivery, service being provided to the 'vulnerable' and 'self-isolating' in the surrounding villages, by Langwathby Stores, also being added.

23.4.2 Covid – 19 Updates and Information – Issued regularly, by and through, CALC, NALC, ACT, Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council, being circulated to Councilors.

23.4.3 Sterling Initiatives have been actioned, throughout the community, by Councilors and Parishioner, to address the needs of the Parish, in the very difficult circumstances, we are all experiencing.

24/20 Highways and Land Matters

24.1 Vehicle Speeding Through the Village –

24.1.1 Councilors had noted the July 2019 Speeding Survey results and the comment from Highways and the Community Police Officer, below: -

Comments from Highways

This shows an average speed of 29.8mph and an 85%ile speed of 35mph, which I believe may be high enough to warrant some enforcement from the Police.

This location is to be added to the agenda of the next CRASH, multi-agency group meeting, for discussion and possibly some Police enforcement; also we will assess the existing signage to ensure it meets the current standards in terms of size and positioning, and look at any changes we can make to improve driver awareness of the 30mph speed restriction.

In addition, the Community Police Officer is arranging for the speed camera van to be deployed and to be supplemented by him using a radar gun, from his patrol vehicle.

24.1.2 Councilor Concerns

Councilors expressed their continued concern with the situation, whilst noting the issue was to be addressed at a future CRASH meeting, when circumstances permitted.

Action: - In response to Councilor concerns, the Clerk would liaise with the Community Police Officer with a view to raising the police presence on the A686, through the village, and would also liaise with the Highways Department over the introduction of extra signage and would seek a response from the next meeting of the CRASH, multi-agency group meeting, when circumstances permitted.

24.2 Junction White Lining – In hand with contractors.

24.3 Bridge Terrace Road Surfacing - Work now completed.

24.4 Bus Shelter Refurbishment – The matter is on hold and work will be completed when Covid – 19 restrictions are lifted.

24.5 Community Police Monthly Report. This was now being sent to the Council and added to the website.

25/20 Councilor Matters

An opportunity for Councilors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

Note: no decisions can be made on these matters, but they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council

25.1 Village Speeding – It was noted that concerns still existed about vehicles speeding, on both the main, A686 road, and the Melmerby/Ousby road. (see 24.1 above)

25.2 Visitors to The Village - Several residents are extremely worried about visitors to the village, in light of COVID-19, and feel that, as per government guidelines for non-essential businesses, that both the caravan parks should be closed, with immediate effect and any holiday cottage rentals or second homes should not be used.

(Issue addressed by Government, Covid – 19, lockdown policy)

25.3 Gypsy Visitors - Councilors and residents expressed concern about the possibility of Gypsies arriving on the Village Green, in the run up to Appleby Fair, even though the fair has been cancelled.

(Issue addressed by Government, Covid – 19, lockdown policy)

25.4 Website – Covid – 19 Information – Reported that Emergency Planning and ‘Covid – 19’ information had been added to the Parish Council Website

23/20 Correspondence

To consider correspondence received since the last meeting and take necessary action.

Covid - 19 Updates – CALC

The regular Emergency Planning, Covid – 19, information and Government Policy updates, received by the Parish Council’s office, is being forwarded to Councilors

24/20 Annual Parish Meeting Arrangements – May 2020

Due to the Government Covid – 19, lockdown restrictions, it was acknowledged by Councilors, that a normal, public Annual Parish Meeting, could not take place in the Village Hall in May and would have to be postponed until later in the year, following the lifting of restrictions; Councilors being guided by Government and NALC advice over the coming months.

25/20 Date, Venue and Format of Future Meetings

12th May 28th July, 29th September, 24th November 2020

Due to the Covid – 19 Virus restrictions, all the above planned meetings in the Village Hall, are cancelled until further guidance is received from the Government. Council business being conducted ‘Electronically’, in a similar format to this meeting, in the interim.

Signed: - _____

Date: - _____

All minutes that are approved, in the interim, by a future ‘Electronic’ meeting, will be formally ratified at the first normal sitting of the Council, at a future date, following the lifting of Covid – 19 restrictions.