

MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF MURTON PARISH COUNCIL (Virtual Meeting) 13 July 2020

Present: Alastair Bell, Barbara Govan (Chairman), Debbie Hewitt Anne King, John McDarren and Tina Longstaff.

This was the first meeting of the Parish Council to take place after the Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown which commenced on 23 March 2020. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4 April. These regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing). They also removed the requirement to hold an annual meeting in 2020.

- 26/20 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Laverty, EDC Councillor Willy Patterson, CCC Councillor Andy Connell
- 27/20 Declarations of Interest** - there were no declarations of interest.
- 28/20 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meetings held on 3 February and 2 March 2020 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as an accurate record.
- 29/20 Open Session** – No issues were raised for discussion.
- 30/20 FINANCIAL REPORTS**
- 30/20/1 Budget 2020/21 and Current Financial Situation** (Appendix 1). This report was reviewed. It was noted that the invoice for the Zoom licence had not been included but had been received since the Appendix was prepared.
Resolved: that the current Financial Report and list of Clerk's Expenses be signed by the Chairman.
- 30/20/2 Annual Return 2019/20 – Accounting Statement**
Resolved: that the Accounting Statement be signed by the Chairman.
- 30/20/3 Annual Return 2019/20 – Governance Statement**
Resolved: that the Governance Statement be signed by the Chairman.
- 30/20/4 Annual Return 2019/20 – Certificate of Exemption for Smaller Authorities**
Resolved: that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman.
- 30/20/5 Annual Return 2019/20 – Accounting Statement**
Resolved: that the Accounting Statement be signed by the Chairman.
- 30/20/6 Vote of Thanks to Internal Auditor** – the Council asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks to Richard King not only for undertaking the audit but also taking photographs of parish owned property to update the digital Asset Register. This was much appreciated.
- 31/20 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**
- 31/20/1 Annual Review of Cemetery Fees** it was noted that the next staged increase for Exclusive Right of Burial (Resolved in Minute 55/17) would be implemented as follows: May 2018 - £75; May 2019 - £100; **July 2020 - £125** and May 2021 £150.

- 31/20/2 Health & Safety** – the Chairman reported that the gate and seats had received some attention but needed painting. A cemetery tidy up would be organised when public meetings were allowed again. The Chairman had thanked Mike Schug for spreading weedkiller on the paths which had proved effective.
- 31/20/3 Walls** – after the meeting in February, a resident stone waller had provided a very helpful report on the integrity of the cemetery walls which was used as the basis for discussion. It was agreed that:
- Local wallers would be invited to make site visits in order that an informed specification could be drawn up for the work.
 - The possibility of an area on the walls be created for memorial plaques be included in the discussion.
 - The likely repair would not comply with the terms of the RPA grant which had been allocated, but other grants might be available. The relevant AONB Officer would be consulted about this possibility.
- 31/20/4 Paths** – Russell Hogg & Sons had offered to donate some gravel to repair the paths but had also advised that there might be better alternatives using sub-base. Cllr McDarren would look at the task and Hoggs would be contacted for a site visit to assist in estimating quantities.
- 31/20/5 Amendment to Cemetery Registers** – the Clerk’s findings on identifying an historic error in the Register of Grave Spaces which had led to errors in the Register of Burials and the record of Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial was related to the meeting.
Resolved: that the Register of Grave Spaces and the Register of Burials be corrected; that the relevant documentation in the record of Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial be voided and correct Grants be re-issued with the correct grave space numbers; that a note of the corrections be made and cross-referenced.
- 32/20 Clerk’s report on any actions taken under delegated powers not otherwise mentioned** – the Clerk reported that she had attended the virtual meeting of Eden Association of Local Councils.
- 33/20 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda** – there were none. As this was the first meeting taking place during the Coronavirus lockdown several items were already being held over until the next meeting.
- 34/20 Dates of next meetings for 2020-21 were agreed as follow:**
Monday 7 September 2020 – Ordinary Meeting
Monday 2 November 2020 – Ordinary Meeting
Monday 1 February 2021 – Ordinary Meeting
Monday 1 March 2020 – Annual Parish Meeting (provisional)
Monday 10 May – Ordinary & Annual Council Meetings
- These meetings will be virtual meetings until Government guidance that public meetings can be held again is issued.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

A large print version of these minutes is available on request from the parish clerk. All documents relating to this meeting are available here: www.murton.org.uk

Signature 
Chairman, Murton Parish Council

Date of meeting