**WHORLTON PARISH**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT SWAINBY VILLAGE HALL, SWAINBY**

**ON WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2021 AT 7.10PM**

**PRESENT:** 6 Members of public were present plus Dolly Hannon (Chair)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk: Angela Livingstone

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2019**

The Chair questioned if all present agreed the minutes of the 20th May 2019 these were available on

the website, she urged residents to use the website. The minutes were agreed and signed as a

correct record.

**3. CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

The Chair stressed that this was a village residents meeting and there had been a request for any

residents to address the meeting, she gave her report as follows:

Welcome back – and goodbye to Zoom (hopefully for good)!

The last 2 yrs have been a strange tenure during this pandemic – after cancelling the Assembly last year, and councillors struggling with intermittent internet connections, we have only been able to meet remotely when urgent matters required our attention so we didn't set ourselves any objectives for the last year except to manage lockdown restrictions and keep us all safe.

Pandemic – we have tried to balance the risk of the virus against residents physical and mental wellbeing:

**Playing field** stayed open, children needed somewhere safe and secure to play, but play equipment was temporarily closed off;

**Toilets** although NYMNP closed car parks and toilets, this was to deter tourists. Our survey conducted to secure a grant for refurbishment showed ours largely used by bus drivers, delivery drivers, tradesman, care workers – an essential facility for key workers. So with agreement (insistance even!) of our maintenance man, they were kept open - we received many words of thanks and considerable extra donations

**Weekly fresh fruit and veg delivery** to reduce need for journeys out of village, to help those who couldn't access supermarket deliveries. Many thanks to Denis McMahon and his team at Stokesley for keeping us supplied (he is still delivering every Thursday from the Church car park, or to your home if you have to isolate)

**PC projects:**

**School site redevelopment** - 2yrs of liaising with residents, negotiating with the developer and NYMNP Planning to get an acceptable scheme which will include a much needed public Car Park and eventually also electric car charging for use by both residents and tourists which should be a great future asset for the village.

**Riverbank Trees –** we commissioned an arborist report into the state of our trees on the public spaces along the river bank to assess potential risks and prepare and implement a management plan. Some of these trees are self-seeded and of limited ecological or environmental value, have irremediable defects, are causing harm to the river bank or are diseased and need to be removed. We will investigate replanting appropriate species in more appropriate locations when this work is done.

**Traffic speeds –** communications from residents during lockdown frequently related to excessive traffic speeds in the village, particularly Shepherd Hill. We have shared the findings of the surveys undertaken to monitor speeds which indicate that 85% of traffic is within acceptable limits so there are no grounds for further police action and the County Council will not restrict below national speed limits

**New Bridge** over river on Green Lane to Potto will be installed next month, will be wider and accessible to all. The total £6000 cost of the structure is being shared with Potto PC, with a generous contribution of £1000 each from Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Hugill from their District budgets, and the County Council will fund and manage the installation.

**Future objectives:**

As we try and return to normal after the pandemic, this coming year we intend to

* continue to negotiate on the development of the school site and, in particular, deliver a public car park with an EV charging scheme
* implement a management plan to secure a future healthy tree cover which contributes more positively to the village landscape
* in anticipation of a response to our application to the County Council, progress on securing public access to our footpaths
* refurbishment of the Pinfold (held back due to pandemic)

Thanks to Angela, our Clerk, for accepting delegated responsibility to act on our behalf during lockdowns and for keeping us all connected when we couldn't meet. The Council would not meet all the rules and regulation requirements without her guidance.

Once again huge thanks to Jem Beadle for his constant work keeping the toilets functioning and safe and keeping the beckside tidy.

Thanks to our sub-committee, Swainby Playing Field Committee, who have kept the field as a safe space for our children to play and have also managed to resurface all the pathways this year and develop a wild flower area. Their future projects include resurfacing of the BMX track and the installation of an outdoor gym.

Finally, thanks to the councillors who have supported me throughout these last two difficult years.

**4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

A resident questioned the progress on the school site and the proposed name. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had been asked their view with a choice of Whorlton Meadows or School Close. All present agreed that it was good to have the reminder of the school with the name of School Close. The Chair felt that the developer was keen to work with the community which had been demonstrated when there was an issue regarding the willow tree. She added that it was likely that work would commence late summer or early autumn.

A question was raised regarding communication with residents. The Chair confirmed that of 242 households email communication was sent to 163. She advised that she delivered paper copies to 79 households who had not registered their email with the Parish Council and should continue since many older residents did not have computers. It was agreed that the next newsletter should be hard copies to those who required this version and residents again be encouraged to provide email addresses were possible. **ACTION: Chair**

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** There were no items of any other business.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** The next Parish Assembly is currently timetabled for 18th May

2022, this may change due to availability.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Whorlton Parish Council