

SNAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th April 2020 in the Reading Room commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr T.P. Abbey (Chairman); Cllr N Binks (Vice-Chairman); Cllr H Tyson; Cllr P. Mainprize; J Ingham CPFA (Clerk).

Apologies for absence: - Cllr J Harber; Cllr D. Jeffels (NYCC & SBC).

Absent: - no-one

- 1016 Cllr Terry Abbey opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.
- 1017 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2020 were presented and were agreed as a true record.
- 1018 Matters arising: none raised
- 1019 Declarations of interest: None
- 1020 Financial Matters

The Clerk presented the 2019/2020 DRAFT Financial Accounts, together with supporting Bank Statements, Bank Reconciliation, and the Asset Register.

The Council resolved to approve the DRAFT Financial Accounts 2019-2020 subject to Internal Audit.

The Council resolved to approve the schedule of cheque payments for April 2020:-

i) Administration etc.	£	1,374.81
ii) Reading Room (incl. Services & Maintenance)	£	281.50
iii) Parish (incl. Services & Maintenance)	£	0.00
iv) Cemetery (incl. Services & Maintenance)	£	0.00
v) Grants & Donations	£	0.00
vi) Loan repayment	£	0.00

Non-routine 2020/2021 accounts for authorisation & payment: -None

- 1021 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Council considered the AGAR as presented and outlined by the Clerk.

It considered and reviewed Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement. It further considered Section 2, the Accounting Statements, and examined these, including the reconciliation of the sums stated in the Statements to independent Bank Statements (from Barclays), the year-end Bank Reconciliation, and agreed stated sums for Assets to the Council's Asset Register.

The Council resolved to approve the AGAR, specifically the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) and the Accounting Statements (Section 2). The Chairman was duly authorised to sign the relevant sections of the AGAR.

N.B. the Accounting Statements are still subject to Internal Audit.

1022 Administration: -

The Council noted the guidance from the YLCA that, in the present Covid-19 driven circumstances where it was recommended that Councils should not meet in person, that to continue to function legally, there should be an adequately wide power of authority delegated under s101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the Clerk and / or the RFO of the Council. The Clerk had circulated a paper outlining this to members, and this had been considered by the Councillors, both electronically, and in person at this meeting. To exercise that power to Delegate Authority requires that the Council meet to approve such a delegation of authority.

The Clerk advised that late last week, on Friday 3rd April, they had been advised that there were now new regulations (SI2020 No 392) which enable the Council to meet remotely using tele or video conferencing for a period to end by 7th May 2021. These regulations, which came into force from 4th April, also allow the Council to defer the usual, normally mandatory, Annual Meeting of the Council.

However these regulations had been published, and come into force after the proper legal notice of this Council Meeting had been published. Therefore the Chairman, after consultation with the Clerk, decided that the meeting should proceed.

After some deliberation the Council considered and approved the following resolution, which had been circulated to members prior to the Council Meeting

The Council resolves that, under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 101, the Council empowers the Clerk & RFO to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the council, and to deal with mandatory undertakings in order to prevent the Council from incurring liability during the period that the delegation is applicable. The Council further resolves that the Clerk will consult with the chairman and/or vice-chairman in the decision making but the Council acknowledge that it is the Clerk that is the decision maker under this Power of Delegation.

This Power of Delegation will end at midnight (00:00 hrs) on Oct 31st unless the Council has, following a review, resolved to extend the Power of Delegation. The Council can also, following a review, end the Power of Delegation earlier by a formal resolution at a meeting (real or virtual) of the Council.

1023 Matters raised by Councillors which may be considered at a future meeting: - None raised.

1024 The Clerk Advised that they would be looking at the provision of a suitable Video Conferencing facility, with the main emphasis being that the system chosen is robust, is recognised by the Council's professional ICT partners as suitable, and secure with full 'end to end' encryption. The regulations require that any tele or video conferencing must also be accessible by the public, as if they were at a real meeting of the Council. This requires that the system must be capable of 'managing' both remote access by members but also the Press and Public. Access being both initial access and secondly, managing the virtual remote meeting particularly access and possible interruption(s) by Press and Public.

1025 Date and time of next formal Public Meeting; - Monday 12th October 2020 at 7:30pm. This may change over the next 6 months, and may be revised. Any change will be published on the Council's noticeboard, its website, and Facebook page.