

**MINUTES OF THE NORTH RODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE  
DAINTRY HALL ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Present:

Mr John Narraway – Chairman

Mrs Georgina Bailey – Vice Chairman

Mrs Lesley Smetham – Cheshire East Councillor

Mrs Janet Hughes

Mrs Brenda Lomas – Clerk

**Welcome**

Mr John Narraway welcomed everyone present

**1. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Jacqui Lea who is on holiday

Mr Alistair Bayley who has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor

**2. Position of Vice Chairman**

Following her absence at the Parish Council AGM, Mrs Georgina Bailey confirmed that she would like to remain as Vice Chairman. This was proposed by Councillor Narraway and seconded by Councillor Hughes. Mrs Bailey signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in a planning application which related to her property.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the AGM meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 will be carried forward as there were insufficient members of the Parish Council to form a quorum to sign the said minutes. They will be carried forward to the next meeting. The clerk has forwarded e-mails to Councillors who attended to confirm those meetings to confirm they were a true and accurate record. Responses are awaited. The minutes of the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 will also be carried forward.

**5. Matters arising from the last meeting**

It was discussed that as a means of improving communication channels, that the Parish Council could send e-mails to residents - provided that residents were agreeable to the Parish Council holding their personal e-mail addresses. Councillor Mrs Hughes advised that she could create a data protection policy for the Parish Council and that this would then be acceptable under the recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). It was discussed that letters could be hand delivered to all residents to advise of this suggestion and to provide an opportunity for them to

provide their e-mail address. The letter would also reaffirm that residents were welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and to request suggestions for the current grant for a village clean up.

The Clerk advised that a public annual meeting should be held once per year by the Parish Council to provide residents with the opportunity of discussing what they would like in terms of North Rode village. It was suggested that an annual public meeting could be held prior to a Parish Council meeting in March or June of next year.

## **6. Planning matters**

The Chairman updated the meeting on recent planning applications within the village.

The application for a new farmhouse on land on Bramhall Hill Lane for Mr & Mrs Platt of New Pastures Farm, Gawsorth had been recommended for a refusal by the Planning Officer but had been approved at a hearing of the Northern Planning Committee. The erection of the two previously approved barns on the site has to take place before the construction of the dwelling house. This is an outline permission and a full planning permission has yet to be submitted / granted. It will be subject to an agricultural occupancy condition.

The application for 17 dwellings at Wheatsheaf Farm was to be heard at the Northern Planning Committee meeting but was withdrawn beforehand. The application had been recommended for refusal by the Planning Officer.

There is a current planning application for The Whittle, Bank Lane, North Rode for the regularization of a piece of land which has been used as a garden area by the owner since 2007. Councillor Mrs Hughes presented the reasons for the application and then left the room whilst it was discussed by the remaining Councillors. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would be supportive of the application.

## **7. Highways issues – Village Signs**

Councillor Mrs Bailey presented suggested ideas for the village signs. It was discussed whether the Cheshire East Highways would erect the signs, and if so, whether there might be a charge for the work. Councillor Mrs Bailey is to progress this by communicating with the Highways Department.

The Chairman confirmed that it was some time since the Parish Council had been advised by the Highways Department that seven new road name signs had been ordered for North Rode and that they were in stock. The signs were to be erected as soon as possible in 2019.

## **8. Parish Council Website**

The clerk advised of ongoing technical problems with the Parish Council website in that she was unable to update the content. The former Clerk, Mr Mark Bullock, had been approached for assistance but he was also unable to update the minutes and agendas page. It was discussed that whilst this matter is being addressed, the Clerk could place a note on the front page of the web

site to advise of the difficulties and that residents could contact the clerk if they wished to see a copy of the Minutes and Agendas.

## **9. Community Clean Up Grant**

The Parish Council was awarded a grant of £161.80 in May by the Central Government's Community Clean -Up Grant funding. A discussion took place on how best to implement the funds. It was noted that Hugh Williams of Rode Hall Farmhouse had been voluntarily weeding and cleaning areas of Church Lane – from the bridge over the stream right up to the Daintry Hall - and how much better the area looked. Litter picking was already undertaken by many residents in the areas of their homes, but particularly, and admirably, by Bernard Lever who regularly litter picks the lanes on his bicycle.

The Chairman suggested the planting of wild flowers on grass verges – but that this would have to be done with an agreement with the highways department as to the appropriate time to mow the verges. The planting of bulbs and trees was also discussed. It was decided that focal points in the village were few and that all members were to give the grant money additional thought whilst looking round the village at possible sites. Perhaps ideas could be gleaned from the Highways website. It is a condition of the grant that the Parish Council provides a report and photographs of the chosen works.

## **10.0 Finance**

Mrs Diane Gratwick has completed the internal audit of the Parish Council accounts. The accounts now have to be presented to an external auditor.

## **11.0 Training**

The clerk, Brenda Lomas, had recently attended a ChALK training session entitled 'Introduction to Local Councils for Clerks & Councillors'. The training had included that the Parish Council should have its own standing orders which had to be ratified each year and published on the web site. The Chairman felt that standing orders had been discussed in the past but that as a small Parish Council, much of the orders were not appropriate. Councillor Smetham advised that Marton Parish Council are a similar size to North Rode and we could therefore check their website for standing orders / contact the clerk for guidance.

## **12.0 Letters of Appreciation**

It was agreed that letters from the Parish Council should be sent to Mark Bullock and Andrew Needham to formally thank them for their many years of Service to the Parish Council.

## **13.0 Dates of the next meeting**

The proposed dates of the next meetings are Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm