



Ulley Parish Council

Minutes of the extraordinary electronic meeting of Ulley Parish Council held on 25 March 2020 at 7.00 pm

Chairman – Cllr Richard Robson

Other Councillors in attendance – Patricia Smith, Ian Stones, Richard Steele and Dr Chris Myers.

Clerk – Andrew Towleron.

Present – 1 member of the public.

The Chairman explained that due to the Coronavirus crisis it had been necessary to hold the meeting electronically.

105/19 - To receive and approve any apologies for absence - There were none.

106/19 - To record any declaration of interest – There were none.

107/19 - To receive and consider any written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) - There were none.

108/19 - To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 January 2020 - They were approved as a true record.

109/19 - To empower the Clerk/RFO in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman 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 authority from incurring liability during the period that the delegation is applicable.

Resolved: That the Clerk/RFO in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be empowered 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 authority from incurring liability during the period of the Coronavirus crisis

Any other business/information

Several issues were raised including:

Recreation Ground and Playground – It was explained that following a clear directive from the Government the Playground had been closed to the public. A notice had been placed to that effect. This it explained was based on the model notice provided by Rotherham MBC. It was agreed that the decision to close the Playground should be publicised to the local community, including through social media.

A discussion then took place on whether the Recreation Ground should also be closed to the public.

The Clerk emphasised that the Council would still need to ensure the maintenance and health and safety of the Recreation Group and Playground, as well as any volunteers from the ‘Work About Group’, whilst they are undertaking any works.

Payments – The Clerk reported that while some payments could be made by electronic means and in accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulations, and it may be able to delay until the next proper Council meeting, it is likely that some will need to be made by cheque. However, the “two signature rule”, requiring all parish council cheques to be signed by two councillors, may cause delays. He explained that he considered that it would be possible to get cheques signed by two councillors without the need for face to face meetings with minimal delay.

Local Elections – That the provision in the Coronavirus Bill 2020 that parish council (and all other local authority) elections scheduled for 7 May 2020 are to be postponed until 6 May 2021 was noted.

The Royal Oak Public House Assets of Community Value Bid – The Chairman explained that a draft bid had been prepared and it was anticipated that a formal bid to Rotherham MBC for inclusion on its register of Assets of Community Value would be made shortly.

Progress with the proposed improvements to the trees in the Recreation Ground – The Clerk explained that he was still awaiting the decision from Rotherham MBC whether the proposed improvements to the Recreation Ground could ahead. This included the tree subject to the TPO. Cllr R Stone stated that, ideally, tree works should not be undertaken during the springtime period.

Annual Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Council – It was explained that, while it is a legal requirement that these take place May, it is understood that legislation was expected that would relax this requirement in 2020.