

Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of Skirlaugh Parish Council held on 23rd March 2020.

Present: Cllr. Phelan (in the chair), Cllrs. Beaumont, Corden, Johnston, McDonald, Shanks.

Apologies: Cllrs. Conlon, Hakeney, Navier.

1. Delegation of Powers and Duties

- **Resolved** that the power to make decisions in the event that the Government declares an emergency and parish council meetings cannot take place should be delegated to the Chairman, Cllrs. Corden and McDonald and the Clerk.
- **Resolved** that the April meeting is cancelled, also the Annual Meeting of the council in May; the Chairman and Vice Chairman will remain in office. The Annual Parish Meeting will be postponed. A decision on holding the June meeting will be made nearer the time.

2. Communication

- (a) A What'sApp group has been set up.
- (b) A leaflet has been printed by Autela and distributed by volunteers to all households.
- (c) It was agreed that Cllr. Corden should be authorised to use the website. Cllr. Corden has the key to the notice board in order to display notices.
- (d) **Resolved** that email will be the primary means of communication within the council.
- (e) Other means of communication may include video conferencing or Skype if necessary in the future.

3. Skirlaugh School

The school has closed, although some children of key workers are still attending. No cases of Covid-19 have been reported.

4. ERYC Correspondence

- (a) A website hosted by the HEY Smile Foundation charity will contain a database of organisations able to help during the crisis.
- (b) A hub has been set up to provide support in their community. Request for volunteers able to help vulnerable people.

5. ERNLLCA Correspondence

The NALC website includes a page to provide information to councils relating to the virus. Further guidance will be available in due course regarding the financial year end, postponement of meetings and other procedural matters.

6. Other Correspondence

- (a) Neighbourhood Alert: the police will offer help and advice.
- (b) Jacob Birch has set up a community survey to identify those in need of help or who can offer help. Sixteen people in Skirlaugh have responded.

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(contd.)**

7. Support for the Community

Suggested that funding is made available to support community facilities such as the village hall as their income will be severely reduced, e.g. by offering to pay the hire charge for groups when the hall reopens; by contributing towards the cost of heating oil. These measures, which will be subject to conditions and available equally to all groups which may otherwise be lost, will help to support the community and prevent the loss of a facility. Cllr. Shanks reported that the Playing Field should be secure financially as they have no expenses at the moment.

- **Resolved:** that an amount up to £3000 is made available for community support.

8. Emergency Plan

Cllr. Corden has updated this to include the names of current councillors. It was agreed that the village hall should be used as the centre during an emergency instead of Church Cottage.

9. Community Events

VEDay75 has advised that all events should be cancelled. ERYC will only accept applications for funding to commemorate the 75th anniversary which are “non-public gathering”. They hope to use the fund to mark VJ Day in August if possible. Applications already submitted can be used for this event, or withdrawn.

- **Resolved** that the planned event for 8th May is cancelled and the application is retained to transfer to VJ Day commemoration.

10. Playing Field

Cllr. Shanks reported that the committee wishes to use commuted sums allocated to youth and adult provision for the playground improvement, following the unsuccessful application to Pocket Parks.

- **Resolved** that the parish council writes to ERYC to confirm its agreement.