

MINUTES of the Parish Council Agenda Meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:** Due to the ongoing Corona virus situation, all public meetings have been cancelled until further notice. In order to make decisions regarding the items on the agenda, information was sent to Councillors by email for information and their views were represented when the Chair and Clerk carried out the meeting by phone. Residents were informed that the public meeting could not be held but the agenda was published on the Parish Council Facebook page, website and the village noticeboard and asked to make any views known to the Clerk.

046/20

**ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A resident had contacted the Parish Council regarding motorbikes speeding on Course Lane and asked if there is anything the Parish Council can do to resolve the problem. It was confirmed that the Parish Council reports issues of speeding to the Police and residents are also encouraged to report these issues so that a record is held to provide evidence of the extent of the problem.

The Parish Council has been contacted by a resident regarding the issue of some trees on the field near Bluebell Wood which overshadow the gardens of some of the neighbouring properties. It was confirmed that the Parish Council was in the process of drafting a plan for the future of the Wood and the field following its recent transfer from the Appleton family and this issue would be considered as part of that plan.

047/20

**PLANNING**

**a) Applications to be considered:**

There were no planning applications to be considered at this meeting.

048/20

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE BLUEBELL WOOD AND FIELD TRANSFER FROM THE APPLETON FAMILY AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED**

The Parish Council formally took ownership of Bluebell Wood and the adjoining field on 4 May 2020. Signs have been put up on site to warn residents that they currently enter the land at their own risk while required works are taking place. Residents have been informed of the acquisition in a recent newsletter circulated to every home in the Parish.

049/20

**WORKPLAN**

**a) To receive an update on support being provided to vulnerable residents in the village during the Corona virus crisis**

Five newsletters have been published and circulated to homes in the Parish over the past few months. The Parish Council is very grateful to the people who have volunteered to support residents in the village during the Corona virus crisis in tasks such as prescription delivery, food shopping and phone calls. The Newburgh Corona Virus Support Group is being co-ordinated by members of the Parish Council in partnership with representatives from the Douglas Valley Lions, Newburgh Women's Institute, Christ Church Newburgh, Newburgh Fair Association and the Over 60's Club. The newsletters are currently being printed by the Parish Council and delivered to every home in the Parish to try to ensure that every resident is able to access the information. The newsletters are also being publicised on the Parish Council Facebook page and the website.

**b) To receive an update on village footpaths and agree any necessary actions including whether to opt in to the Lancashire County Council Local Delivery Scheme for 2020-21**

Plans are in place to trim back parts of the canal footpath in the coming weeks. With regard to the Lancashire County Council Local Delivery Scheme for 2020-21, it has been decided not to participate this year. The Parish Council had taken part in the scheme since the start in 2013-14 and this year a higher grant of £500 had been offered. However, a higher level of maintenance was required in exchange for the increased grant and the Councillors had expressed concern that there was a potential for increased costs which were potentially out of the Parish Council's control. The recent transfer of Bluebell Wood and field into Parish Council ownership has already resulted in an increased workload and budget and it was felt that there were not enough resources to also opt in into the Local Delivery Scheme this year.

050/20  
FINANCE

**a) To agree Accounts for Payment for May 2020, Schedule attached**

The Accounts Schedule for May 2020 was approved for payment in accordance with the current delegated decisions in process. Payments will be made electronically wherever possible.

**b) To note the new Long-Term Agreement with Zurich to provide Parish Council insurance**

The decision to take out a new five year Long-Term Agreement with Zurich was noted. Quotes were obtained from two other insurance providers, but the Councillors chose Zurich as they were the only provider to offer a five year Long-Term Agreement and also offered the highest level of public liability cover. Councillors felt that a Long-Term Agreement was required in these uncertain times and the level of public liability cover was important especially with the recent transfer in ownership of Bluebell Wood and field. In addition, the excellent customer service provided by Zurich in recent years also contributed to the decision.

051/20

TO NOTE THE DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled Parish Council meeting is 24 June. Due to the impact of the Corona virus it is uncertain whether a public meeting will be possible on this date. It is the intention of the Parish Council to still publish an agenda at the normal time and ask residents to contact the Clerk should they wish for their views on any issues to be considered should a public meeting not be possible

**Schedule of Accounts for Payment – May 2020**

<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 86.33 *Direct Debit
n/a	1&1 - website charges	£ 22.78 *Direct Debit
n/a	NEST Pension Scheme	£ 54.90* Direct Debit
010520	Cook & Talbot – legal fees Bluebell Wood transfer	£ 1,466.16 *retrospective
280520	Mrs S Jones - May salary and expenses	£ 671.28
280520	Mr J Horrobin – play area maintenance	£ 42.00
280520	AMK Signs – signage for Bluebell wood	£ 90.00
280520	Mr P Atty – 2 play area brown bin subscriptions	£ 50.00
290520	Mr P Clayton – mowing fee for Bluebell Wood field	£ 150.00
280520	Mrs M Mulcahy – internal audit fee	£ 50.00
280520	Zurich Municipal – insurance fee	<u>£ 506.68</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>£ 3,190.13</u>

TOTAL