

# MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## (Draft) Minutes of a “Virtual” Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, via Zoom

The meeting commenced at 1900

### ***05/20 – 01 Introduction***

DE welcomed everyone to what he described as a unique occasion, with a virtual meeting by Zoom being necessary because of the COVID – 19 requirements. He thanked CJB for making the arrangements. The planned AGM and Annual Village Meeting had been postponed by government legislation until May 2021.

### ***05/20 - 02 Present***

- David Entwisle (DE - Chairman), Graham Wigley (GW – Vice Chairman), Julian Sayer (JS), Charles Bagnall (CRB), Cliff Arndt-Snelling (CAS), Julie Giles (JG) and Caroline Berkley (CJB).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.
- Matthew Hicks (SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor for Item 05/20 – 09 MH)

### ***05/20 – 03 Apologies for Absence***

- None required.

### ***05/20 - 04 Declaration of Members Interests.***

- Councillors were reminded of the need to notify any changes to their circumstances which may affect their Declaration of Members Interests. GR to arrange the link to the MSDC system to update some of the details for CRB and JS.

### ***05/20 - 05 Public Open Session***

- There were no members of the public present.

### ***05/20 - 06 Minutes of the Last Meeting (26<sup>th</sup> November 2019)***

- These were agreed and will be signed by DE as an accurate record.

### ***05/20 - 07 Action Points from the Minutes***

- The inscription had been placed in the church WWI cabinet by Chris Hill incorporating the agreed artwork. Chris was warmly thanked for his efforts and had been given a bottle of wine by CAS.
- JS stated that providing a seat on the land next to the village Sign at The Green was on hold until the end of the COVID – 19 crisis. MH had provided £400 in grants, which had been received and MH was thanked for his contribution.

### ***05/20 - 08 Police Report***

- GR stated that the Suffolk Police crime website showed no recorded crimes in the village for the period January to March 2020.

### ***05/20 -09 Report of District & County Councillor***

GR had circulated MH's last report (May 2020). He attended and added that Suffolk COVID – 19 activities included:

- An amazing community spirit has sprung up across Suffolk, with many Volunteer Groups helping in villages. Almost 2,000 volunteers had offered to help centrally, far more than could be used. The hotline Apps were receiving 200 calls a day. All this had helped to identify the most vulnerable of people, especially those with medical and mental health needs.
- Thirty firefighters were driving ambulances to free-up paramedics.
- SCC has ensured that the 189 private care homes in the county had support where required, including supplying PPE equipment as the provider of last resort. Two weeks supply has been maintained.

- The Household Waste Recycling Sites had reopened by appointment only, which must be booked online. However, it should only be used for items that could cause “harm at home”. The garden refuse collections restarted on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

#### **05/20 - 10 Financial Update**

- Extracts from the 2019/20 locally audited accounts had been circulated by GR and were approved. DE to sign the Exemption Certificate and AGAR2 documents in due course.
- Expenses so far this year have been £139.36 to SALC (2020/21 subscription)
- Income so far this year has been £1,125.00 from MSDC (first half year precept), £54.00 repaid by GR (an overpayment of his PAYE in 2019/20) and £12.25 from HMRC (VAT refund for 2019/20).
- The proposed 2020/21 Financial Risk assessment had been circulated and was unanimously adopted. GR explained that it would have to be amended in due course to incorporate telephone/internet banking, which had been previously agreed.

#### **05/20 - 11 Planning Applications**

- DC/18/05088 (The Long House – Garage Conversion to House) – Ongoing regarding compliance with MSDC instructions regarding a fence and potential access.
- DC/20/00207 (The Firs – erection of poly-tunnel) – Granted by MSDC.
- DC20/00250 (Demolition of house and erection of two detached houses – Next to The Oak). This had been refused by MSDC.

#### **05/20 - 12 Countryside Group**

JG had circulated a written report, the salient points of which were:

- Farm contractors had sprayed weed killer in a ditch to the south of the church. It was agreed that this was unacceptable and GR to write to the farmer, believed to be Mr Steward.
- Three oak trees were damaged in haystack fire last year but all have recovered to varying degrees.
- SWLT is advise on creeping thistles on Hungers Green later this month, although it appears that it is being managed correctly by the Group.
- The oak trees on Hungers Green seem have a lot of caterpillars again this year. The Green is seeing increased use this year through people exercising during the COVID -19 lockdown.
- Sulphur Clover has spread beyond the RNR posts on School Road – JG to ask if the posts need to be relocated.
- The buckhorn are now in leaf and brimstone butterflies have been noticed around them.
- The potential footpath that borders Ashfield-cum-Thorpe and mention at the last meeting, may not, after all, qualify to go through the online system. This may mean negotiating with the landowner.

#### **05/20 - 13 Other Correspondence and Any Other Business**

- The RBL had confirmed that there were to be no organised events for VE75 due to the COVID – 19 lockdown restrictions, although private celebrations could (and did) take place.
- It was unanimously agreed that the area on The Green next to the notice board looked great. JS to pass on our thanks to “Syd”.
- The councillors unanimously praised the superb efforts that Natalie and Mark Harding are putting into making sure all villagers are safe during the current crisis through their COVID – 19 Volunteer Scheme. The councillors also endorsed their ongoing support for them.
- GR had circulated a letter of complaint from a resident, accusing the Parish Council of “incompetence” and approving planning projects against the will of the majority of villagers. This had been received via the community tax office of MSDC. It was agreed that GR would ask MSDC to reply on our behalf to ask the complainant to contact GR direct, as per established procedures.

#### **05/20 - 14 Date of Next Meeting**

- The date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the mode to be agreed nearer the time and dependent on the COVID – 19 requirements.

The meeting closed at 1940.

**Chairman.....**