

**Minute of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of IRTHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held VIRTUALLY on 7th April 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors A. Jordan (in the Chair), G. Beck, M. Ridley and H. Slack.

**IN ATTENDANCE – The Clerk**

Councillor D. Shepherd, Carlisle City Council

Councillor J. Mallinson, Cumbria County Council

**1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 3RD APRIL 2019 WERE SUBMITTED.**

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2019, confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Anne Jordan gave a report on the activities of the Council over the past year as follows:

This has undoubtedly been an unprecedented year in the history of our Parish Council.

January and February started off relatively quietly, then March turned everything on its head. An additional meeting was held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, informing us that all face-to-face meetings would need to be suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We all quickly became accustomed to hearing “you’re on mute!”, and I can safely say that we have managed to overcome technical issues with Zoom becoming a huge part of our lives. In May of last year, we saw the suspension of the Annual General Meeting, again, due to the pandemic.

During lockdown, we saw how important it is to help the vulnerable in our local communities. From neighbours forming WhatsApp groups to help with shopping, to simply picking up the phone to break up the day for those living alone, these are just a couple of the small, thoughtful actions that were taken in our parish.

I was contacted by the Brampton Acting Together (BAT) Group who have provided everything from care packages, face coverings and fruit parcels, to colouring sets and kites for Irthington School. I would like to thank them for their invaluable contributions and to Councillor John Mallinson for his financial support. The BAT group also appealed for donations to thank care workers for their hard work – thank you to all of you who kindly provided books and toiletries.

In other news, we finally got the defibrillator installed at Newtown Village Hall and my thanks must go to The Brampton League of Friends who funded this and for Councillor Beck for co-ordinating the installation. The only thing now is for us to receive the training on how to use it once we get the go ahead.

Vehicles driving at speed have also been a problem, as we have recently received complaints about Amazon drivers travelling in convoy. With this in mind, it is even

more important that we can continue our Speed Watch group when restrictions ease, and hopefully get some new volunteers.

On a more positive note, May Hetherington's memorial bench was successfully repaired, and our virtual meetings enabled us to pass comment on various planning applications. We are seeing a complete re-build of what was known as The Golden Fleece, now The Fleece. It looks to be an amazing achievement.

We also saw the retrospective planning appeal for the Gypsy site in Irthington. After an extremely long process, we have finally got an appeal date set for 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Some technological updates – the launch of the new Parish website is still ongoing, and we hope to be able to add some local photos to further enhance it. We have had a couple of our local parishioners trying to gain support for the funding of superfast broadband to be connected into Newby East and Irthington Village. At the time of writing, they are trying to gain enough support from as many households as possible to make this viable.

Looking to the future of our parish, we need to decide if we can go ahead with a Parish Plan and determine what improvements we can make.

As we consider this year's plans with the gradual easing of lockdown, we can hopefully, once again, hold our meetings in person and start to get back to some kind of normality.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone of you for all your hard work and contributions. I hope that, together, we can all continue to help our parishioners to the best of our abilities.

### **3 OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** to note there was no other relevant business.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.