

Minutes of the meeting of Pointon & Sempringham Parish Council held on 12th January at 7.30pm via zoom.

Present: Cllrs Dr P. Moseley, C. Ramm and R. Greenwood. C. Mackenzie (Proper Officer)

23 members of public and 1 member from the press.

1. The Parish Clerk/Proper Officer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

It was said that due to the resignation of 5 Councillors, South Kesteven District Council had to be involved and they had arranged for District Councillor Dr Peter Moseley to become the third Parish Councillor to make the Parish Council quorate to enable it to continue until such times as an election has taken place in May.

2. Declarations of interest: Clerk asked if anyone had any declarations of interest according to the Localism Act of 2011.

None had been received.

3. Election of Chairman.

Clerk asked if there were any proposals for the position of Chairman. Cllr Greenwood proposed that Cllr Dr Peter Moseley be chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Ramm. After a vote it was resolved that Cllr Dr Peter Moseley be the Parish Council Chairman.

Chairman now presides over the meeting.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Ramm proposed Cllr Greenwood as Vice-Chairman, Cllr Moseley seconded this and a vote was taken, it was resolved that Cllr Greenwood be the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

5. Welcome. Cllr Dr. Peter Moseley welcomed everyone to his first official meeting.

6. Standing Orders.

A copy of the Standing Orders had previously been circulated to PC members. Cllr Ramm said that amendments had now proposed and that a method of Version Control was required on this and all other PC documents such as "Draft A, Draft B, etc. being applied to the footer and the document dated. It was resolved to accept this policy.

7. Adoption of the Code of Conduct.

A previously used Code of Conduct Policy had been circulated, this had in fact had several items missing. Amendments had now been made and all that is needed is to date the document as to when the amendments had taken place. It was resolved to accept this policy.

Cllr Dr Moseley said that all things are now in place with the two policies.

8. Public Forum.

Before the public forum was opened, Chairman read out from the Standing Orders regarding the length of the public forum, usually 15 minutes but at the discretion of the Chairman can be extended longer with each person having a maximum of 3 minutes to talk. Also, it was said that the 'chat room' on zoom will be opened for those who want to talk and this would be in the order their request was placed.

At 7.40pm the public forum opened.

No one requested to speak so the Parish Council meeting began.

9. Reports from outside bodies.

a. Police. No report was received.

b. County Councillor report. Cllr Martin Hill reported that since the previous meeting and discussion about overhanging trees blocking the highway visibility, a representative from Highways had met with the owner and after discussions, it was agreed that LCC highways dept will cut back the trees at sight level. Highways had raised several issues regarding road surfaces and will be patching up areas of concern. The footpath to Billingborough is on the list to be done.

Cllr Hill discussed the forthcoming elections both at District and also Police level and reported that there may be the possibility of them not going ahead. Royal Mail had said that it may not be possible of them doing a postal vote. This may have an impact of the Parish Council election in May.

Cllr Hill gave a brief rundown on the Covid-19 vaccinations. There have been two roll outs and all is going well with the NHS running it. There will be central points to attend and Pointon area will have to go to Grantham. Lincolnshire in general seems to be going very well with 22% of over 80 years of age have been done already and the teams are working late into the night to get more done. There is the possibility of a mobile vaccination team for those who are housebound and encouragement to help those who are less mobile to offer a lift.

Cllr Dr Moseley thanks Cllr Hill for his report.

c. District Councillor report.

Cllr Dr Moseley reported that the District Council are still managing to continue with all normal services, waste collection, public health etc. Fly tipping is still happening and this can now be reported on line via the website by clicking the 'report' button. Also, the local recycling centres are still open. Bulky items can be collected by telephoning SKDC on 01476 406080.

10. Policies.

Various policies need updating as current copies are inadequate. It was resolved to look at all *the policies over the next few months. It was also agreed to identify a list of documents that should be held by the PC and create those policies where they are deficient.*

11. LCC highways.

Clerk had left this item in the agenda to report any Highways issues locally and also roadworks in the vicinity.

12. Finance reports.

a. Finance reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to accept these reports.

b. Budget figures. This document had previously been circulated and the Finance Officer explained all the figures. Cllrs had the opportunity to discuss each item one by one.

Finance Officer discussed the cost of grass cutting as two quotes (purely for the budget figures) had been received, the Playing Field committee said they would not be quoting for this and when a contractor is in place they will stand down.

It was resolved to accept these budget figures with the inclusion of an extra £500 to go towards the forthcoming election costs.

The treasurers account shows that a grant had been received from LCC of £240 towards the cost of the telephone box refurbishment and this will be benchmarked until needed. Cllr Dr Moseley asked about the Defibrillator. Cllr Greenwood stated that the defib is owned by the Social Club Committee and nothing to do with the Parish Council.

c. Precept. After discussing and approving the budget, the figure given for the Precept be £9725. The Finance Officer said that there had not been any Precept increase for many years and this was why the funds were quite low. Cllr Greenwood stated that a former parish clerk Joseph Templeman was also a Parish Cllr and therefore could not take a salary so the precept was dropped by £1500 to £5000. Cllr Dr Moseley explained that the savings account was low and needed to be raised.

13. Pavilion.

The Pavilion lease between the PC and ALIRO LTD is currently being reviewed by members of the Council for presentation and issue at the next PC meeting.

14. Playing Field.

The Rocking Rocket piece of equipment had been given a bad report by ROSPA. After discussion, it was resolved to look into having it repaired. Cllr Greenwood to contact a local engineering company for assistance.

15. Councillors reports and items for inclusion on the next agenda.

Pavilion lease. Telephone box.

16. Date of the next meeting. It was agreed Tuesday 16th February at 7.30pm.

17. To resolve to go into closed session. No request made.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm