**RUNCTON HOLME PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: R Pearman (Chair), L Brady (Vice-Chair), B Redfern, S Partridge, M Stevens, R Wales, Borough Cllr Mike Howland 3 members of the public Clerk: P Winson

1. **Accept apologies for absence.**

None.

1. **To consider requests for dispensations from the restriction on participating in the**

**discussion or voting on a matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.**

None.

1. **Declarations of Councillors Interests**

None

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 4th February 2020**

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, the minutes were agreed and signed.

1. **Councillor Vacancy**

No applications to consider.

1. **Public Speaking**
2. M Howland gave his report:

Still no decision from County Council regarding the potential sand extraction at Shouldham Warren, by coincidence I have a meeting with Sibelco at Leziate this Thursday and so I may have some news.

FLOODING - We seem to have come off lightly compared to the rest of the country with flooding issues due to the excellent work carried out by all the Internal Drainage Boards.

COUNCIL TAX - At the Full Council Meeting in February the vote was taken and approved to raise in Council Tax by £4.50 for the year.

 COMMUNITY PAYBACK - Contact - Bryan Foster 07341 684490 or Bryan.foster@sodexogov.co.uk

CASTLE HOTEL - Some of you may be aware that the owners of the Castle Hotel in Downham Market have been unsuccessful in finding a buyer for then business, as a result the Hotel will close at the end of this month on the 31st March.  Planning was approved yesterday to allow the Hotel to be converted to six flats and the Brewhouse to be converted to a single storey dwelling.

WARSHIP - On Saturday I have been invited to look over the Royal Navy Patrol Boat H.M.S. Biter which will be visiting King’s Lynn from Friday 6th through to Monday 9th, the ship will be moored at the Pontoons outside the Sea Cadets H.Q. and will be open to the public from 1300hrs until 1600hrs. Visitors will be allowed in groups of ten and it will be on a first come first served basis but access may not be possible for those with limited mobility.

MY MEETINGS LAST MONTH - Planning Committee - Joint Panel Meeting - Custom and Self Build Policy Development Task Group - Planning Training - Conservancy Board - Full Borough Council and four Parish Council Meetings.

1. It was asked whether the churchyard can be maintained, B Redfern advised that it will be maintained. Topical floods were mentioned and the fact that dykes and ditches aren’t maintained, it was suggested that the Drainage Board be contacted initially but landowners may be responsible. Middle Level is the responsibility of the Ely Drainage Boards.
2. **Matters Arising**

Litter picking, agreed that equipment could be borrowed as and when required and then returned to Linda. Website, to be updated. There have been problems with uploading documents as the website had been updated, but clerk has been given advice and hopefully issue will be resolved.

1. **Correspondence** in Folder for Circulation.

Clerk & Councils Direct

Various correspondences – emailed to Cllrs.

1. **Play Area**

Playforce quote received. Childwatch sign is faded.

Laurel hedge needs cutting and the brambles removed.

Rocking Rooster base plate previously reported as loose, S Partridge has looked and it didn’t appear loose.

1. **Playing Field**
2. No update.
3. Recreation Ground Use Policy – clerk has circulated some which other parishes use. It was

agreed that the Four Marks PC one was more appropriate and a Casual Users form which would be completed and signed for applicants to agree to the terms and conditions would be a good idea. Clerk will draft copies of each.

1. Byelaws – no feedback received to newsletter article.
2. **Car Park**

Club still waiting for the quote. It was asked if there was still a space for emergency vehicles, advised that there is and that no-one parks there although it is not marked out.

1. **The Sandpits**

Bob Keens is the current leaseholder. Nathan and Laura Cant attended in his absence. Nathan said that Bob had approached them to take it on. L Brady said that she wasn’t aware that the PC owned the site. It has been used by the Scouts and various other groups. All the structures which have been erected are temporary and can be packed up and removed. There is a composting toilet block and composting bins. They want to include events for scouts and school groups. All the wood used for the structures and the firewood comes from off site. Children who attend are not permitted to go off site. A new agreement could include the proviso that the Scout group are able to use the site. It was suggested that the current agreement be sent to Nathan so that he could produce a draft agreement for consideration.

1. **Highways**
2. Potholes at the top of the A10. School Road, potential water leak at the A10 end near L Brady’s. Large pothole on road from Stowbridge to A10. Tree near Woodlake’s, on the bend, leaning across the road. M Howland advised that the meeting with E Truss is on 20th March at 12 noon.
3. **Allotment Hedge**

Clerk still waiting for confirmation of works so that Trustees can be notified.

1. **Newsletter**

Newsletter has gone out; it contains useful info.

1. **Planning**

No applications to discuss.

1. **Finance**
2. Cheque agreed for payment – BCKLWN Newsletter £55.00.
3. Accounts to 16th February 2020 agreed and signed.
4. All agreed to the appointment of J Raby as Internal Auditor.
5. **Councillors Concerns and Items for Next Meeting Agenda.**

Footpath on Downham Road, possible PPS application for next year.

1. **Confirm date of next meeting.**

The next Parish Council Meeting is Tuesday 7th April 2020 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman ………………………………………. Date …………………………………