**Borwick Parish Meeting**

Minutes of a meeting held on 15 October 2020 (inside the BPH village hall with appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures in place, due to government restrictions in force due to the coronavirus pandemic)

**In attendance:**

David Smith (Chair); David Scott (Clerk); Joyce Tombs (Treasurer); Maureen Thomas; Jane Taylor, Bryan Fell

**Apologies**: Claire Helme, Lyn Cooke, Colin Taylor, Patricia Williamson (LCC), Jenni and Mark Thewlis, Dorothy Fell

**2020/17** a. The Chair welcomed and thanked those attending and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. Minutes of the open air meeting of 26 August 2020 were approved by the meeting and signed. The meeting had been to address purely financial matters in accordance with the 2020 revised timetable for approval and submission of the AGAR and related documentation.

b. Minutes of the previous meeting of 9 January 2020 were approved subject to a correction to the agreed budget (ie the proposed Blood Bikers donation having not been approved by the meeting but considered to have been a one off in the previous year. )

**2020/18** Dave Smith included the following in his Chair’s Report:

The village green had been mown in September and the BT telephone box was painted on 9 September 2020 by an Openreach contractor. The repairs to the stile behind Laurel Bank remain a work in progress for LCC. The Canal Trust has not yet sorted the footpath problems (bad near Sanders Farm). Some leakage of the Canal had been repaired using foam but no action had been taken with regard to a wasps’ nest. Dog fouling and litter were particularly bad during the [first] lockdown and continue to be a problem.

The proposed repair / replacement to the village bench had not yet taken place due to insufficient funds being available.

**2020/19** Dave Scott included the following in his Clerk’s Report.

The passing of long standing and much loved Borwick resident, Mrs Alice Prentice, was noted with sadness and affection.

Some tree cutting had taken place outside Borwick Hall and advice is to be provided by the tree consultant, Mr Wood, on suitable (small) replacements at LCC’s expense.

Planning applications had been received for the following:-

6 Borwick Court – 20/00465/FUL               - Approved

5 Borwick Court – 20/00545/FUL                - Approved

Laurel Bank – 20/00551/FUL                        - Approved

Clearwater – 20/00692/FUL                         - Approved

Mansergh House – 20/1057/8, 20/01054/5 - Consultation

Rigby Holiday Cottages – 20/00960 – Consultation

Livestock depot/Lorries at  Netherbeck – 20/00912 -    Consultation.

There were differences of opinion about the pros and cons of the latter but it was recognised that individuals were able to make their own comments to the local authority on any or all such plans received.

**2020/20** Joyce Tombs included the following in her Treasurer’s Report

1. Y/E 31 March 20 - All the documents have been posted on the village website and inspection rights were advertised and put in place. No-one requested sight of the records in accordance with their statutory rights (Dave Smith kindly had them available at his home).
2. The Certificate of Exemption (from audit) was submitted to the auditors who confirmed safe receipt and that no further communication would be received (unless they were to receive any correspondence from local electors).
3. As at 30 September 2020 there was £1,449.13 in NatWest Bank having spent £232.04 more than was received since the beginning of the financial year. (Accounts were made available). This is in line with the budget as agreed in January. The agreed donation of £500 has been paid to the Memorial Hall (– the Hall has paid £1,882.50 for a replacement combination boiler.)
4. During this period we closed the Skipton Building Society account because the interest rate had fallen to 0.05% and it was not worth the administrative hassle to leave the monies there.
5. There is an opportunity to receive a one off payment of £1,250 by switching our bank account from NatWest to the Cooperative Bank (or the Metro Bank). This is a scheme imposed on NatWest by the government following the bank bailout in 2008. It was said that NatWest had too big a share of the business banking market and were required to off load some customers and to incentivise account holders to move. It was thought to be too large a sum of money to ignore and so IT was PROPOSED that we make the switch to the Co-operative Bank Community Direct Plus Current Account.
6. A vote was held on the proposal to switch bank accounts and it was unanimously agreed to switch to the Co-operative Bank under the Switching Scheme. It was also proposed and unanimously agreed that the new account be requested with an Internet Banking facility (for ease of operation and also because the nearest branch is in Preston). It was also proposed and agreed that the current NatWest bank mandate be amended to remove historic account signatories who were no longer officers of the Parish Meeting in order to simplify the account opening process.
7. It was noted that we have to open the new account by 28 February 2021 and close the NatWest account by 30 June 2021 to qualify for the incentive payment but no payment would be received for around 16 weeks after the switch.
8. If successful, the Meeting can decide in January 2021 [or 2022] whether to reduce next year’s precept request or whether to use the money for village amenities such as the bench that we cannot afford this year.

**2020/21** Tree replacement on the Village Green

Following the necessary felling of a tree on the village green earlier in the year that had been deemed dangerous, the Chair led a discussion about its replacement. The location is to be carefully considered with respect to neighbouring properties and the line of sight of traffic, etc. It was suggested and agreed that a Rowan tree would be a suitable replacement and that planting should be during the period from November to end of February. Suitable protection would be provided.

**2020/22 Any other business**

After discussion It was noted that:

Any donation to the Village Hall for 2021 would be discussed at the January parish meeting.

There was no will to take over the ownership of the red BT telephone box on the village green not least due to its being a listed property which would be expensive to maintain.

The new “Visitors” sign for Borwick Hall is in Mrs Thomas’s line of sight when exiting her property.

As no formal memorial ceremony is to be conducted on Remembrance Sunday this year at the village hall War Memorial (on the advice of both the Church of England and the Lancashire Resilience Forum) a wreath would nonetheless be placed at the memorial on behalf of the Parish Meeting.

**2020/23 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 5 January 2021 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall (subject to whatever coronavirus restrictions may be in place at the time).

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Approved by the Parish Meeting and signed on its behalf by

…………………………………………………….19 May 2021.

David Smith

Chairman