

## **Bowness-on-Solway Parish Council**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom.

### **Present:**

Councillors: Carruthers (Chair), Coates, Graham, Hinks, Martin, Wreay, Evans and Wills.

County Cllr: Sent his apologies

Borough Cllr: Present

Public Attendance: None

Clerk: In the absence of a Clerk, Cllr Hinks took minutes

### **Apologies for absence and declaration of interest**

**Apologies** were received from Cllr Hutton, Cllr Birkett and County Cllr Markley.

Work issues given by Cllr Birkett were agreed to be a fair reason. Cllr Harrington was unable to gain access to the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Minutes (previously circulated)**

**To approve** the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – **APPROVED**.

**To Approve** suspension of agenda standing orders for this meeting only – **APPROVED**

### **Report on Action Taken**

Recruitment of new Clerk and appointment. Cllr Carruthers reminded all Cllrs that following the September meeting the Clerk had resigned and that his last working day with us was the 14<sup>th</sup> October. **It was unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Abbs for his dedication and loyal service to the Council for over 10 years. Cllr Carruthers to do this.**

Following advice and guidance off CALC a recruitment process was undertaken. Cllr Carruthers outlined the procedure and protocol followed and **recommended** to the Council the appointment of **Mr Jonathan Wood** as our new Clerk. **This was AGREED by all Cllrs present.** At this point Cllr Wills was having trouble with his connection and was unable to vote.

Discussion took place regarding obtaining office equipment/training for the new Clerk. Prices had been obtained for various equipment. Cllr Hinks proposed that we should accept an initial spend of up to £1200. This was seconded by Cllr Martin. **All Cllrs AGREED.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion on the current website and proposal for renewing. As previously discussed, our current website does not work effectively. Cllr Carruthers proposed that we need a new website. Prices had been obtained and after discussion Cllr

Coates proposed that we ask Rocket Sites Ltd to design and develop a new site at a cost of £600 plus VAT with annual hosting costs of £95 plus VAT. Cllr Hinks seconded this, and this was unanimously **AGREED**

### **FINANCE**

To agree the budget and precept for 2021/2022. All papers had been sent prior to the meeting. Information was provided regarding the current accounts and how the budget was made up. Discussion took place and the budget was agreed. Cllr Wreay proposed that the precept for 2021/2022 remain unchanged at £18,784. This was unanimously **AGREED** and approval given to submit the precept form to Allerdale BC.

### **PAYMENTS TO APPROVE**

Clerk's salary £228.00 has already been paid due to resignation – **NOTED**  
Authorised payment to Weller Hedley Solicitors – amount noted on account sheet – this was authorised previously at a closed meeting.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm in the Bower, Port Carlisle** dependent on current legislation. To be advised nearer the time.

Following the close of the agenda Borough Cllr Hodgson asked the Chair if he could give items for information:

- We should have received paperwork from Allerdale retracting the proposal for street lighting.
- Local Government re-organisation favoured North/South
- Government are proposing changes to planning.
- There is online health advice and grants available during lockdown.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19.40pm