**Upper Denton Parish Council (PC)**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held by conference call**

**on Thursday 5th November 2020**

**Present**

**Parish Councillors: -** D. Newrick (DN) (Chairman), W. Makepeace (Vice-Chairman) & T. Gordon (Councillor)

**Other: -** Sue Hatt (SH) (Clerk)

**Absent :** Keith Meller (KM) (City Councillor). Mike Mitchelson (MM) (City Councillor) and Raymond Tinnion (RT) (City Councillor)

**The meeting opened with DN in the Chair**

1. **Opening Remarks** -DN greeted those present to the meeting and welcomed everyone to the conference call.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** The city councillors were not in attendance.
3. **Notification by Members of Pecuniary and other Registrable Interest:** none received
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2020**

Agreed as a true and correct record, to be signed as such by DN.

1. **Matters Arising:**
2. **Highways:** DN reported that he had logged the potholes near the level crossing on the Highways website.He also explained that the culvert underneath the railway is blocked but will be cleared out before the winter and is scheduled to be repaired in Spring 2021. DN has also emptied the salt bins at the school and at Hadrian’s Crescent so that they can be refilled by the County Council for the winter.
3. **Crammel Linn:** The situation at Crammel Linn seemed tosettle down once the road access had been closed. Obviously, the arrival of the colder weather will ease the situation until the Spring. It was agreed that TG should draft a letter to the County Council, the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and the MOD expressing the Parish Council’s thanks on resolving this matter and hoping that measures will be taken to prevent any future reoccurrence.

**Action:** TG to draft letter for approval

1. **Noticeboard, Silver Jubilee seat and Jubilee stone**: SH has not received any communication from the land owner about the removal of these items. The Silver Jubilee seat was installed in 1977 and the Jubilee Stone was given to the village in 2002. Thirwall PC have put the removal of the Jubilee Stone on the agenda for their next meeting and hope to move it to an area beside the bus shelter. There might be a cost involved in the repositioning of the stone which will be discussed at a later date. The Silver Jubilee seat is badly damaged and cannot be saved but the plaque will be removed and put up somewhere within Upper Denton Parish. Finally the noticeboard needs to be re-sited, but at present there is not suitable place for it. The future of the Methodist Chapel is uncertain so putting the noticeboard there might involve moving it in future. The land outside Meg’s Cafe is also a possibility for the noticeboard but the County Council will not acknowledge ownership of the land.

**Action:** SH to await communication from the land owners

1. **Parish Precept and Council Tax 2021-2022:** After discussion, it was agreed to keep the Parish Precept the same for 2021-2022.
2. **Accessibility Policy:** SH reported that the Accessibility Policy is now on the website.
3. **Communications:** none received
4. **Reports:**
5. **COGS:** Work on the Haltwhistle Station is continuing despite COVID-19. Guy Opperman was questioned about Gilsland on his last visit and he reported that more data was requested from David Sexton of the DfT. There is still no confirmation on funding from Seedcom. A meeting will be scheduled in the next 3 weeks with Guy, TVCRP, Northern, NCC and the DFT.
6. **County Council:** no report
7. **City Council:** DN reported that John Mallinson had assured him that the sign in the car park near the school will be replaced this month.
8. **Finance:**

**Accounts for the period 1st April 2020** **to date** –Credit balance of £3395.78

1. **Receipts since the Last Meeting:** none
2. **It was agreed to make the following payments:**

**Payee Reason for Payment Amount**

Sue Hatt Clerk’s 6 month Salary £250

Sue Hatt Clerk’s expenses £42.58

1. **Receipts Due**: none
2. **Planning Matters:** none
3. **Any other business:**
4. **Village Hall:** TG reported that there is an ongoing problem with a member of the public loitering at the Village Hall when the Outreach Post Office is open on a Thursday and Friday. Despite putting up tape and warning the individual, there have been repeated incidents of transgression of the OCVID-19 rules and the Village Hall will be liable in case of prosecution. The individual in question is a member of Thirwall Parish so it was suggested that SH write to the Clerk of Thirwall Paris Council to advise her of the situation.

 **Action:** SH to write to Thirwall Parish Council

1. **COVID-19 newsletter**: TG asked if there was a need for a newsletter now that the second lockdown has started. It was agreed to re-evaluate the need for this at the end of the month. It was agreed to put up a list of Parish Councillors and their contact details on the noticeboard in case any parishoners needed help or advice.

 **Action**: SH to send DN a list of contact details for the noticeboard

1. **Dates of future meetings:** Thursday 14th May 2021

 Thursday 29th July 2021

 Thursday 4th November 2021

 Thursday 3rd February 2022

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th February 2021 at 6:30pm in the Methodist Chapel Room.

Minutes prepared by Signed as a true and correct record

**Sue Hatt Dan Newrick**

**Clerk to the PC Chairman**