

# NEWTON UPON DERWENT PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The Meeting commenced at 7.45 pm

### Open Forum

#### Present:

**Councillors:** Cllrs.Burgess, Robinson, Wheeler & Readman

**Officers:** L Hill (Clerk)

**Public:** There was no members of the public present.

**Apologies for absence** Cllr Horsley

**Declaration of interest** None

**This is an emergency meeting called due to the current Coronavirus pandemic and quickly called to agree some points before potential permissions to hold meetings is removed.**

Item 1 - The rules of the Local Government Act 1972, section 101, allows a council to devolve most decision-making to the Clerk in emergency situations. The Legal and Democratic Services have asked that all PC's hold an urgent meeting to discuss whether there will be enough Councillors to keep the Council meeting quorate ( this mean more than half in attendance ).

After some discussion the Councillors agreed that there would be quite some difficulty in holding meetings going forward. Two Councillors are over 70, one Councillor is self-isolating so this would only leave 2 free and 3 Councillors are required to hold a meeting. They agreed to give emergency powers of decision-making to the Parish Clerk ( in consultation with the Chairman Cllr Readman ). Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Readman and seconded by Cllr Robinson. They voted and agreed unanimously The Clerk had pre-prepared a document ( in line with govt advice ) for the Councillors to sign and this they duly did.

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Item 2 – Councillors are responsible for the welfare of their residents. To discuss how best to support vulnerable residents. Clerk to ask for an agreed budget for emergencies such as buying hand gel or providing basics for anyone whom can't get out for any cash etc.

The Parish Clerk is going to set up a support group but does not yet know what assistance will be required. She asked if the Councillors were willing to make a small grant available ( if needed ) so that she could offer small financial support to anyone that may be in difficulties. The Councillors agreed to a grant of £500.00. This was proposed by Cllr Readman and seconded by Cllr Wheeler. The Clerk would use her own funds but know that she will be reimbursed at the next meeting. The Clerk thanked the Councillors for this support.

Any other issues that arise during the meeting.

Under the current circumstances, Yorkshire Ambulance Service have asked that the defibrillator is checked more regularly and that they are advised that this check has taken place. Cllr Readman agreed to undertake these checks.

**Finance:**

1. Bank Balances February 2020
2. Expenses to be paid
  - Mrs L Hill – salary
  - Black printer cartridge £20.00
  - McAfee computer protection £49.99

**Planning Applications:**

None

Time and date of next meeting – unknown

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

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