Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

**MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held by video conference at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th March 2020**

**Present:** Cllr Carter, Cllr Lane, Cllr McCubbin, Cllr Humphrey (chair), Cllr Gill (minutes), Cllr Cody

Holly Tilbrook, Max Kettenacker

**112/19-20: Open Forum**

**113: Apologies for Absence**- Hayley Livermore

**114/19-20: Declarations of interest**- None

**115/19-20: To discuss the Parish councils response to Coronavirus outbreak -** The chair briefly summarised that the current severe restrictions on movement and consequent economic hardship arising from the coronavirus epidemic will almost certainly mean that over the next several months numerous inhabitants of Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom will require assistance with tasks such as grocery shopping and collecting prescriptions. Other problems to be confronted will include isolation, loss of income, unemployment and numerous other hardships. In recent days, a group of volunteers had identified initiatives to alleviate these and other forms of distress. This meeting was convened to identify specific ways in which the Parish Council could play its part.

**Funding printing of information leaflet-** Cllr Carter had circulated before the meeting a near-final draft of a two-page information leaflet intended to be distributed to as many addresses in the Parish as possible. The leaflet contains contact details of volunteers able to assist parishioners in need, together with other useful information. Cllr Humphrey proposed, and Cllr Cody seconded, a proposal ***that the Parish Council should pay for the printing costs of sufficient leaflets to enable the whole parish to be contacted.*** The motion was passed unanimously.

**Co-operation with the Johnson Bede and Lane Charitable Trust (JBL)-** proposals to set up a foodbank to be housed in the porch of St John’s Church, Little Wilbraham, were reviewed. Experience elsewhere had shown that unguarded stores of household items can be subject to misappropriation. In addition, concern was expressed that volunteers might incur out-of-pocket expenses (for instance, purchasing groceries) on behalf of others who were later unable to provide reimbursement. The JBL would be an efficient vehicle for making small financial contributions to parishioners experiencing hardship, in preference to setting up a food bank at this stage. Furthermore, the JBL would be approached formally with a request that it should underwrite reasonable out-of-pocket losses incurred by volunteers. Cllr Cody had checked the regulations governing allocation of funds by the Parish Council and noted that express authority existed for donations for well-being.

To facilitate cooperation with the JBL, Cllr Humphrey proposed, and Cllr Carter seconded, ***that the Parish Council should make a donation (up to the amount reserved in this year’s budget for village projects) to the JBL to supplement its capacity to alleviate hardship*** in these ways, subject to agreement from the JBL. The motion was passed unanimously. The trustees of the JBL will be contacted as soon as possible to put the motion into effect; a virtual meeting between the trustees and the Parish Council will be proposed.

After some further discussion, it was also noted that Holly Tilbrook, a parishioner in attendance at the meeting, would consult with other volunteers about the desirability of also maintaining a stock of basic household items to be provided on a case-by-case basis to alleviate immediate need.

**Parish Council email list:** Cllr McCubbin proposed, and Cllr Cody seconded, that ***the Parish Council email list be used for disseminating all relevant information regarding help and volunteering during the coronavirus epidemic:*** passed unanimously.

**Common Rights Holders-** Cllr Humphrey undertook to update the Common Rights Holders on how their recent financial contribution has been used, including as part of the purchase price of the speed camera. The Common Rights Holders would be requested to consider contributing to the relief of hardship.

 **Other proposals-** After further discussion, it was noted that the current epidemic is likely to last several months. Other proposals can be considered in due course as circumstances change and lessons are learned.

**116/19-20:DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The chair undertook to circulate as soon as possible details for a further video conference meeting.

The meeting closed at 08:20PM.

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ LITTLE WILBRAHAM & SIX MILE BOTTOM PARISH COUNCIL**