



GNOSALL PARISH COUNCIL

(INCLUDING THE WARDS OF MORETON AND KNIGHTLEY)



Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2020 at 7.30pm In the Grosvenor Centre, Gnosall

Present: Cllr G Gregory (in the chair) Cllr P Alker Cllr S Bishop
Cllr J Archer Cllr S Powell Cllr Simkin
Cllr J Tomkinson Cllr D Webb Cllr C Emsley
Cllr A Mills Jayne Cooper, Clerk Stu Ridgewell, CSO

20/027	Public Open Forum None present	
20/028	To receive any apologies and record absences Apologies Received from Cllr Greatrex, Cllr Ingram, Cllr Booth, Cllr Kessey, Cllr Payne and Cllr Lammin	
20/029	To record any Declarations of Interest Cllr Archer declared an interest in any discussion about the Grosvenor Centre Cllr Emsley declared an interest in discussion about Rosebuds Nursery	
20/030	To discuss how Council operates during the Covid-19 pandemic including: a) Community Help Leaflets with contact numbers for parishioners to request help had been delivered to the majority of houses in the parish. A hotline number had also been set up and is manned by the Clerk all day every day. It is being used steadily and is likely to be busier as the corona virus crisis is expected to worsen in the coming weeks. Local residents had set up a food bank for the most vulnerable residents. Many donations had been received. Daily Facebook messages were being posted by the Clerk with relevant information and advice. This would continue and useful phone numbers for residents needing	

	<p>support would also be included on the parish council's website.</p> <p>The Clerk anticipates that the number of volunteers could reduce as more people find themselves having to self isolate but it is hoped other people may then offer to help. This is not currently a problem,</p> <p>There may be a problem when residents requesting help have no cash, some elderly residents are not familiar or comfortable paying by bank transfer. It was acknowledged that there has to be an element of trust during this difficult time and volunteers may be happy to pay for items and accept reimbursement with a cheque payment. Families of those in need could be asked (via social media and website) to ensure their relatives who are self isolating have cash. Again, this is not a problem currently but could become an issue in the coming weeks.</p> <p>b) Cancelled events and meetings Many parish events had been cancelled including the VE Day event, public meeting (planning), the village carnival, all best kept village activities, the library service, youth clubs and primary school. Concern had been shared with the parish council that the planned 10K run in June had not been cancelled but the announcement from the Government may force this particular issue (announcement expected from the Prime Minister at 8.30pm 23rd March).</p> <p>It was also agreed to display notices on play areas explaining that equipment is not sanitized and the use of equipment is not advisable.</p> <p>c) Grosvenor Centre bookings The majority of Grosvenor bookings had been cancelled by hirers. It was unanimously agreed to close the centre completely. The CSO to contact the remaining few hirers informing them of this decision.</p> <p>Rosebuds Nursery had informed the Council that it would be closing on Friday 27th March and had asked Council to consider a reduction in rent. It was agreed to delegate power to the Clerk and Chair of Grosvenor Centre to discuss this and by email, make a recommendation to Council on appropriate action.</p> <p>d) Delegated powers Cllrs had been receiving information via the Clerk from SPCA and NALC on action parish councils should take during this difficult time. Based on the information received, as well as report from the Clerk, it was unanimously agreed delegate powers to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of committees, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spend against specific items within the parish council's budgets for example, contractors, clerk's salary, and essential purchases 2. To spend up to a limited amount (2500) for urgent work when unforeseen circumstances occur 3. To respond to planning applications (details can be shared with cllrs by email and comments collected) 4. Cancel the scheduled April Council meeting and all committee meetings for the remainder of March and April. 	<p>S Ridgewell</p> <p>S Ridgewell</p> <p>Clerk Cllr Emsley</p>
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	<p>Information about the Annual Meeting and Annual Assembly (Gnosall meetings scheduled in May) is expected from NALC in the coming week however it was anticipated that both these meetings would be postponed until later in the year therefore Cllr Gregory would remain as Chair until that time.</p> <p>The Clerk would share computer passwords with the Chair, Vice Chair and IT Service Provider with strict instructions only to be opened in an emergency.</p> <p>The Clerk and CSO would make arrangements to work from home and be able to access council emails and any other relevant files.</p>	
20/031	<p>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</p> <p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Clerk for organising the helpline and community help and she encouraged cllrs to keep in touch with each other via the phone and email.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 7.55pm</p>	

Chair..... Date.....

