

# GREAT LUMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom online platform  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Present: Cllr Richie Court (Chair) Cllr Peter Brown  
Cllr Lian Court Cllr Phil Heaviside  
Cllr Ray Pirrie Cllr Tim Robson  
Cllr Joan Robson (V.Chair) Cllr Carole Watkiss  
Cllr Jeremy Whiting Cllr Audrey Willis  
2 members of the public

Minutes taken by Cllr J Robson in the absence of a Clerk.

1. **Declarations of interest** – none
2. Police liaison report: No official report, but a Cllr reports that PC Mark Ferry has been seen talking to youths outside the Community Centre. Police are bringing officers in from outside the area. No other reports.
3. **Public Participation:** C. Cllr Bell requests:-
  - Barrier/post at side of Com. Centre to field – *Prices are in and we are waiting to move forward.*
  - Barrier into recycling area – *We are unable to go forward with this because of planning conditions for Haveli. This was checked with Martin Briscoe.*
  - View of View seat repairs – *Report was covered in previous meeting. Cllr Watkiss reported that the wood is rotten. Cllr J Robson to take forward to see if it can be repaired.*
  - Reported to the Chair re damage to rubber matting in play area, had no reply so unsure if it has been received? – *The Clerk is to be instructed to contact DCC – if they don't do it we will bring a company in. Cllr Willis has spoken to Barry Alderson at DCC and will follow up.*
  - Now that planning approval has been received, what are the time frames for scheduled works? – *At this moment in time we cannot give a timeframe. This will be addressed at the Asset Transfer meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.*
4. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 were accepted as a true record with the following amendment: *To clarify that C. Cllr. Bell has asked previously for minutes showing when the vote was taken for refurbishment of the Community Centre over new build. Also to clarify the date the vote was taken (item 14)*
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

Vehicle access to the rear of Hazel House and Parish field/football pitches. Ongoing as above in item 3.

Parish Council to be charged for cutting of pitches – what date is this from? To be checked up on. New Clerk will follow up.
6. **Environmental and Community:**

Permission to donate laptops from Community Centre to Lumley Infant and Nursery School. Motion proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Pirrie. All Cllrs in agreement. Cllr J Robson to take them to school where the hard drives will be wiped clean before use. Remembrance Day Poppies: to be kept on agenda for later in the year.

7 **Accounts:** Nothing paid in or out.

8 **Miscellaneous matters:**

Parish Clerk vacancy – Advert is out and there have been 13 applicants, 5 of whom have withdrawn and a shortlist will be made for interviews.

To review the offer from the Clerk of Little Lumley – this wasn't taken up as an appointment was reported as imminent.

Handover from Parish Clerk of records and equipment – Cllr J Robson reports that everything except the sim card for the phone has been handed over. Cllr R Court said the sim card/number belongs to the Parish Council and should be returned. Cllr Heaviside reports that the sim card/number belongs to Mr I Heaviside and has been his telephone number for a long time. Cllr R Court asked the meeting for permission to seek legal advice. Cllr Pirrie proposed that legal advice should be sought, Cllr L Court seconded. 6 for; 3 against; 1 abstention.

To nominate Councillors for interview panel to carry out interviews with HR present in an advisory capacity only. The Chair said that 3 Councillors were required. Cllr R Court, Cllr Pirrie and Cllr T Robson were the three that came forward.

***Discrepancies with Parish Council communications (RP): Cllr Pirrie read a statement out and once the contents became clear it should not have been discussed in open meeting because of the legal implications. For this reason it has been logged separately.***

Damage to a resident's fence due to a fallen tree from the parish field. As yet the resident has not put an invoice in – once it is in the Parish Council will decide if it is to go through as an insurance claim. Due to the need to make the premises safe as quickly as possible it would not have been possible to gain 3 quotes.

To put in place an annual check on the condition of trees that are on Parish land.

Forthcoming elections – Cllr J Robson has forwarded all Councillors the material from the training session she attended on Zoom. Cllr J Robson met with Alison Rose regarding the Community Centre being used for the elections. Everything is fine but toilets in main entrance need to be taped off as out of order. Disabled toilet will be in use for election staff. Main hall has to be divided into two sections with chairs. Election staff will see to all sanitising of handles etc. during the course of the day.

The Snooks have asked for a review of charges for the football pitch hire due to current Covid19 restrictions – To be looked at by new clerk. Cllr J Robson told the meeting that she had noticed that Andy Barron was doing one to one football training on the Bowling Green. When asked he said Cllr R Court had said it was allowed and Cllr R Court confirmed this.

9 **Great Lumley Community Venture;** Cllr J Robson reports that nothing is happening until Asset Transfer takes place.

10 **Community Centre:**

In view of the changes that are taking place with funding for the refurbishment should we be looking at reviewing the Business Plan – Cllr Heaviside reports that he has heard that money has been diverted from the Community Centre refurbishment to Bournmoor Scouts. Cllr Willis explained that she had done this to avert losing the funding altogether as Asset Transfer hadn't taken place. Her understanding was that if the money had not been used it would have gone back into central funds at Durham County Council. £32,000 is quite a

substantial amount and needs to be reviewed in the Business Plan. We need prices from QS for Asset Transfer and to re-engage the architect as he has reached RIBA stage 4 and costs. Cllr Willis reports that Asset Transfer will not go to the PWLB next week – it will be April now. It is understood we can only get £500,000 loan in any financial year. If we don't get the approval of the loan Asset Transfer will not go ahead.

Permission is being sought from the Parish Council to donate the soft drinks from the Community Centre Bar to the food bag initiative being carried out in the Methodist Church. Cllr T Robson and Cllr Willis to check to see that we are not breaking any rules. Cllr J Robson proposed and Cllr T Robson seconded to go ahead if permitted – all Councillors were in favour.

Work has temporarily been suspended in sorting and packing items following advice from the Covid19 Compliance Team at DCC to Cllr J Robson. Cllr Willis reports that she has had a reply from Jan Bostock the Senior Environmental Health Officer and has said we are allowed to carry on. Cllr Willis is to forward this information on for the records. Cllr Watkis has offered to do the sorting of clothes and Cllr Pirrie has offered to take books to Morrisons. Cllr J Robson suggested putting notice boards out with refurbishment plans on for when people come into the Centre to vote, but after discussion it was decided it would cause a bottle neck and people would not adhere to social distancing.

Cllr Willis reported that a few Cllrs and a member of the public had been reported to the police for breaking Covid19 regulations whilst taking the Christmas tree down – the outcome was that as it was a one off incident and couldn't have been carried out with only 2 people social distancing, no further action would be taken.

**11 To adopt new Policies and Procedures for the Council:**

A new policy to be drafted for trees on parish land.

**12 Correspondence:**

There was only one item which had been received, but due to the nature of the item it is to be discussed after members of the public have left the meeting. See attached document.

**13 Planning Applications – none noted.**

**14 Matters for discussion – Car park weeds**

**15 Date of next meeting: Asset Transfer Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Parish Council monthly meeting – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Cllr Richie Court (Chairman) 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021