Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council

Draft minutes of Parish Council meeting held following social distancing guidelines

at The Beeches Farm Barn The Street, Fritton, at 6.30pm on Monday 8 September 2020

**Present**: Cllrs P Rodger (Chair), P Cooper, C Mcdonnell, N Cullum

**In attendance:** G Roderick-Jones (Clerk) and 1 member of public

1 **Apologies** for absence: none

2 **Declarations** of interest: Cllr P Rodger in item 8a (personal acquaintance with applicant)

3 **Public discussion:** a resident raised questions in relation to planning application 2019/2914 (boar stud on land north of Wood Lane) concerning the openness of the parish council in its dealings in planning matters, and also asked why the parish council was not prepared to adjust its position in light of representations from residents. It was pointed out that that is exactly what the parish council did, changing its position from an initial “no objection” to a response from the next meeting, which reflected many of the concerns expressed by residents and members of the public from neighbouring communities. It was further pointed out that the parish council, in considering planning applications, can only consider a limited number of planning criteria. Overall the parish council seek a balance between consideration for the environment with the needs of the farming community in a working agricultural area.

4 **Report from County & District Councillors:** none

5 **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 12 May 2020 were approved and signed

6 **Matters arising** from the minutes: none

7 **Finances: noted**

 a Bank balances @ 2 September 2020

 Community Account £1695.04 Savings 1 £3432.96

 Savings 2 £1061.66

 TOTAL £6189.66

 b Clerk's salary review; as there have been no increments since the clerk started in March 2016 a review was carried out, resulting in an increase in the hourly rate of £1.00 for this financial year Proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr McDonnell and agreed by all.

 NOTE: The annual donation to the PCC of £300 is normally paid in November. This year's donation proposed by Cllr Rodger, seconded by Cllr Cullum, and agreed by all. This will be added to the next agenda for payment.

**8 Planning issues:**

 a 2019/2513 Land North of Wood Lane: building and ancillary works: boar stud - see item 3 above; no new documents online

 b 2020/1602 Pittsfield, The Common, Fritton: single-storey side extension – no objection

 c late applications - none

**9 Update on community defibrillator**

We still await delivery of the cabinet and fixings and signage; payment has previously been agreed and will go ahead once full and correct delivery has been made.

**10 New Legislation on Accessibility of Documents and Websites:**

From 23 September we will be required to ensure that websites and all documents comply with new legislation designed to ensure that everything is accessible to people with disabili ties. Substantial changes need to be made to documentation and the council website. The clerk is in the process of ensuring that the council is compliant, but this will need to be a long- term project.

**11 Community noticeboards:**

 Cllr Cullum will post a note asking residents to contact her to add private notices

**12 Correspondence:** as already circulated to councillors.

**13 Any Other Business/Items for Next Agenda** as noted above, and:

* there is a blocked ditch north of the church probably caused by a blockage in the culvert under the church entrance; Cllrs Rodger and Cooper will investigate;
* School Road drains are still blocked – already reported but clerk will follow up.

**14** **Review of Parish Clerk's Salary**

 As there have been no increments since the clerk started in March 2016 a review was carried out, resulting in an increase in the hourly rate of £1.00 for this financial year Proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Mcdonnell and agreed by all.

**15 Next meeting:** Tuesday 10 November 2020 at 6.30pm (arrangements to be confirmed)