

**Carlton on Trent Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held via email**  
**on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Participating:**

Cllr, L Hopkins (Chair), Cllr M Eley, Cllr M Hopkins, Cllr M Martin, Cllr M Rawson, Cllr D Wells-Pope, Cllr R Whate and T Grimes (Clerk)

It should be noted that this meeting was called during social distancing measures but before the Government passed new regulations to permit virtual meetings so councils were doing what they felt appropriate to continue business without actually physically meeting.

**1. To consider any apologies for non-participation**

All councillors took part

**2. To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

MM declared an interest in the clerks wages & stationary claim

**3. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

The minutes were accepted as a true record by all and will be signed by the chair at the next face to face meeting.

**4. To note the following matters arising from previous minutes**

The following points were noted:

NSDC free trees have all been distributed

Severn Trent are further looking into the issues raised regarding sewage

**5. To consider any planning matters**

**(a) Notifications received**

**i. APP/B3030/W/19/3241843**

It was noted that the appeal regarding the new plot on the caravan park had been successful.

**ii. 20/00017/FUL**

It was noted that the barn, stable & tack room on Great North Road had been granted

**(b) Planning applications to discuss - 20/00399/FUL Village Hall Roof**

It was noted that comments had already been gathered by email due to the deadline being before this meeting and coronavirus preventing an extraordinary meeting to discuss the matter. N&SDC circulated guidance allowing councils to collate email responses for submission. Following a unanimous email vote to support the application, this was submitted.

**6. To consider supporting the community effort to help the vulnerable during social distancing**

**Resolved:** To co-ordinate the support scheme so that volunteers have public liability insurance

(Proposed LH, seconded MM, carried unanimously)

**7. To decide whether to go ahead with poppies for VE day**

**Resolved:** To go ahead with the planned poppy display  
(Proposed LH, seconded MM, carried unanimously)

**8. To discuss and respond to the following consultations**

(a) NALC – one on rural bus services

**Resolved:** To respond stating that the bus service has declined but with no apparent detriment  
(proposed DWP, seconded MH, carried by 4:1, with 2 abstentions)

(b) and one on devolution

**Resolved:** To respond as per LH comments (attached)  
(Proposed LH, seconded MM, carried by 5 votes with 2 abstentions)

**9. To consider the following financial matters**

**(a) To note the bank reconciliation**

This was noted and will be signed at the next face to face meeting

**(b) To appoint an internal auditor**

**Resolved:** To appoint Mike Harness as internal auditor  
(Proposed LH, seconded MM, carried unanimously)

**(c) To note the year end accounts**

**Resolved:** To accept the year end accounts  
(Proposed LL, seconded MR, carried unanimously)

**(d) To approve the following payments**

**i. Stationery - £6**

**Resolved:** To make the above payment  
(Proposed MR, seconded LH, carried unanimously, MM did not vote)

**ii. Insurance**

The renewal price did not come through before meeting, so this was carried over to the next meeting.

**(e) To note the following payments**

**i. Standing Order for Clerks Wages**

This was noted.

**10. To raise any other business which may need to be included on the agenda of the next meeting**

To review the latest version of the new residents leaflet.

A visit from the street sweeper is needed.

**11. To note the date of the next meeting**

*Next meetings should be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 7pm and 7.30pm respectively, however, these may not take place due to the coronavirus outbreak and social distancing measures. Details will be posted on the parish council website and on the village notice board as soon as a decision is taken.*

Please send us in evidence as to how your county association or local council has experienced the below aspects of central government's onward devolution policy over the last 18 months or so (the below are the main terms of reference for the inquiry:

- The success and scope of devolution deals implemented, including the impact on local economies and health economies and the progress of all bids submitted by the September 2015 deadline. **don't know of any**
- The geographical spread of existing deals, including to non-metropolitan areas and the impact on adjoining areas. **don't know of any**
- Further powers that local areas have accumulated over time and **powers they should have which they don't have already. (my bold)** Greater say in development in their local community. For eg a vote on local matters at the highest level - why shouldn't PC have a representative vote? not all District Councillors sit on all committees which means that while a community can express an opinion during consultation they don't actually have a representative vote. eg planning, solar panels.
- The commitment to devolution across Government and capacity in Whitehall to promote and monitor devolution, including the Government's ability to capture relevant data at the right level – for example, in city regions and combined authorities to assess the effectiveness of deals. **I don't have any**
- Governance and accountability: the impact of elected mayors and whether they are necessary to make devolution a success. **I don't have any experience of this to comment on.** Public engagement with the devolution process and how scrutiny is working in practice. **I don't know know we can scrutinise, do we have Public Engagement? therefore is this transparent enough?**
- How access to new sources of income – for example business rate growth – have impacted local areas and how broader devolution of financial powers will affect the success of the policy. **I don't know enough about this.**
- The adequacy of existing sources of income and the potential need for more sources of income for local authorities that acquire more powers. Whether further business rate retention would provide additional funding for devolved services. **Does this mean we would get a bigger cut of the Business Rate or the Business rate would go up? = negative impact as businesses would close.**
- The potential scope of a devolution framework. Whether the current practice of bespoke deals for local areas is working or should some powers be made available to any local authority that chooses to adopt them.

NALC is additionally specifically interested in the sector's views on the below aspects of government policy on onward devolution and how NALC could best promote a strong case for local councils being at the vanguard of onward devolution and champions for it in England:

1. How the role of local councils could be better strengthened at the grassroots level through fairer community governance arrangements;
2. How the services which most matter to local councils could better be shaped, strengthened and empowered; &
3. How local councils' Neighbourhood Planning rights could better be strengthened.

**I think there needs to be greater emphasis placed upon the knowledge of local government, and consequently power to**

determine what is required and right for their community. Historically the authority was given to Parish Councils to feed back knowledge that only they would know - for example 1950's the PC's were charged with creating the basis for the Public Footpaths Map (later to become the Definitive Map - which has since been "added" to by others). The fact remains that it is those within the community that know the community. Without major changes to how the final vote is arrived at (for example planning decisions) I don't know how this will change.

It seems to me that current devolution taken place is to larger metropolis (Greater Manchester, London) and Cornwall. I would like to look at Cornwall in more detail as this better reflects us - small rural areas - and see how that has worked out.