

**MINUTES of the THORVERTON PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
held on FRIDAY 20th MARCH 2020 in the Thorverton W.I. Hut at 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors S. Fice, A. Foster J. Hodge, N. Lane, D. Waldron and no members of the public. Cllr Fice had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the meeting. In the absence of the Clerk, Councillor Waldron volunteered to take the Minutes.

19/230 Apologies for Absence: Councillors S. Crang, R Deed, R. Flatt, G. Sims, K. Wells and the Clerk A Marshall, due to family matters.

19/231 Declarations of Interest: None

19/232 **Covid-19 - Thorverton Local Support Network**

Councillor Lane gave an update on the fast moving situation and reported that -

- A local Community Support Group was now in place.
- Cllr Hodge had been working with members of the Covid 19 parish support group to assemble a pool of volunteers through the WhatsApp, Facebook and Nextdoor facilities.
- Cards had been printed and circulated to volunteers for distribution through all parish letterboxes, offering the volunteer's name and telephone number in case of need of help. It was hoped that distribution would be completed by the end of this weekend.
- Councillor Lane had attended a meeting of many different organisations trying to help people in Mid Devon. It seems that Bradninch have strong Parish Council involvement, but that Silverton is more volunteer driven.

After discussion it was agreed that the established group of volunteers should continue to lead on this matter (co-ordinated by the three lead volunteers) as the Parish Council cannot always act quickly enough to changing situations and as several Councillors are in the "vulnerable" category. The establishment of an emergency Community Fund was also considered.

It was Resolved that Thorverton Parish Council would support the Thorverton C-19 Group with the Chairman representing the Parish Council on its management team.

It was Resolved to make up to £500 available as an "Emergency C-19 Fund", with any expenditure to be approved by the Clerk in consultation with Councillors Foster and Waldron, who would act on behalf of the Parish Council in supporting the Clerk with administering any payments.

It was Resolved that the Clerk would have delegated authority to make day to day decisions in order that the Parish Council continues to function and priorities continue to be covered; to cancel Parish Council Meetings or to make amendments to the running of them in accordance with Government guidelines; to pay employees' salaries and to pay any invoices relating to approved expenditure (all payments to be signed by two authorised signatories as usual).

The meeting closed at 8.08pm