

## MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held remotely at

7.30pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Councillors present via remote videoing platform:-

Derek Aldous Adam Banham Gerald Peachey Beverley Leek Steve Sewell Richard Tucker

### **1.0 To formally open the extraordinary meeting**

Cllr Leek formally opened the extraordinary meeting following an explanation that the meeting is being held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 4th April 2020 and allows local authorities to conduct meetings remotely.

### **2.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence**

Cllr Leek reported that no apologies had been received and asked for the minutes to show that Cllr Leigh was not in attendance.

### **3.0 To receive declaration of interest on items on the agenda**

Cllr Banham declared an interest in any matters relating to planning.

### **4.0 Approval of Standing Orders updated to include the 2020 Regulations**

Cllr Leek stated that this version of MPC's Standing Orders is based on the Standing Orders that were originally agreed by MPC in December 2018 and have now being modified by MPC to support the new empowerment enshrined in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and associated 2020 Regulations.

Cllr Leek proposed that MPC approves this 2020 version of Standing Orders; this was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

### **5.0 Retrospective approval of appointment of Internal Auditor**

Cllr Leek reported that following Norfolk ALC's advice at the beginning of March all Councillors agreed, via email, that Mrs Jowett should be appointed to completed the internal audit as part of the AGAR. Cllr Leek proposed that this decision was now formally approved; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously approved.

### **5.1 To approve flowers for Internal Auditor**

Following proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Banham it was unanimously agreed to send to flowers to the internal auditor for completing the internal audit.

### **6.0 Approval of Annual Internal Audit Report for the year ending 31.03.2020**

Cllr Leek reported that the internal auditor had completed the Internal Audit on 10 May 2020 and no concerns were highlighted. Following proposal by Cllr Aldous and seconding by Cllr Tucker it was unanimously agreed to formally approve the internal auditor's report.

### **6.1 To consider and approve Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**

Cllr Leek read out each of the eight applicable statements in turn to allow for each statement to be unanimously agreed before moving onto the next. All statements in Section 1 were unanimously agreed in this way. It was agreed that Cllr Leek would duly sign the relevant section on the Annual Governance Statement Return before it was signed by the Clerk as permitted under the 2020 Coronavirus Regulations.

### **6.2 To consider and approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20**

Following proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Aldous it was unanimously agreed to approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement Return 2019/20. It was agreed that Cllr Leek would duly sign the relevant section on the return.

### **7.0 Wind farm projects update and to discuss funding for professional fees**

The meeting noted that a decision on Hornsea Three has been delayed until 1st July 2020, and that the matter is under urgent review by a group of local MPs.

Following discussion Cllr Aldous proposed that MPC approve expenditure, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, of up to £3,000 plus VAT on professional fees in relation to offshore wind farm developments on the basis that there is a direct benefit to the area and its inhabitants in taking independent professional advice and that the benefit accruing to the area or its residents is commensurate with the proposed expenditure. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

### **To adjourn the meeting for the public session**

As there were no members of the public present to participate in a public session Cllr Leek thanked the Cllrs for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 at 7.30pm.