

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF
MARKET WEIGHTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD OVER ZOOM ON
FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.00PM**

Councillors: Hemmerman (Town Mayor)
Smith (Deputy Mayor)
Cashin
Curwen
King
Marshall
Peaks
Rudd
A van der Kroon
E van der Kroon

Clerk to the Meeting – Kevin Keller

Also in attendance: Cllr Leo Hammond

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Cary and Cllr Chicken.
(Cllr Baxter submitted apologies retrospectively following a family emergency)

2. DECLARATIONS OF A PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

(Members to declare any interest in items on the Agenda and the nature of those interests).

None

3. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE COUNCILL STAFFING DURING THE 4 WEEKS' LOCK-DOWN

It was agreed that part of any Town/Parish Council's role is to be customer facing and play its part in the community's response to any given situation. To achieve this, where practicable and safe to do so, council premises should remain open to residents whenever possible.

It was therefore proposed that the Town Hall remain open to residents with all necessary risk assessments completed and safeguards put in place. **Proposed** Cllr Hemmerman, **Seconded** Cllr Cashin. **RESOLVED**

Four of the five Town Hall based staff had confirmed that, with appropriate precautions in place and if the regulations allowed, they would continue working during the lock-down period should the Council so wish. Cllr Rudd informed the Council that he had been told that Employee A would prefer to work from home, and he expressed the view that he felt this was wholly appropriate. It was pointed out that no formal request to work from home had been received. A robust debate ensued.

As the Town Hall was to remain open, the roles of Employee A and Employee B would continue to be by their very nature, customer facing. It was not possible to carry out these duties from home.

Should Employee A not feel able to come into the building during the lockdown, with participation of the Furlough Scheme not possible and insufficient remaining annual leave available to them, it was **Proposed** by Cllr Cashin and **Seconded** by Cllr A Van der Kroon that they could take unpaid leave. **RESOLVED**

Cllr Peaks expressed major misgivings about this resolution.

Alternative options to the above resolution were then discussed at length. Alternatives were finalised, and it was agreed that all be communicated to Employee A as soon possible. **Proposed** Cllr King, **Seconded** Cllr Rudd. **RESOLVED (8 – Cllr Hemmerman and Cllr Marshall abstained)**

The statutory and practical financial responsibilities of the Council would continue during the lockdown and in Employee A's potential absence. It was **Proposed** by Cllr King and **Seconded** by Cllr Smith that Employee B be appointed as Acting Responsible Financial Officer. **RESOLVED**

To ensure that all council correspondence was accessible, it was **Proposed** by Cllr King and **Seconded** by Cllr E Van der Kroon that in addition to the 'town.clerk@' email address, 'hr@' should also be diverted to Employee B. **RESOLVED (8 – Cllr Hemmerman and Cllr Marshall abstained)**

Signed by the Chairman

4. TO DISCUSS ANY RELEVANT AND COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

Humberside Police had submitted a proposal to use the Hilda Lyon Room within the Town Hall as an operational base within the town. It was agreed by all that this would be of huge benefit to residents and that this proposal be accepted. **Proposed** Cllr Hemmerman, **Seconded** Cllr Peaks. **RESOLVED**

Cllr Marshall reported that both he and the Deputy Clerk had received a demonstration of the updated Scribe accounting platform which was now 'cloud' based and offered greater flexibility, features and functionality. He asked if a Finance Committee should be established to, among other things, assist with the implementation of the new software. It was agreed that this was appropriate. The committee will consist of Cllrs King, Smith, Marshall and E Van der Kroon.

Cllr Marshall reported that a formal grievance had been received, and advice sought from ERNLLCA.

Cllr Hammond informed the council that Croft Close had been added to the ERYC's resurfacing work programme.

5. THE NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and contributions, and declared the Meeting ***closed at 8.30pm.***