

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr D Carré

Members: Cllrs K Bellamy, J Brook, R Hogley, B Lockley

Officer: Mr R McGill (Deputy Clerk)

### **Welcome**

### **Public Question Time**

Prior to the commencement of the business session of the Council, there was opportunity for an open session lasting 15 minutes, for members of the public to speak to the Council. No members of the public were present.

### **2021 47 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

As Local (Parish & Town) Council meetings can now be recorded, the Chairman checked if anybody wished to record the meeting, to ensure reasonable facilities could be provided. No one wished to record the meeting. The meeting was being recorded by the Deputy Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council to upload to the Parish Council's YouTube channel.

### **2021 48 To accept apologies for absence**

All Members were present.

### **2021 49 To receive Members' and Officers' personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda**

None were disclosed.

### **2021 50 To consider written requests for new DPI dispensations**

None had been received.

### **2021 51 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session**

**RESOLVED:** The Committee decided that no items needed to be discussed in private session.

### **2021 52 To confirm the Minutes of the previous Committee meeting**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2021, numbered 2021 32 to 2021 46 inclusive were approved.

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## 2021 53 Combining virtual and in-person meetings

- i. Members considered a proposal from the Chairman to purchase teleconferencing equipment using money from the Committee's Special Projects budget to allow members of the public to join meetings of Council and Council Committees virtually. **RESOLVED:** The Committee resolved to purchase teleconferencing equipment as recommended in the Chairman's report.
- ii. Members considered a proposal to commend to Council an upgrade to our current broadband package.

The current package is with Plusnet and has download speeds up to 18-20mbps with a guaranteed speed of 2.5mbps, and upload speeds of 1mbps. The Deputy Clerk reported that sometimes the speeds are very low when two people are in the office. Members were concerned that the service would be inadequate for a teleconferencing meeting with multiple users. The Deputy Clerk reported that an upload speed of 1mbps meant that uploading a video of Council to YouTube might take 7 hours and was impracticable. We are currently out-of-contract for our broadband package and the out-of-contract price is around £23.50/mnth. The in-contract price would be around £18/mnth.

The only internet service provider to offer a high-speed fibre connection to the Civic Hall is BT. This offers download speeds up to 77mbps with a guaranteed minimum of 41mbps and upload speeds of 18mbps. The service advertises that 64 devices can connect to the internet without compromising speed. The upload speed means a two hour Council meeting would upload to YouTube in half an hour. The price would be £28.40/mnth. No additional cabling is needed.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee resolved to recommend the upgraded BT fibre broadband to Council for adoption.

- iii. Members considered options for recording in-person Council meetings for purposes of continuing to upload to YouTube once meetings are held in person again. The Deputy Clerk streamed some videos he had shot of the meeting room with his phone mounted on a tripod. Committee members thought that the videos were of a good quality. Members considered the possibility of including extra microphones to the set-up.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee resolved that the Deputy Clerk would trial a meeting set-up using his phone to record the whole meeting with other members helping out.

The meeting closed at 7pm

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Chairman