**Barnoldswick Town Council**

**The Civic Hall, Station Road, Barnoldswick, BB18 5NA**

**Tel 01282 788090**

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 18th March 2020 at The Civic Hall, Barnoldswick

**Cllr Tom Whipp, Chairman**

Councillors: Chris Church, David Whipp, Mike Whittingham, Emma West, Ken Hartley & Mike Pearce

**19/105 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors: Lindsay Gaskell, Marjorie Adams, Jodie Hoyle, Jayne Mills, John Rose Parker and Kirsty Rose Parker

**19/106 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**19/107 Open Forum**

No members of the public present

**19/108 To discuss and agree the Council response to the current Covid-19 outbreak in the UK**

**Public Toilets –** to remain open in order for people to have the facility to wash their hands when they are out. To implement more frequent cleaning.

**Resolved**: Keep open and increase cleaning

**Market –** to continue to operate as long as the shops stay open

**Resolved:** Market to continue until shops close

**Dispensation for Councillors**

**Resolved:** In the event that the Council cannot meet dispensation will be given to Councillors who then break the 6 month rule. To be reviewed in 12 months time if the pandemic is not over.

**Business Continuity**

**Resolved:** In respect of Financial Regulations it is accepted that in these unprecendented circumstances, there may be insufficient suppliers to obtain 3 or more quotations for a specific transaction. Therefore, provided that at least 3 suppliers have been approached to quote, an order may be place on best value terms available at the time without the requirement for 3 or more responses.

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the Council in reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. This will be carried out where possible by consultation with members by electronic means or telephone. The Clerk will further consult with the Chairman for guidance as necessary. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the Council after the council meeting in which the delegation was put in place.

Cllr Tom Whipp was appointed as acting deputy clerk in the event that the Clerk was unable to perform her duties. If this was to happen Cllr Emma West would become Chair of the Council.

To set up a virtual meeting facility.

To add 3 new members to the bank mandate – this is due to 2 Councillors being in a high risk category and 1 Councillor currently being in isolation.

Events in Parks – to cancel all planned events until further notice.

Council Events – All events cancelled until further notice.

**Support to Local People**

**Resolved**: To do what we can to support local vulnerable people. To vire £25000 from the events budget to and emergency fund.

**Civic Hall**

**Resolved:** To close to the public until further notice

**Approved as a correct record of the above meeting**

**Signed………………………………………………………**

**Date…………………………………………………………**

**Cllr Tom Whipp**

**The next meeting of the Full Council will be on the 13th May 2020 at 7pm at The Rainhall Centre**

**For further information please contact: Joanne Geldard, Town Clerk, The Civic Hall, Station Road, Barnoldswick, BB18 5NA**

**Tel 01282 788090 email:barnoldswicktowncouncil@gmail.com**