PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL Extraordinary Meeting of Council Held at The Pavilion At 6.30pm on Monday 23 March 2020

PRESENT

Cllr D Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr N Hignett, Cllr R Evans, Cllr P Bradbury, Cllr D Jones and Cllr P Heywood

IN ATTENDANCE: None **CLERK**: Debbie Marais

No members of the public were present.

246.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr A Hodges, Cllr S Lockwood, Cllr C Robinson, Cllr J Pritchard and Cllr N Lewis

247.19 DISPENSATIONS FOR ABSENCE – it was RESOLVED that for all future parish meetings, Under Section 85 LGA 1972, reasons for absence are approved for all Pontesbury Parish Councillors (Cllrs D Fletcher, J Pritchard, N Hignett, R Evans, D Gregory, P Heywood, A Hodges, C Robinson, C Sandells, R Martinali, N Lewis, S Lockwood, B Morris, D Jones and P Bradbury) for one year or until such time as the Government confirm that COVID-19 has been contained and that it is safe to hold public meetings.

248.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - None

249.19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS - None

250.19 COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION – In view of developments relating to COVID-19 the National Association of Local Councils have recommended that local councils consider what actions might help mitigate any risks to the council including;

- Reviewing its Scheme of Delegation to ensure it is fit for purpose and would
 ensure minimal disruption to the work of the Council if Councillors are not able
 to attend meetings and committees. Certain decisions may be delegated to the
 Clerk/RFO (Locum Clerk/RFO), in consultation with the Chairman and ViceChairman, as a contingency plan in case council meetings are postponed due to
 the coronavirus
- Reviewing critical functions or services and consider how these would continue in the case of staff absence
- Signposting local residents with queries about coronavirus, to information from Government

It was **NOTED** that it is lawful for the Clerk to spend against specific items in the parish council budget headings that have been identified in the budget when the precept is set. Any such payments will be reported the council at the next ordinary meeting.

It was proposed by Clir R Evans and seconded by Clir D Fletcher and **RESOLVED to APPROVE THE FOLLOWING**;

i)provision of delegated powers to the Clerk to spend up to a limited amount £2000 and to authorise urgent work when unforeseen circumstances occur, in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair and both Shropshire Councillors.

ii)provision of delegated powers to the Clerk (in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair and both Shropshire Councillors) to take decisions necessary for the running of the parish council in these exceptional circumstances.

iii)delegated powers to Clerk to respond to planning applications (councillors are still able to submit their own personal comments as residents) in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee

iv)cancellation of all future council meetings unless the Clerk deems it safe to hold a public meeting.

v)to agree to receive and act upon Government advice (or ruling) in relation to the holding of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council scheduled to meet on 11 May 2020 (noting such meetings must be held in May), thereby giving delegated power to the Clerk to make necessary re-arrangements for these meetings in consultation with the Chair.

vi) to agree to receive and act upon Government advice (or ruling) in relation to the the submission of the AGAR for 2019-20, thereby giving delegated power to the Clerk to make necessary re-arrangements for completion and signing of the AGAR, in consultation with the Chair and following the guidance of NALC.

vii)postponement of the opening of The Pavilion on 6 April 2020 until such time as advised by Government to proceed with public meetings.

251.19	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEE	ETING –
Clerk to advise		
The meeting ended at 6.35pm		
Signed		Date
Chair		