**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT DUSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7PM**

CHAIRMAN: Councillor J Caswell, in the Chair

PRESENT: M Pepper, K Clarke, M Golby, P Enright-King, D Huffadine – Smith, L Reed, S Patel, M Golby

IN ATTENDANCE: Justin Gleich – Deputy Parish Clerk, Nina L. Villa – Assistant Parish Clerk

**44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ingram and Anderson

**45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

 There were no Declarations of Interest

**46. MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were **approved** and the Chairman authorised to sign the same

**47. PUBLIC SESSION**

Representatives from the Royal British Legion attended the meeting to express their thanks to the Parish Council for the work undertaken on the war memorial.

Two members of the public address the Parish Council regarding the proposals for the future of the library. The Chairman and Cllr Golby confirmed that whilst no decision had been reached yet, they were of the opinion that the Parish Council had the resources to take on the running of the library and this was currently being investigated. It was confirmed that no active discussions are underway regarding the library at St James.

**48. POLICE REPORT**

 There were no police in attendance but a written report had been provided.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

a) The Council note the report

**49. DUSTON LIBRARY**

Cllr Golby provided an update on the potential devolution of the library in Duston to the Parish Council. He advised that a Cabinet paper had been presented to the County Council and that discussions were underway.

Subject to detailed plans, the Council were generally supportive of the idea of taking the library on and felt there was scope to expand some of its services. Cllr Golby confirmed that there were no discussions currently underway about the Parish Council getting involved with the management of St James’ Library.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council approve, in principal, the devolution of the Library from the County Council to the Parish Council

**50. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Following the resignation of Cllr Huffadine-Smith, two vacancies for appointment to outside bodies were considered by the Council.

There was some discussion about the boundaries of the Poors Close Allotment Charity and the Clerk was asked to investigate.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council approve the appointment of Cllr J Caswell to the Poors Close Allotment Charity; and
2. The Council decline the opportunity to appoint a representative to Duston Village Hall Institute Charity but instead ask for an annual report to be presented to Council

**51. COUNCILLOR EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

The Council received a verbal report about the proposal to create Duston Parish Council email accounts for Councillors to better comply with Data Protection rules and prevent Freedom of Information Requests being directed at personal email accounts.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council approve the proposal

**52. IN BLOOM 2018**

The Council received a brief update on the arrangements for ‘In Bloom’ in 2018.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council note the report

**53. CASUAL VACANCY**

 It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council noted that a casual vacancy had arisen following the resignation of Cllr R Lawrence
2. The Council wish to place on record its thanks to Cllr Lawrence for his service to the Council and community in Duston

**54. FINANCE**

The Council received a brief report on the current and previous years’ venue hire figures. It was pleased to note that there was a significant increase in venue hire income.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council note the report

**55. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

 It was **RESOLVED** that:

In view of the confidential nature of the following item, which relates to the business matters of other individuals and organisation, the public shall be excluded while the following item is discussed. This is in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended by the Local Government Act 1972.

Mr Justin Gleich left the room.

**56. STAFFING UPDATE**

The Assistant Clerk provided members will an update on several staffing matters and the interim actions taken to ensure that, insofar as is possible, Council business proceeds uninterrupted.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council approve the recommendation to promote the Deputy Clerk to Parish Clerk on **LC3 43 – 47 (£38,237 - £41, 967)**
2. The Council note the decision to appoint an Assistant Clerk on a part-time, fixed term contract until April 2018

Chairman’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_