

**Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of Allonby Parish Council held on
Tuesday 28th July 2020 via Zoom.**

Attendance: Mr R Hart (Chair), Mr A Barnard, Mr A Jones, Mrs P Jones, Mr G Browes, Mr J Hanley, Mrs N Wingfield

Members of the public: Ms Donna Pim, Ms Karen Yarney.

Clerk: Mrs M Walker

Apologies for absence: Mr John Kendall, Councillor Tony Markley.

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on the 16th April 2019 – these were approved by full Council. The only error/omission being that Mr A Jones had been missed off the attendance record.

Chairman's report for the year – The Chairman noted the retirement of Mrs Anne Bradley in November 2019 after 30 years' service as Clerk. He felt that Mrs Walker was a very competent replacement. The Bucket swing had been purchased for the playground as a new piece of equipment and it had been well received by the children. The re-decoration of the toilet block was another notable achievement for the year, which was soon to be re-opened in a limited capacity. Mr Hart reminded Councillors that in 2021 the Council would be taking over the liability of paying for foot lighting which would be in the region of £1,700.00 per year. This may mean that we have to increase our precept or find other savings in the budget.

Financial Report – this had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Hart reported that we had run the year at a substantial loss mainly due to costs of play equipment and associated costs in repairs. This emphasised the problems with the budget moving forward into a new financial year.

Mr Hanley asked what the heavy costs regarding the website were for. The Chair reported that the website costs included maintenance, backing up on to a server etc. Mr Hanley felt that we were paying too much and that we should perhaps get a detailed spec from our current provider as to what we were actually paying for and then go out to tender. Mr Browes reported that the cost could have been potentially higher had he not been supporting the website by putting information himself onto the site. It was agreed that this was something that could be looked at to potentially save some money.

Mrs Wingfield asked what the establishment expenses included. Mr Hart reported that this heading included electricity, gas, insurance and other items. Mrs Walker informed the meeting that the Auditor had mentioned it was fine to change and include other budget headings for ease of reading, and this would be incorporated into the next budget spreadsheet.

Questions to Council – there were none other than that of grass cutting which was included in the agenda for the full Council Meeting.

The Chairman drew the meeting to a close at 7.45p.m.