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## **COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a virtual Extraordinary Council meeting held at 6.00pm on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

Under Regulations made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the meeting was held virtually. Members of the public were able to view the virtual meeting via the District Council's website at [www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk) or via our YouTube channel.

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Richard Fitzherbert - In the Chair

Councillors: Jacqueline Allison, Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Richard Bright, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Paul Cruise, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Peter O'Brien, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Claire Raw, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate and Customer Services), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources) and Angela Gratton (Democratic Services Officer).

The meeting was recorded and broadcast live on YouTube.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Richard Bright, Elisa McDonagh Joyce Pawley and Colin Swindell.

#### **239/20 - PUBLIC PARTICIPTION**

In line with the Council's current procedure for direct public participation, the following statements and question were submitted in writing and were read out at the virtual meeting:

#### **STATEMENT from Dr Mike Pedler, Resident re Item 4: MOTION – Test and Trace Support Payment scheme**

*I understand that you will soon be discussing whether or not to review the DDDC's approach to the above payments, especially regarding the eligibility criteria.*

*I further understand that there is a discretionary element to the scheme, whereby local Councils set the rules for eligibility, and that Derbyshire Dales rules have only allowed 1 payment to be made since September 2020, the lowest number in England.*

*Given that only a minority of people asked to self-isolate are so doing, it seems perverse to create difficulties for working people to obtain these £500 payments from the Government. Please support an urgent review of your criteria and generally do everything you can to help people support the Covid 19 isolation rules so that we all feel safer and freer as soon as possible.*

**RESPONSE:**

Thank you for your statement. The issue of the Test and Trace support payments is the subject of a motion to be debated later on this agenda. I can't pre-empt the outcome of that debate, but I'm sure Members will take into consideration the points raised.

**STATEMENT from Patricia Rock, Resident re Item 4: MOTION – Test and Trace Support Payment scheme**

*To whom it may concern*

*How dare you put obstacles in the way of people needing to claim the five hundred pounds to enable them to self-isolate.*

*These are working people, usually care staff, with no employer sick pay. They are on the front line, usually zero hour contracts.*

*You are public servants, you serve us.*

**RESPONSE:**

Thank you for your statement. The issue of the Test and Trace support payments is the subject of a motion to be debated later on this agenda. . I can't pre-empt the outcome of that debate, but I'm sure Members will take into consideration the points raised.

**240/20 - INTERESTS**

None

**241/20 – THE GOVERNMENT'S TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENT SCHEME**

Council debated the following Motion, submitted by Councillors: Jacqueline Allison, Martin Burfoot, Paul Cruise, David Hughes, Peter O'Brian, Mike Ratcliffe in accordance with Rule of Procedure 7.

*“The Government’s Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, introduced in September 2020, is to be extended until 31 March 2021; as at 14 January 2021, 310 applications for the £500 payment had been made to the Council, of which just 37 were approved. Under the discretionary element of this scheme, the Council has established its own local eligibility criteria. In the light of the fact that only 1 discretionary application had been approved during the period 28 September 2020 to 14 January 2021 it is proposed that:*

*The Council undertake an urgent and rapid review of its local eligibility criteria for the discretionary element of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme”.*

Councillor Paul Cruise explained to Members the current criteria for the discretionary scheme as set out below and thanked the Director of Resources and the Benefits Manager for their comprehensive Members' briefing paper.

The current discretionary scheme criteria is:

- Those who have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive; and
- Those who are not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support allowance, income-based Jobseeker's allowance, Income support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and
- Those who are on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work at home while they are self-isolating;
- The Council currently has set the following additional criteria, in determining eligibility for the discretionary scheme:
  - Applicants must be in receipt of Council Tax Support; or
  - Have been in receipt of Council Tax Support or any of the Test and Trace Support Scheme qualifying benefits within the previous two calendar months of the date of isolation; or
  - Have made a claim for Council Tax Support or any of the Test and Trace Support Scheme qualifying benefits prior to the date of isolation but are still awaiting the outcome.

The proposed motion / amendment to the scheme would be as follows:

1. That the criteria for the Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme be amended with effect from 5 February 2021 to remove the additional criteria relating to Council Tax Support;
2. That approval be given to a supplementary revenue budget for 2020/21 of £10,000, financed from the General Reserve, to be used to supplement government funding for the discretionary scheme, if required;
3. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Resources to increase the revenue budget for 2020/21 by a further top-up of up to £5,000 if this is considered necessary before 31 March 2021.
4. That payments from the Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme will cease when the government funding and the additional Council funding set out in this recommendation is exhausted, unless otherwise determined by the Council.
5. That Members be provided with weekly reports to show the number of payments and total spending to date on the main and discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Schemes.
6. That information on the Council's website and on other publicity material relating to the Test and Trace Support Payment schemes is amended to reflect the new criteria, and to encourage take up by residents who may suffer financial hardship when asked by the NHS to self-isolate.

Councillor Chapman proposed that every Councillor forgo their February allowance to increase the monies available.

All Councillors supported this and Councillor Fitzherbert proposed that options be pursued outside the meeting on an opt-in basis. Councillor Chapman approved in principle.

**Councillor Flitter left the meeting at 6.22pm during consideration of this item.**

Councillor Cruised summed up the motion and

It was moved by Councillor Paul Cruise, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the criteria for the Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme be amended with effect from 5 February 2021 to remove the additional criteria relating to Council Tax Support;
2. That approval be given to a supplementary revenue budget for 2020/21 of £10,000, financed from the General Reserve, to be used to supplement government funding for the discretionary scheme, if required;
3. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Resources to increase the revenue budget for 2020/21 by a further top-up of up to £5,000 if this is considered necessary before 31 March 2021.
4. That payments from the Discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme will cease when the government funding and the additional Council funding set out in this recommendation is exhausted, unless otherwise determined by the Council.
5. That Members be provided with weekly reports to show the number of payments and total spending to date on the main and discretionary Test and Trace Support Payment Schemes.
6. That information on the Council's website and on other publicity material relating to the Test and Trace Support Payment schemes is amended to reflect the new criteria, and to encourage take up by residents who may suffer financial hardship when asked by the NHS to self-isolate

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED

## **242/20 – DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY – TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS TO WINSTER PARISH COUNCIL**

Council were asked to approve the delegation of authority to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services to make temporary appointments to Winster Parish Council, which was inquorate and unable to act.

The Director of Corporate and Customer Services gave a brief introduction to the report stating that this matter is urgent on the basis that Winster Parish Council was unable to act and had business that it was required to transact before elections could be held to fill vacancies on the council.

It was noted that in order for a Town and Parish Council to operate they had to be quorate but there were occasions where, due to resignations or a lack of applications for vacancies at election, a town or parish council was not able to operate for this reason.

Section 91(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that the principal authority, in this case the District Council, could make an order to appoint to the town or parish council until such time as the vacancies on the council have been filled by election.

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

**RESOLVED** That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services to make the necessary order to appoint temporary Parish Councillors to Winster Parish Council until such time as an election or co-option can be held and those elected or co-opted have taken up office.

<b>Voting</b>	In favour	30
	Against	0
	Abstain	4

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

#### **243/20 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

It was moved by Councillor Alasdair Sutton, seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) That the common seal of the Council be affixed to those documents, if any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to officers since the last meeting of the Council.

**MEETING CLOSED 6:36PM**

**CHAIRMAN**