**WHITMORE PARISH COUNCIL**

# **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Whitmore Parish Council**

# **held on 10 July 2020 at 7.30pm**

## Present

Councillor (Chairman) Ian Webb, Councillors Harris, Davies, Corbett, Rogerson, and Whiting

## 93/07/2020 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Perry and Bryan

## 94/07/2020 Discuss the reopening of the playground

Council reviewed the official advice received concerning whether or not to decide to re-open the Play and Exercise areas on the Village Hall Playing Field:
1) Government Guidance: Extensive and Council considers to be well beyond our very limited capability.
2) SPCA: councils are allowed to open these facilities but are not obliged to do so.
3) our insurer Zurich: to open the facilities WPC needs to be able to demonstrate that we have adhered to the Government’s advice and recommendations and should not rely on signage alone to dissolve us of our legal duty to provide a safe play space.

Council recognised the community pressure for the equipment to be reopened, and that many other local authorities have opened theirs, but agreed by majority vote (5  agree + 1 abstention[2 absentees]) that our decision to maintain closure must stand, and will be reviewed, as announced, at our Regular Meeting on August 5th. In the meantime, we will discuss the position with other local authorities, carry out a new risk assessment and hope that NALC manages to obtain a clearer and more practical “guidance” from the Government.

Council also noted its serious disappointment that some members of the community are systematically tearing down the taping that we have put up to prevent use of the play equipment. **Those involved need to recognise that anyone using the equipment while it remains officially closed does so entirely at their own risk, (not just for COVID-19 issues).**

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed ………………………………………….

CHAIR

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