**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 19:00 at ABN.**

Present: Cllrs Healy, Falkingham, Wormald and Hynes.

The meeting was opened by the Chair and assisted by the clerk.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

OPEN FORUM

There were no comments made as no members of the public were in attendance.

Meeting started at 19:00

2023.77 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Hemesley had given his apologies to the clerk prior to the meeting.

2023.78 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

2023.79 Minutes from Previous Meeting

It was agreed that these were a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Healy.

2023.80 Matters Arising

**Painting of bus shelter**

Cllr Hynes has ordered and received the paint. ACTION: Cllr Hynes to paint shelter.

**BT telephone box**

ACTION: Cllr Falkingham to finish painting and instruct clerk when the signs need ordering.

**Painting of the beacon**

Cllr Falkingham has now got the paint. ACTION: Cllr Wormald to start painting.

**Repairs to bench**

Cllr Falkingham reported that the wood had been ordered and the bench will be repaired upon receipt of materials.

2023.81 Accounts

The clerk had circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting, the bank reconciliation, statements, schedule of payments and invoices.

Samantha O’Connor – (clerk salary for May)

Samantha O’Connor - £24 (work from home allowance for May)

HMRC - £6.80 (clerk PAYE for May)

Chapel Interiors - £62.94 (paint for bus shelter)

Cyan - £510 (commemorative bench – grant funds used)

Emma Fletcher -£185 (internal audit)

Cllrs Hynes and Healy signed the invoices and schedule of payments.

The bank statement and accounts spreadsheets were signed by Cllr Falkingham.

Cllr Healy handed the clerk one of the receipts for the plants installed in the new planters. ACTION: Clerk to pay the amount and bring receipt to the next meeting for signing off.

2023.82 Ward Cllr Report

No updates as no Ward Cllr present.

2023.83 Internal Audit Report

The clerk had sent the report to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The report highlighted no areas of concern and stated that the PC have good financial controls in place. A copy of the report has been published on the PC website.

2023.84 Refuse Bins on Mere Grange

A resident has reported refuse bins being left out and blocking footpaths. Also reported was the issue with inconsiderate parking. After a brief discussion it was agreed that there have been no issues with parking of late. ACTION: Cllr Hynes to speak to the few residents who are leaving their bins out. ACTION: Clerk to respond to complainant.

2023.85 Social Media

Cllr Hemesley had asked that as the Chair, Cllr Healy now manages this. ACTION: Cllr Healy to liaise with Cllr Hemesley and obtain passwords.

2023.86 Financial Regulations Review

The clerk confirmed that that PC are using the most up-to-date model document. All happy for this to be republished. ACTION: Clerk to republish on website.

2023.87 Community Issues

Cllr Wormald stated that the grass needs a cut again. A discussion was held, and it was agreed that the current schedule isn’t working as ERYC are leaving the grass too long before each cut. ACTION: Clerk to speak to ERYC.

2023.88 Correspondence

The clerk received an email from a resident concerned about the amount of precept requested. The clerk has since responded explaining that the PC precept amount had previously remained the same for eight years even though the PC expenditure is higher than the precept. The PC have previously used reserves to bridge the gap, but this is no longer feasible as reserves are depleting.

The clerk also noted that given the tax base, a band D charge would have risen, even if the precept amount had remained the same as for 2022/23.

The clerk and Cllrs confirmed that no other resident had contacted the PC regarding the precept.

A parishioner had emailed the clerk regarding the loud crow scarer that is in operation. It is thought to come from one of the surrounding farmers’ fields, but an exact location has not been determined. As this is for crop protection, there is no recourse. The clerk has already responded to the resident.

2023.89 Date of Next Meeting

Due to Cllr availability, the next meeting will be at 7pm on 26th July at ABN.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:35 hrs.

Signed as a true and correct record \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_