

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held from 7.00pm on 20 May 2024 in the village hall. (A signed notice of the meeting and agenda had been displayed on the two village notice boards from 13 May and an email summons of attendance had been issued to all Councillors on the same day. A copy of the notice and agenda had been entered on the Parish Council website from 13 May.)

PRESENT: Councillors: Doug Brown (DB) (Chairman), Ian Durham (ID) and Emlyn Lilly (EL)
Parish Clerk: Maurice Cole (MC)
Public: District Councillor Alison Eastwood (to 2024/63)

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2024/25: 2024/59: It was resolved that DB would be Chairman of the Council for 2024/25 (proposed EL, seconded ID). DB signed the formal acceptance of office. No vice-chairman was appointed.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FOR ABSENCE: 2024/60: John Clouston (JC) and Philip Tustian (PT)

COUNCILLORS' NON-STATUTORY DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSURE OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO THE AGENDA NOT COVERED BY DISPENSATION: 2024/61: None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 2024/62: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March (draft distributed earlier) were confirmed as correct and the Chairman was authorised to sign approval.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2024/63: District Councillor Alison Eastwood (AE) summarised various issues outside of the parish including development concerns on the A43 at Towcester, Northampton museums and arts activities, HGV problems on the B4525 and her representations with HS2, primarily relating to villages north of the railway construction. Matters directly relevant to the parish included the availability of welfare integrated care for villagers in need and the success of new machinery for the repair of potholes; it was important to report material potholes on the Fix My Street website. Discussion arose regarding the problem of dog waste; AE offered make further enquiries regarding any district council assistance on this matter. (The Clerk would write to AE to follow this up.) Concern was expressed about signage on road closures and AE emphasised that she was “here for you” if assistance was required on this or other matters. DB thanked AE for her attendance at the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA: 2024/64: None.

FINANCE

2024/65: **CASH BOOK:** The cashbook was produced to the chairman showing a current balance of £8,517.64 including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund £3,707.19 (2019/12), bank interest received on 31 March, £42.29 and the first half-year precept receipt for 2024/25 of £1,800. The bank statements to 30 April were produced to the Chairman showing a combined balance of £9,103.13 being in direct agreement with the cash book.

2024/66: **BANK PAYMENTS:** The following recurring payments had been paid since the last meeting: quarterly bank charges to 31 March 2024 - £18.00, quarterly Npower electricity - £135.06, M.G. Cole (the Clerk), reimbursement of computer anti-virus protection - £64.99, NCALC annual subscription - £149.33 and AJ Gallaher annual insurance premium - £585.49.

2024/67: **VAT:** The Clerk had made a VAT repayment claim totalling £110.98 for the year ended 31 March 2024 including £30.76 in respect of the CIL Fund. This had been received on 8 April.

2024/68: **INTERNAL AUDIT:** The annual internal audit return undertaken by Geraint Gregory on 30 April 2024 was considered and accepted. It was noted that no matters had arisen for consideration. The meeting expressed thanks for Geraint Gregory’s review.

2024/69: **EXEMPTION FROM LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW 2023/24:** In view of the Parish Council not exceeding the exemption criteria it was agreed that a Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review should be completed and sent to the external auditor. The certificate was duly signed.

2023/70: COUNCIL'S DETAILED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/24: The Clerk had distributed the detailed financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 and a copy of the asset register prior to the meeting. It was noted that the General Account excess of income over expenditure was £445 resulting in a cash reserve of £3,865 on the General Account at 31 March 2024. The reserve was considered to be adequate being circa the annual precept, as a policy of the Council. The supporting Register of Fixed Assets at 31 March 2024 was produced. The financial statements were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign approval.

2024/71: GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2023/24, SECTIONS 1 & 2:

2024/71a: It was resolved to approve the answers to the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) - all positive answers, apart from item 9 which was not applicable. The return was duly signed.

2024/71b: It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for the year (Section 2) signed by MC. The supporting schedule explaining variances had been distributed to Councillors. The return was duly signed by DB.

2025/72: PUBLIC RIGHTS NOTICE: The Clerk had distributed the draft prior to the meeting. The period for the exercise of public rights would be between 3 June and 12 July 2024. The notice would be displayed on the Parish Council website and notice board.

2025/73: MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS: The national model regulations had recently been updated and a copy had been supplied to Councillors. No alterations to the existing Standing Orders were deemed necessary.

UTILITIES ETC: 2024/74: None.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2024/75: None.

HS2 UPDATE: 2024/76: None.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF POLICE LIASON OFFICER: 2024/77: The Clerk agreed to continue with this role for 2024/25.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 2024/78: 12 parishioners had attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April including four Parish Councillors. Discussion regarding the dog waste problem (2024/57) was the only matter to be brought forward to the parish council. It was agreed to defer further discussion on this topic to the July meeting when there would probably be greater councillor attendance and more information available.

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE AND A PROPOSAL TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CHARITY 'DO IT FOR DEFIB': 2024/79: David Wright had advised that the Brackley Charity 'Do It For Defib' charity had contacted him. The battery provided in 2021 was due for renewal. The cost would be circa £340 but the charity would kindly supply this without charge.

In accordance with the agenda item, DB proposed a donation of £150 should be made to the charity, as a Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 payment, in recognition of its support (ID seconded the proposal). This was unanimously agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CONSEQUENCE:

2024/80a: VILLAGE HALL FINANCIAL REPORT: The meeting acknowledged the receipt of the village hall trustees' 2023 financial report.

2024/80b: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STREET WATCH SCHEME: Correspondence had been received regarding the scheme. No action was proposed as the scheme was deemed more appropriate for larger communities and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was operating in the village.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK: 2024/81: None.

NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 2024/82: The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for Monday 24 June 2024 at 7.00pm, in the village hall.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.05pm