

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**URC CHAPEL, CHAPEL ROAD, WATTISFIELD**  
**MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2022**  
**7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Geoff Wade (Chairman) (GW)  
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)  
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)  
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)  
Councillor Ian Dobson (ID)  
Councillor Michael Elflain (ME)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)  
County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF)

No public present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

**22/001 PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**22/002 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- a) JF's report had been previously circulated and this was noted. There was discussion about the upgrading of street lights by SCC, the need to increase the height along Millers Way and the proposed development at Shepherds Grove, Stanton.
- b) RM had previously circulated his report and this was noted.

**22/003 APOLOGIES**

None – all present.

**22/004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**22/005 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**22/006 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021 had been previously circulated.

**It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.**

**22/007 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

It was reported that arrangements for online banking were currently on hold.

**22/008 VILLAGE HALL**

- a) Draft minutes of the meetings of the village hall working group held on 30 November 2021 and 14 December 2021 had been previously circulated and were noted. There was conversation about the work of the group, the progress so far and the way forward.

- b) A request for a grant of £750 to Wattisfield Community Centre and Recreation Ground for repairs to the roof was considered. It was noted that there were no copies of the quotations and lack of clarity around the current financial situation.  
**It was resolved in principle to make available the grant subject to having clarity around the work involved, site of quotations and details of the current financial situation to confirm that the grant was appropriate.**

#### 22/009 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments were considered for approval:  
£100.00 to Citizens Advice Bureau – donation  
£4,536.00 to Danarbor Ltd – tree work  
£128.19 to C Garman – Clerk’s expenses October to December 2021  
**It was resolved to approve these payments.**
- b) A donation of £25.00 to the Royal British Legion was considered.  
**It was resolved that a donation was not appropriate at the moment.**
- c) The draft budget for 2022/2023 had been previously circulated. There was discussion around the need to keep any increase to the precept to a minimum and to still continue the business-as-usual expenditure and to have funds to be able to improve and develop facilities. The proposed budget had a deficit of £7,022 including the proposed allocations to reserves and this deficit can be if needed covered by reducing provisions to various reserves and or calling upon existing reserves.  
**It was resolved to approve the presented budget for 2022/2023 and to request a precept from MSDC of £10,638.**
- d) It was reported that there was no request for an election in respect of the vacancy for a parish councillor and that co-option was now allowed.  
**It was resolved to seek applicants with an article in the Wattisfield Warbler.**

#### 22/010 HIGHWAYS, TREES, CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

- a) It was reported that there was a delay in finishing the church clock restoration as a part was not satisfactory and had to be re-made.
- b) The recent data from the speed indicative device was reviewed.
- c) The two quotations for the regular maintenance of the cemetery and Cemetery Way were considered.  
**It resolved to accept the quotation from W Prentice in the sum of £1,752.00.**
- d) The situation with various hedges were discussed and SCC will be chased in respect of concerns at Walsham Road (near to Meadowside), A143 (near to junction with Hinderclay Road) and Millers Way.
- e) Concerns with parking in the passing place on Pottery Hill and on the pavement in the close part of Chapel Road were discussed.  
**It resolved as a first step to encourage appropriate parking of vehicles with an article in the Wattisfield Warbler.**

#### 22/011 PLANNING MATTERS

There were updates in respect of the various planning enforcement matters.

#### 22/012 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted.

#### 22/013 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

It was noted that repairs were needed to various footpath signs and this will be reported to SCC Rights of Way.

22/014 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 21 February 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
20 January 2022