

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
URC CHAPEL, CHAPEL ROAD, WATTISFIELD
MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2022
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Geoff Wade (Chairman) (GW)
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

No public present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

22/015 PUBLIC FORUM

None.

22/016 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- a) JF's report had been previously circulated and this was noted.
- b) RM had previously circulated his report and this was noted. RM spoke about no planned increase in the MSDC part of the council tax and the provision of affordable housing in the area.

22/017 APOLOGIES

Councillor Michael Elflain (ME) and Councillor Ian Dobson (ID) and the reasons were accepted. Also, County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF) had offered her apologies.

22/018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22/019 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

22/020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022 had been previously circulated.

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

22/021 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

22/022 VILLAGE HALL

The draft minutes of the meeting of the village hall working group held on 18 January 2022 had been previously circulated and were noted. There was discussion about the work of the group and the need for full surveys to be able to decide on the best way forward. In principle, it was agreed that the Parish Council should look to fund the cost of these surveys. CG is to arrange for fee quotes to be presented to the next meeting for consideration.

22/023 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments were considered for approval:
£930.00 to W Prentice – village maintenance work
£3,733.00 to Haward Horological Ltd – church clock restoration
£6.00 to M Elflain – storage box for SID equipment.
It was resolved to approve these payments.
- b) The income and expenditure against budget for year to 31 December 2021 and the bank reconciliation with bank statement were reviewed.
It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statement.
- c) The auditor for the internal audit for 2021/2022 was considered.
It was resolved to appoint Malcom Saunders.
- d) There was an update in respect of applications for the vacancy for a councillor. It was noted that applications were still open and that a decision would be made at the March meeting.

22/024 HIGHWAYS, TREES, CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

- a) It was noted that the church clock was in full working order and the project was now complete. It was agreed that there needed to be a keeper of the clock, that is someone who would make minor adjustments to timings etc. A volunteer will be sought.
- b) The recent data from the speed indicative device was reviewed. It was thought that the trends were improving slightly. The situation with the recent vandalism was noted and that SCC should complete repairs to the posts shortly.
- c) The situation with various overgrown hedges were discussed and it was noted that there have been some improvements.
- d) The funding of the street lighting improvements and the options were discussed. CG is to get an update on the costs and the possibility of a loan.
- e) Concerns with parking in the passing place on Pottery Hill, Wattisfield were reviewed and no further action was needed at the moment.
- f) It was agreed to proceed with the annual village litter pick on Sunday 20 March 2022 at 10.00 am.
- g) It was noted a tree had fallen across the path in the churchyard. William Prentice will be asked to undertake clearance.
- h) It was noted that water was backing up in The Grundle as the result of part blockage.

22/025 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) There was discussion on the preliminary meeting with Janic in respect of the proposed development at Shepherds Grove, Stanton.
- b) There were no updates in respect of planning enforcements issues.

22/026 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted.

22/027 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There was discussion on the arrangements for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. CG was asked to contact Martyn Dove for an update.

CG left the room.

22/028 EMPLOYMENT MATTER

Confidential.

CG returned.

22/029 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
28 February 2022