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| Ashleworth Parish Council  Clerk: Nicky Hill  Orchard Cottage  Hill Farm Lane  Tirley  GL194EZ  **Tel**: 01452 781028 **Email**:ashleworthpc@gmail.com | small |

**Minutes of the Meeting of 10th January 2023**

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| **Councillors Present** | **In attendance** |
| Tony Eardley (TE) Chairman | Clerk: Nicky Hill (NH) |
| Paul Finch (PF) Vice Chairman | Members of the public x 3 |
| Aly Shayle (AS) |  |
| James Joyce (JJ) |  |
| Grant Elliott (GE) |  |
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| 084/0123 | **TE** welcomed everyone to the meeting.  2 members of the WI bought in artwork designs for the proposed Information Board. Suggested points of interest were based on how other Parishes had displayed. The design size is 3ft x 2ft and suggested location is next to the bus stop at the end of the already laid slabs. Total costs at the moment are £1,545.00, which does not include installation. The councilors agreed on the design and would like to see final design. It was also agreed that a joint plaque between the WI and APC should be displayed and it was suggested as a combined jubilee and coronation project.  APC contribution will be discussed in the meeting.  A member of the public commented on the untidiness of the bus shelter notice board.**GE** will measure board and see if it is feasible to replace.  There was also a comment on the state of the Nup End Lane and Nup End road signs. **NH** will report to Highways/TBC. |
| 085/0123 | **Apologies for absence.**  Apologies received from Councillor Jill Smith, Councillor Paul Mclain and Councillor Phil Awford. |
| 086/0123 | **Declaration of Interests.**  **TE** declared an interest minute 091/0123 as he lives on the Green. |
| 087/0123 | **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings 8th November 2022 and exchange of backed up/updated APC files USB.**  No amendments were necessary, and the minutes were agreed and signed. The Clerk exchanged the APC updated USB with the Chairman. |
| 088/0123 | **Matters arising /review of actions from the last meeting not on the agenda.**  **TE** discussed with councillors, the WI proposed notice board and artwork as per public question time of this meeting. It was agreed that APC would fund half the project with the WI funding the other half.  It was noted that the new dog waste bin had been installed, unfortunately, it has been installed in the wrong place and the Parish Council have received complaints that the bin is restricting a bridle way gate to be opened safely and is causing a serious safety hazard. **PF** confirmed that he had met with Ubico on site and discussed the exact what3word location and expressed that the bin must not interfere with anybody’s access to fields or the bridleway. **NH** will report to TBC.  **TE** wished to thank **GE** on behalf of the Parish Council for his efforts in restoring the millennium sign. It has been noted by members of the public that the sign is looking great and a much improved asset to that area. |
| 089/0123 | **Reports from invited speakers on relevant items**  **Cllr Paul Mclain sent the following report:**  Borough Councillor Report –  The introduction of the solar canopy at the TBC car park.  TBC has brought in a new housing and homelessness strategy.  Council tax discounts will apply as follows:  25% for unoccupied for 6 months  25% for those requiring major structural work for 12 months  Empty homes premium of an additional 100% for properties empty for between 2-5 years, 200% for between 5-10 years, 300% for at least ten years.  The TBC Budget has a projected Surplus of 200k overall for the current year. On the revenue side pay rises have been agreed with 2 of 3 unions, roughly 500k is needed, (TBC had budgeted 200k). However investment and related income is above anticipated levels and covers both the shortfall and allows a surplus as above.  Recruitment and retention - particularly within planning.  The MTFS including proposed council tax levels, treasury and capital management has just been agreed by the TBC executive.  Electric vehicle strategy.  Home for Ukraine Scheme.  The HFU team began revisiting guests and sponsors in early September 2022.    TBC’s Warm Spaces fund was launched in November.  TBC launched a Community Food Project Fund just before Christmas.  TBC flood emergency team report that they have contacted flood wardens across the borough. |
| 090/0123 | **Highways – update**  **TE** relayed email communication from Highways:   * “Regarding the school pitch, BT are continuing to be a tough organisation to get a hold. I have been supplied with a contact to which I have sent multiple emails to but very little action has taken place. I have emailed the Openreach engineer once again this morning.”      * “On a site visit last week, we observed some clear water ponding out of the verge. Severn Trent are aware of the issue and will be attending this location to test if it is their asset. We will also look to commission some CCTV here to see if we can better understand the issue.”   **TE** will request if APC can observe the CCTV footage. **TE** has also sent in photo evidence of flowing water that does not appear to be from the drain. He will also continue to communicate with Highways on all the previously reported issues. |
| 091/0123 | **Village green and track registration update**  **PF** is still awaiting updates from Land Registry and the solicitor, no further progress at the moment due to the Christmas break. |
| 092/0123 | **Playground Update**  **GE** reported that he has a site meeting next week with a company in order to obtain the 3rd quote for the Playground and will circulate findings. |
| 093/0123 | **Woodpeckers Lease.**  **NH** reported that a solicitor has been appointed to deal with the overseeing of the new Woodpeckers lease and that all relevant information had been circulated. APC will await further instruction. |
| 094/0123 | **Bank Signatories – update**  As previously discussed, the clerk is finding it increasingly difficult for companies to accept cheque’s and the 3 signatories (**TE, PF & GE**) are in the process of accessing online banking and payments. However, communication from the bank has been frustratingly slow and have failed to send out forms to 2 of the signatories, even though this has been repeatedly requested. **TE** will chase Virgin Money Bank. |
| 095/0123 | **Website Issues**  **NH** previously reported that the website was not working and that the webhost had been very difficult to get a conclusive or helpful answer. The previous volunteer website designer has kindly agreed to help. |
| 096/0123 | **Budget Review 2023/2024**  **NH** prepared and circulated the budget for 2023/2024 in view of the precept which is to be decided at this meeting. |
| 097/0123 | **Precept 2023/2024**  **NH** reported that the precept amount had to be submitted by the end of January and the precept had not been increased for at least nine years. It was agreed that the amount should now be increased to cover rising costs and still allowing enough reserves for important funding should the need arise. It was noted that TBC precept had risen by 11.7% and APC councillors agreed that a 10% rise would suffice in this instance. This would equate to less than £1.00 per annum, per household for the Parish Council Precept amount on Council Tax bills. |
| 098/0123 | **Finance:**   1. To approve accounts for payment: 2. Clerk wages for Nov/Dec - £187.68 x 2 chq numbers 000685, 000686– **Agreed** 3. TBC Dog waste bin and installation - £349.20 chq number 000687 - **Agreed**     b) To agree the bank reconciliation and cash book updated - **Circulated and Agreed**  c) To agree budget balances to pay - **Circulated and Agreed** |
| 099/0123 | To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 14th March 2023– **Agreed** |
|  | **Meeting closed at 8.25 pm** |