|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ashleworth Parish Council  Clerk: Nicky Hill  **Tel**: 07771 610027 **Email**:ashleworthpc@gmail.com | small |

**Minutes of the Meeting of 11th July 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Councillors Present** | **In attendance** |
| Tony Eardley (TE) | Clerk: Nicky Hill (NH) |
| Paul Finch (PF) Vice Chairman | Members of the public - None |
| Aly Shayle (AS) |  |
| Grant Elliott (GE) |  |
| Councillor Paul McLain (PM) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 135/0723 | **Welcome from the Chairman**  Please note that the council meeting will be preceded by ‘Public Question Time’  No members of the public were present. |
| 136/0723 | **Apologies for absence.**  Apologies received from Councillor Jill Smith & Councillor James Joyce |
| 137/0723 | **Declaration of Interests.**  TE declared an interest on minute 142/0723 as he lives on the Green. |
| 138/0723 | **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting 9th May 2023 and exchange of backed up/updated APC files USB.**  No amendments were necessary, and the minutes were agreed and signed. The Chairman and the Clerk exchanged the APC updated USB’s. |
| 139/0723 | **Matters arising /review of actions from the last meeting not on the agenda.**  **GE** reported that the 2 Nup End road signs had been replaced. |
| 140/0723 | **Reports from invited speakers on relevant items.**  **PM** reported on the following items:   * Borough staff changes * Housing 7-year plan under review * Fly tipping – positive results from placement of cameras resulting in convictions for offenders. * GCC Highways programme involving pothole repairs and re surfacing. * Longridge Lane funding for drainage issues. * Trees are available for planting – APC will enquire for Play area. * Grass cutting – visibility cuts now done. * Children in care – numbers increasing. * Adult Learning – apprenticeship schemes. * Unpaid carers – support services through GRCC.   For further information on any of the above, please contactCouncillor Paul McLain (PM) |
| 141/0723 | **Highways – update**  **TE** will enquire into the Longridge Lane funding for drainage, as per PM report.  School pitch work is ongoing. |
| 142/0723 | **Village green and track registration update**  **TE** had noted the potential conflict of interest with this item as he lives on the Green. **PF** chaired this item and **TE** did not participate.  **PF** has been advised to register the Greens in the first instance and to discuss village green track registration at later date, once registration is completed.  **PF, GE & AS** agreed to go ahead with the registration of the Greens in the name of APC at an approx. cost of £40. **PF** will action. |
| 143/0723 | **Playground Update**  **AS** reported that a site meeting had been arranged with one of the preferred contractors for the play area. The 3 quotes should be available for the next meeting.  **AS** will liaise with the tree surgeon (agreed quote from May meeting) for a start date. **GE** reported that one quote had been received for the fencing and two more will be obtained.  **TE** will advise parishioners of progress and update news via the WOSN. **TE** will also advise that there will be an amount of wood and chippings available to be collected once works completed by tree surgeon.  **TE** advised on funding suggestions through Enovert.co.uk. **GE & AS** will investigate. |
| 144/0723 | **S137 Church Grant.**  As discussed at the previous meeting, the PCC have requested S137 grant money for cemetery maintenance. It was agreed to postpone decision for contribution until receipts have been seen, as previously requested. This is to satisfy the requirements of APC annual audit. |
| 145/0723 | **Notice Board**  **NH** advised that the Licence for the erecting of the notice board had been obtained from TBC. As previously agreed, APC will contribute half of the costs with WI and **NH** is keeping a spreadsheet of costs so far from both parties and is as follows:  APC Paid £150 to TBC for the licence.  APC Paid £1047 to Shelley Signs for the Noticeboard  WI Paid £500 for artwork.  WI to pay for erection of Noticeboard.  Awaiting dates from WI to mark the occasion of the Notice board. |
| 146/0723 | **Audit Report**  **NH** circulated the audit report prior to this meeting. It was discussed and reviewed at this meeting and some of the findings highlighted. No actions required. |
| 147/0723 | **Declaration of exemption from limited assurance review and confirmation that APC has met with the exemption criteria**  **NH** explained that as per audit report, the declaration of exemption certificate had to be reviewed and minuted as well as being posted to the website for the transparency code to be adhered to.  For reference the criteria for claiming exemption are as follows:  • Total gross income and total gross expenditure below £25k; and  • no public interest report/statutory recommendation/advisory notice/judicial review/application to court re unlawful item of account issued by its external auditor in the prior year; and  • the relevant financial year is not one of the first three years of the authority’s existence, hence, if claiming exemption for 2022/23 that means the authority has been in existence since before 1 April 2015.  **Approved and signed by TE** |
| 148/0723 | **Approve and sign Annual Governance statement**  Each smaller authority is required by law:  • to prepare Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in the form required by proper practices using the relevant Annual Governance and Accountability Return forms  • to approve and publish the AGAR including the Accounting Statement  • to provide for the exercise of public rights, as described  and  • to publish the AGAR, including the signed external auditor report, by 30th June 2023  **Approved and signed by TE** |
| 149/0723 | **Approve and sign the Accounting Statement**  **Approved and signed by TE** |
| 150/0723 | **Finance:**   1. To approve accounts for payment:   1) Clerk wages for June/July - £187.68 x 2 chq numbers 000703 & 000704 – **Agreed**  2) TBC Licence (Noticeboard) - £150.00 chq number 000705 - **Agreed**  3) Shelly Signs Ltd (Noticeboard) - £1074.00 chq number 000706 **- Agreed**     1. To agree the bank reconciliation and cash book updated - Circulated and **Agreed** 2. To agree the budget balances to pay **–** Circulated and **Agreed** |
| 151/0723 | To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 12th September 2023– **Agreed** |
|  | **Meeting closed at 8.45pm** |