Minutes of the Council meeting held on:

**Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 6.30pm**

(note the meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams)

Present: Cllr. G. Quinnell (Chair), Cllr. G. Rothery, Cllr. A. Hart, Cllr. C. Maynard (County).

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Johnson, Cllr. L. Wheeler (unable to gain access) and Cllr. R. Mair (lambing).

1. **Disclosures of Interest**.

There were none.

1. **Reports from District and County Councillors.**

Cllr. Maynard reported that the Council Tax bills had been sent out and some concerns had been raised about the increase. It was noted that often Parishes percentages are high but the actual costs are not very significant.

County had had a heavy load for pothole repairs and a proper audit of blocked drains was to be carried out. He offered members of the Council to have a walk round with the Highways Steward to look at any problems within the Parish and congratulated Cllr. Quinnell for his efforts on Face Book. It was possible that since 2022 will be a significant year there may be a grant available from Rother which would fit in with the Council’s idea of creating a permanent memory of peoples’ recollections of the Pandemic.

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting.**

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2021.

1. **Traffic.**
2. **Traffic Calming.** Council members were pleased with the new road markings and hoped they would be effective.
3. **Potholes.** It was felt that there was no improvement on the pothole situation and residents should be encouraged to report pothole problems. There is a national reporting system at Fixmystreet.com. (Clerk’s note: The County website for reporting faults is: <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem>).
4. **Noise.** There were reports recently of noisy motorcycles, but it appeared that some of them were being stopped by the Police.
5. **Speeding.** No decision was made with regard to speed checks until traffic returns to its normal levels.
6. **Planning.**

**RR/2021/209/P The Old House, Church Lane.**

Council agreed to support approval.

1. **Finance.**
2. **Audit Report Actions.** The Clerk reported that a list of actions from the last Audit Report was published and being undertaken.
3. **Bank Statements.** The March bank statement has not been received and the Clerk agreed to circulate this to the Council once received. (Clerk’s Note – the statement date has been moved to the 1st of the month).
4. **Bank Reconciliation.** The Council resolved to accept the Bank Reconciliation. (Clerk’s note – the Bank Reconciliation as at the end of February will be circulated with the statement).
5. **Payment Schedule.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Net | VAT | Gross | Cheque | Notes. |
| Clerk | £756.32 | £28.42 | £784.74 | 708 | See note |
| Uniserve South East | £340.80 | £68.16 | £408.96 | 706 | Annual pmt Office 365 |
| ESALC/NALC | £118.08 | 0 | £118.08 | 709 | Subscription |

The Clerk’s Pay included the working from home allowance, and PAYE tax at BR rate which the Clerk undertakes to pay to HMRC. The Clerk has also placed a stop on cheque no. 666 for £170.50 payable to ESCC for the lighting, and personally paid this amount due by Internet Banking, as this had been outstanding since August 2020.

1. **Budget v. Spend.** The Clerk reported this was on target.
2. **AGAR.** It was noted that the AGAR has not yet been received but the Clerk will chase this if not received by the end of the month and deal with the Exemption Form soonest.
3. **Playground.**
   1. **Update on the Situation by the Chair.** Playground equipment is still awaiting repair and inspection and therefore remains closed. The requirement for a Playground was questioned and it was agreed that the village should be canvassed as to the need for a Playground and whether it was in the right place - because of the linear nature of the Parish the current location of the Playground is not easily accessible. The Council need to consider whether to refurbish the play equipment.
   2. **Consider Grants for Work.** Cllr. Maynard stated that he may be able to help with a new initiative and the Council need to consider the village’s requirements. The Council must also consider whether to provide benches for parents whilst children use the playground and repairs to the bench by the Church.
   3. **Consider Provision of Goal Posts.** The Council felt that this would require a high fence to avoid possible damage to cars parked in the vicinity and that this was not at present a viable proposition.
4. **Correspondence to the Clerk.**

The Clerk had received a letter from a member of the public regarding the name of ‘Dumb Womans Lane’. The Council felt that the historic nature of the Lane was important and that the Clerk should reply accordingly.

1. **To Consider WiFi for the Village Hall.**

It was suggested that the possibility of a mobile router be considered, and the Chairman agreed to investigate this. Cllr. Maynard said he would look into the situation regarding High-Speed Broadband.

1. **Items for inclusion in the next meeting Agenda.**

To investigate the possibility of raising funds to provide a defibrillator.

1. **Date of Next Meeting.**

19th May 2021 at 6.30pm.

(Clerk’s Note: It is anticipated that permission will be granted for the continuation of virtual meetings and if this is not forthcoming it will be necessary to hold an EGM to devolve responsibilities to the Clerk.)

The meeting was closed at 7.40pm.

……………………………………………………………

Signature of Chair.