Minutes of the Council meeting held on:

**Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 6.30pm**

(note the meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams)

(Clerk’s Note: This meeting is the Annual Council meeting moved forward to allow it to be held virtually before 7th May).

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

The members agreed that Cllr. Quinnell would continue as Chair.

1. **Apologies.**

There were none.

1. **Disclosures of Interest**.

There were none.

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

Councillors are now in the pre-Election period but are still working. Cllr. Quinnell raised the fact that a Highways lorry had damaged railings and we would prefer to have a more attractive barrier than Armco.

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

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March 2021.

1. **Traffic.**
2. **Traffic Calming.** It was suggested that a speeding survey be carried out over the late May Bank Holiday. The Clerk is requested to explore the possibility of using CIL funds to pay for the surveys, and if this is possible, the Council would prefer to have one at each end of the village and one at the centre, near Parsonage Farm. The Parish should be made aware of these actions of the Council.
3. **Potholes.** Highways are carrying out lots of patching and are moving towards more permanent repairs.
4. **Noise.** The Comments from Rye News were raised, and the Clerk was asked to write similar letter regarding our feeder roads.
5. **Speeding.** There have been two visits from the Police to monitor speeds. Cllr. Quinnell mentioned ‘Operation Crackdown’ and it was agreed to put information on the website and Facebook page. People should be encouraged to report any bad road behaviour seen.
6. **Planning.**

**RR/2021/207L – 2 Churchfield Cottages.**

Council agreed to support approval.

1. **Finance.**
2. **Audit.** Cllr. Hart had audited the Council’s finances and commented that the invoices should be initialed by the Chair and remarked that the cost of last year’s audit by the Internal Auditor had seemed high.
3. **Bank Statement to Year End.** The Council resolved to accept the Bank Statement.
4. **Bank Reconciliation.** The Council resolved to accept the Bank Reconciliation.
5. **Payment Schedule.** The Council resolved to accept the Payment Schedule:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Net | VAT | Gross | Cheque | Notes. |
| Clerk | £718.91 | £26.26 | £745.17 | 710 | See note 1 |
| J. Price | £375.00 | £0.00 | £375.00 | 711 | See note 2. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Note 1. 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 personally paid the ESCCC Electricity Invoice No 8005062807 dated 17th March 2021 for a total of £157.57, in view of the difficulties making payment by cheque for the last year.

Note 2. The invoice included a Visual Inspection of the Playground equipment. It was noted that Mr. Price is not qualified by current standards to do safety inspections; however he has stated that he will be prepared to undertake the RoSPA training course when they resume.

1. **Budget v. Spend.** The Clerk reported this was on target.
2. **AGAR.**
3. Council resolved to complete the Certificate of Exemption.
4. **Section 1 –** **Annual Governance Statement** **2020/2021.**  The Council resolved by an individual vote on each section, to answer ‘yes – the Statement was Agreed’. (Copy is attached to the Minutes).
5. **Part 2PM Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021 for Udimore Parish Council.** This was signed by the Chair before being presented to the Council for approval. The Council resolved to approve the Statement, and then was signed by the Chair.
6. **Annual Audit Report.** The Council resolved to agree the date of the Annual Audit – 19th May 2021. This report will be presented to the Council at the next meeting.
7. **Exercise of Public Rights.** The dates were resolved to be from Thursday 1st July to Wednesday 11th August 2021.
8. **Playground.**
   1. **Update on the Situation by the Chair.** Cllr. Quinnell reported that a Facebook survey of the Playground had conclusively agreed that the playground equipment should be repaired. The Clerk was requested to check with the Insurance and with RoSPA that grass was a safe surface, but in the meantime should obtain a quote to install a soft surface.
   2. **Consider Grants for Work.** Clerk to check if CIL money can be used for playground repairs and enhancement.
9. **Litter.**

Council resolved to join the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ Campaign. It was suggested that the Parish should organise a litter-picking event and the Clerk to look at costs for Hi-Viz vests, litter-pickers and gloves, and to carry out a Risk Assessment.

1. **Correspondence to the Clerk.**

The Clerk was reminded to write the letter reference Dumb Womans Lane.

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

The Council felt that perhaps they could help with the initial costs of setting up a mobile router, but that the monthly charges should be covered by the hirings.

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

There were none.

1. **Date of Next Meeting.**

21st July 2021 at 6.30pm, in the Village Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm. (Clerk to arrange drinks and nibbles.)

The meeting was closed at 7.30pm.

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Signature of Chair.