Minutes of the Council meeting held on:

**Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 6.30pm**

In Udimore Community Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. G. Quinnell {Chair), Cllr. N. Anderson, Cllr. D. Gibbs, Cllr. R. Mair, Cllr. N. Gordon (Parish and District Councillor) and Cty. Cllr. Karl Maynard.

There were seven members of the public present.

1. **Apologies.**

There were none.

1. **Disclosures of Interest**.

There were none.

The Chair allowed a public discussion on Highway matters.

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

Cllr. Gordon reported that Gt. Sowden’s Wood was in hand with Enforcement. He advised that there were 87 Enforcement matters in hand at present.

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

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th January 2024 were agreed.

1. **Planning.**

There were none.

1. **Highways.**
   1. **Potholes**. Concern was expressed at the closure of the main road and Cllr. Maynard explained that emergency closures do not require notice. Most of the existing potholes that meet the criteria have now been repaired although there are still small ones needing to be done. He noted that temporary repairs should be marked with a ‘T’.
   2. **Village Walk Through**. It is hoped that the Chair, Cllr. Maynard and the Highways Steward will carry out a walk through the Parish in about two weeks.
   3. **Verges.**  It was reported that verges are cut twice a year, but not necessarily to a standard for walking on.
   4. **Road sweeping.** This has not been done outside Churchfield Cottages. This is a Rother responsibility and will be discussed during the walkthrough.
   5. **Village Gates.** The Clerk has been informed that Village Gates are no longer provided/fitted by Highways. The Clerk was requested to investigate whether planters could be used to mark the village boundaries.
   6. **Speed Watch.** It was felt that there would be insufficient volunteers.
   7. **Speed Limits.** Council decided to investigate the possibility of providing ‘Vehicle Activated Signs’ (VAS). It was resolved to spend up to £1,000 on any necessary feasibility studies/survey.

*(Clerk has written to the Contract Management Team requesting details of the process).*

* 1. **Large vehicle signage.** The sign at the bottom of Dumb Womans Lane was inadequate. Cty Cllr. Maynard will discuss with the Safety Team and the Highways Steward during the Parish walkthrough.

1. **Finance.**
2. **Bank Statement.** The Council resolved to accept the Bank Statements for January and February 2024.
3. **Bank Reconciliation.** The Council resolved to accept the Bank Reconciliations for January and February 2024.
4. **Payment Schedule.** The Council resolved to accept the Payment Schedule:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15/1/24 | HMRC | £133.40 | £ 0.00 | £133.40 | PAYE |
| 15/1/24 | Clerk | £600.68 | £ 0.00 | £600.68 | Pay/exps |
| 1/1/24 | Justin Price | £260.00 | £ 0.00 | £260.00 | Grasscutting |
| 19/1/24 | St Marys Community Hall | £108.00 | £ 0.00 | £108.00 | Hire hall |
| 30/1/24 | Rother DC | £387.18 | £ 0.00 | £387.18 | Election exps |
| 19/2/24 | ESCC | £213.08 | £ 42.62 | £255.70 | Street Lighting Maintenance |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Annual Budget v. Spend.** It was noted this was on target.
2. **Movement of Funds.** These were noted.
3. **Internet Banking Signatures.** Cllr. Anderson agreed to pursue the process of becoming a signatory.
4. **AGAR 2023-24** The Chair signed the Certificate of Exemption.
5. **Annual Assembly Provisionally 15th May.**

It was agreed to cater for up to 12 people with wine and nibbles.

1. **D-Day 80.**

It was agreed to hold a Village Function on Saturday 8th June. Council resolved to spend up to £500.

1. **Climate Emergency.**

Nothing of note.

1. **St Marys Community Hall.**

Nothing of note.

1. **Playground.**
   1. **Monthly Safety Checks**. These have been carried out.
   2. **Repairs from Annual Inspection.** These have been completed
   3. **Provision of new equipment.** It was decided to not undertake providing new equipment at present.
2. **Fly-tipping (Lay-by).**

The Chair agreed to email details to the Clerk for this to be reported.

1. **Great Sowden’s Woods.**

It was noted that this is not within the Parish boundary and is being handled by Enforcement.

1. **Correspondence from the Clerk.**

The Clerk had received a report of the Bridleway being obstructed and had passed this to the Rights of Way Team at County.

1. **Items for Inclusion on a Future Agenda.**
   1. Bus Shelter at the top of Float Lane
2. **Date of Next Meeting.**

AGM -15th May 2024 - 6.30pm, at Village Hall, Annual Assembly to follow.

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm.

……………………………………………………………

Signature of Chair.