HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An **ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council** was held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7pm at the Severn Centre.

**Present:** Chair Cllr Quinn,Vice-Chair Cllr Pinches, Cllr Moore, Cllr Thakrar, Cllr Rodgers, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Hodnett, Cllr Law, Cllr Aspin.

**Clerk:** Alison Palmer

**Shropshire Councillor:** Mark Williams

**Parishioners:** Mr B and Mr S representing Highley Miners Welfare Football Club gave an update on the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and their fundraising plans for a new 3G surface to make it useable for the community football groups. They are proceeding with an agreement for Halo to honour their rights to use and create a long-term lease enabling them to further seek investment externally to fund the project. HMWFC are experiencing considerable drainage issues from flooding at their other site, and this is impacting on training practice and in turn, performance of the teams resulting in losing players to other local teams with better facilities. They are keen to make progress and have enlisted two local professionals passionate about both sport and Highley who are to assist with surveys and investments and HMWFC have also arranged a five-a-side charity tournament for February to “kick” things off.

Cllr Hodnett – acting as parishioner – commented on the social options for arranging functions within the village for funerals and parties.

Mr A - observing only.

**01.Apologies and reasons for Absence**

Cllr Stanley and Cllr Hancox (working) Cllr Vinall (illness)

Cllr Lucas – No apologies

It was **PROPOSED TO ACCEPT** these apologies.

**02.To confirm the minutes of the meetings dated Tuesday 5th December.** It was **PROPOSED TO ACCEPT** the minutes.

**03. Clerk’s Update** Following completion of the detailed budget to support the precept application, I was able to take some time off for the first time since starting at HPC. This began on the Friday before Christmas with a lovely evening spent together at The Astbury, both wonderful food and great company, thank you Cllr Edwards for organising a superb evening and we are all hoping this might be something we can do together again in the future. Moving into the new year and wishing everyone here a happy and healthy 2024, I have been promoting the “buy nothing new” campaign from ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ which was suggested by Cllr Moore, and I offer thanks to Cllr Stanley for visiting St Marys charity shop and sharing posters with them also. I have been preparing our quarterly finance report for our internal auditors and have an appointment next week where we will be finalising this together. I have been liaising with our lighting engineers and Christmas tree provider surrounding the dismantling/removal and also reporting several street light issues around the village. And talking of removing, I have finally got those last few poppies down having commandeered a teenage family member with extra-long arms and a head for heights! Finally, this weekend has been all about the CCTV and rectifying some issues that have cropped up following a substantial theft within the village, and vandalism to our ANPR cameras. More information on this to follow. For those requesting, I HAVE changed my email font and apologise to all who struggled to read it.

**04.Correspondence**

Thank-you letter from Highley Miners Welfare Bowls Club (circulated on table)

Road Closure – Bynd Lane Billingsley 4th April 2024

Road Closure – Dudmaston A442 Quatford 19th February

SYA price increase from 10/5/24

Highley Community Drop-In promoted January 26th

Highley Warm Space every Friday 12-3.30pm **– temporarily postponed**.

January “Buy Nothing New” Campaign from ‘Keep Britain Tidy’

**05. Reports**

1. **Shropshire Councillor Mark Williams – circulated on SharePoint and table.**

Cllr Thakrar requested what happens when potholes are reported repeatedly, how is action being progressed. Further discussion with Shropshire Councillor Williams explained how reporting on ‘fix-my-street’ is now achieving results. Cllr Rodgers requested information on drainage around Netherton with the extraction of existing drains and Shropshire Councillor Williams explained that it is not classed as a main road so is not a priority but will be dealt with at a later date.

**Policing report – none received.**

**06 Request for donation from Neighbourhood Fund towards medical centre now plans have been issued.** This item has been deferred from October Agenda item 13 and following review of the plans and funding, it was **PROPOSED TO OBJECT** to any financial support for the project.

**07. Request to purchase stationary to create files for allotment tenants, councillor’s emergency contacts, and working groups under GDPR guidance**. It was **PROPOSED TO ACCEPT** expenditure on new stationary for organising the filing system and administration but to address Revenue and Resources Group directly in future.

**08. October agenda item 7 response for noticeboard quotations – proposal for noticeboard situated at Smoke Alley site**. This item has been deferred from October Agenda item 07 with further Information circulated prior regarding planning, and costs. Another site has also been suggested in a similar location and permission and access confirmation is expected from St Marys church for a final decision on next month’s agenda.

**09 Request for approval from council for the work arising to go ahead on village flowers following plans from Cllr Moore** Councillor Moore has created extensive reports regarding the village flowers and maintenance required before the season begins which were distributed prior to the meeting. Actions to be taken by Clerk – to report damaged railings, tree issues uplifting block paving on pavements outside Costcutter and to gain quotes for tree cutting and painting of hexagonal planters. It was **PROPOSED TO ACCEPT** that the Village Maintenance and Allotments Working Group meet and look at Phase 1 and Phase 2 and report back to Full Council.

**10. Report back from Cllr Quinn following meeting with Airband on 8/01/2024 and decision to accept or decline Airband request.** Councillor Quinn reported back following his meeting with Airband, and it was **PROPOSED TO ACCEPT** depending on agreed power usage, rental, and maintenance charges to be liaised directly with Councillor Quinn and Clerk.

**11. Update from Cllr Rodgers regarding Police Working Group meeting 13/12/2023**

Cllr Rodgers circulated the minutes of the meeting in advance.

**12. Planning applications received- plus any further applications after issue of Agenda.**

Ref: 23/05266/FUL

Erection of affordable dwelling response to identified need –

East of New Road, Highley. 374604-282351

Mr Thomas Herbert

It was **PROPOSED TO OBJECT** to the planning application on the grounds that it didn’t meet the criteria of application and was therefore submitted for the wrong reasons.

**13. Proposal for precept 2024/25 following budget circulation at Revenue and Resources Committee meeting on 4/1/2024**

It was **PROPOSED TO ACCEPT** the 5% increase in precept.

**14. Finance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| EE | Mobile Phone | 38.44 |
| Holly Bowkett | Salary | 1033.29 |
| Alison Palmer | Salary | 847.49 |
| Shropshire Council | 3rd Quarter Energy Costs | 2511.48 |

It was **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT** to pay these invoices.

**Signed by………………………………………………………Dated: ……………………………………………………………………**