



Meeting of the Parish Council
In the Pavilion
6pm, Monday 22nd January 2024
MINUTES

Present: Councillors Christine Ashdown, Jean Bragg, David Bromley, Paul Carver, John Davis, Ben Falat, Brian Keller, Sandie Keller, and Don Munro.

Also in attendance: Michaela McGoun (Clerk). 1 member of the public. 2 District Councillors.

1. Welcome

2. Announcement on Reporting

Councillors and members of the public will be reminded that in the interests of openness and transparency, the law permits filming, recording or other means of reporting of meetings.

3. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Cannon, Besford-Land and District Councillor Gee

4. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

4.1 Receive Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr. Bromley on item 14.6 & 14.7

4.2 To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. None received.

4.3 To note any dispensations previously granted. Cllr. Falat as Trustee of the Water Sports Centre.

5. Minutes: To approve all the minutes of the meeting of 18th December 2023.

Proposed by Cllr. B Keller, seconded by Cllr. Carver. 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

5.1 Matters arising

None

6. Outstanding actions: To note actions taken from last meetings which are not detailed on this agenda.

None

7. Chairman's Report:

It is quiet at the moment. This will be the last meeting I will Chair for a while due to going into hospital for knee surgery.

8. To adopt the policies for 2024/2025

The policies were previously circulated to all Councillors.

Proposed by Cllr. Falat, seconded by Cllr. Bromley, all in favour.

9. Public Forum and Public Service Reports:

An opportunity for members of the public to make comments on any matters on this agenda. This forum will include **receipt of any written District Council, County Council reports.**

District Cllr. Robinson explained that the request for a zebra crossing outside the station is not possible due to it being so close to the level crossing. If we wanted to proceed there would need to be a feasibility study carried out which will cost £5,000.00.

10. To receive an update from FoNEP and agree any necessary action.

FoNEP thanked District Cllr. Back for the funding for the plants. December volunteer hours was 107, the total for the year was 1,828 hours. Their annual celebration meal is on Wednesday. The greenhouse has been damaged with the winds, if it continues to happen, it maybe requires a screen to protect it from the wind.

The planting plans for 2024, will be a mass planting of marigolds in the circular bed, there are garden ready plugs to go in the new extended bed.

11. To approve the payments for this month and in between meetings:

OBPC Cheque and BACS payment run.

Monthly		
MC Cleaning	Office / pavilion Clean	£144.00
Norse	2 x invoices, November & December	£19,384.80
ADHOC		
Karen Wightman	Newsletter print	£160.00
Norton Peskett Solicitors	Monckton / Badger transfer	£236.40
Ensure Fire	Fire alarm and lighting service	£175.20
TCV	Monckton day	£378.00
		<u>£20,478.40</u>

The finances were agreed at Finance Committee and taken to Full Council

Proposed by Cllr. Falat, seconded by Cllr. Carver. All in favour.

12. To receive the committee reports.

1. Finance report

Cllr. Falat explained that the council had expressed to keep the precept below 6%.

2. Personnel Report

The Administration Assistant has passed a Legionella Training course and will carry out the legionella testing in the park. There is scope to offer her services to other tenants who need to carry out Legionella testing.

No issues raised by the staff.

3. Events & Tourism report

The events for the year were organised, however will not be issued yet due to the works at the museum taking up the car parking area, which needs to be discussed further. The calendar will be issued when the heras fencing has been sorted. We are going to have a Spring Chocolate egg hunt on 7th April, would appreciate all Councillors to come and help on the day please.

13. To note date of next Full Council Meeting on Monday 19th February 2024 at 6pm.

14. To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

14.1 To agree the budget for 2024/25

Cllr. Falat handed out sheets with the calculations on.

The budget calculation has changed a little since December, the final version comes out at 5.98%. The budget includes a contingency for the Old Forge and bandstand roofs.

It was agreed to submit to ESCC.

Proposed by Cllr. Falat, seconded by Cllr. S Keller, all in favour.

The new security contract was budgeted as £30,500.

It was agreed to accept the contract.

Proposed by Cllr. Falat, seconded by Cllr. Carver, all in favour.

Cllr B Keller announced a vote of thanks to Cllr. Falat and the Clerk for all the work they have done on preparing the budget.

14.2 To receive an update on the allotments.

One quote received to clear the area and make good ready to section off new areas, another has been requested from East Suffolk Services.

14.3 Committee Meetings

Cllr. Bromley suggested that the monthly meetings could do with streamlining to reduce the number of meetings.

It was discussed but all committees need to be public. It was agreed to move NEPT to Bi-monthly on teams.

Events & Tourism will move to the Trust, so it doesn't need to be a public meeting and all events are for the park.

Proposed by Cllr. B Keller, seconded by Cllr. Carver, 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.4 To receive an update on Monckton woods.

Cllr. Bragg said a tree survey is required as some of the trees have come down that were on the survey to be dealt with. Cllr. Falat explained the tree surgeon will provide a plan of what has been carried out and what will be looked at next.

It was suggested that Cllrs. Bragg and Besford-Land meet with Mr Poll to discuss the fencing quote and come to an agreement on what is needed.

Cllr. Bragg expressed her concerns over the danger of the woods and the large oak tree that had fallen in the winds.

14.5 To receive an update on Mini Zoo

The Clerk explained Mr Petty finally got in contact following a letter explaining next steps were court. Clerk spoke to him on Monday, and he has agreed to send over £60.00 weekly to start reducing the debt.

14.6 Grant request from Water sports Centre.

Grant request received from the Water Sports Centre, having been delayed from November was approved. There is still some of the money from ESCC to get the centre up and running.

Proposed by Cllr. Falat, seconded by Cllr. S Keller, all in favour.

14.7 To discuss Forge Terrace

Cllr. Bromley explained the issues the residents are facing, and the fact that they have no information on the Badger building and what they plan to do with it. District Cllr. Robinson has spoken to the director of Badgers, and they are undecided what they are going to do with the building and car park. Cllr. Bromley asked who owned Forge Terrace? Parking has become a nightmare since Badgers have stopped the residents parking in the car park. As their original planning application has expired there is nothing we can do until they submit a new planning application.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....