MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2020

Present

Councillor G Shepherd (Chairman)
Councillor B Whitehead (Vice Chairman)
Councillor D Chapman
Councillor D Stratton

J MacNamara (Clerk) 8 Parishioners were also present

01.03.20 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Councillor R Darbishire

The Clerk reported that Councillor Ormston would be attending but was coming from another meeting.

02.03.20 To receive **Declarations of Interest** in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

03.03.20 To approve the **minutes** of the meeting held on the 14th January 2020.

The Minutes were Approved.

04.03.20 Finance

a) Receipts & Payments

The Clerk circulated a transaction summary of all transactions from the start of the financial year up to 28th February (which is appended to the minutes).

The Clerk outlined that up to 28^{th} February there had been payments of £2,922.73 against income of £3,876.00. In view of monies carried over from the previous financial year there was £3,909.15 in the HSBC account.

The Clerk also reported that the balance in the Building Society stood at £3,133.99.

The Clerk reported that the bulk of payments had been made for the current financial year with a few exceptions and it was likely that there would be a small surplus in the current financial year of between $\pm 400 - \pm 600$ that would mean the Parish Council would be rolling over in the region of $\pm 3,500 - \pm 3,700$ in the HSBC account to the $\pm 2020/21$ financial year.

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The total net resources including the Building Society Account would be in the region of £6,500 up from £6,100 in the 2019/20 financial year.

The report was approved.

b) Bank Signatories

The Clerk outlined that due to some administration changes on the part of the HSBC bank there was a requirement for a new mandate form to be signed and sent to the bank.

The paperwork was available to be signed following the meeting.

c) Grass Cutting Contract 2020-2023

The Clerk read out the two tender documents which had been received to undertake the grass cutting contract for 2020- 2023.

A wide ranging discussion took place about the benefits of maintaining the existing contractor as opposed to awarding the contract to a new tenderer.

Cllr Shepherd outlined that whilst there had been concern about the standard of grass cutting in the last 12-months it must be balanced with spending parish funds in a proportional manner and the difference between the two quotes was quite considerable.

It was proposed by Cllr Shepherd and Seconded by Cllr Chapman that the contract be awarded to Farm and Land Services Ltd for a further 3-year period on the basis of a quarterly review with an understanding that the contract could be curtailed if standards were not met through the review process.

The motion was agreed.

05.03.20 Village Plan Updates

Public Footpaths – The public footpath signs had been reported and the signage near Ward's Garage was due to be replaced this year.

Speed Awareness & Highways – a meeting had taken place with Councillors and representatives of the County Council.

As part of the discussion issues pertaining to the bus shelter, a bid to Safer Roads to upgrade the junction of the A684 and speeding were discussed.

A letter from the North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership was circulated which outlined that speeding on the A684 had been investigated in September 2017 and it was considered that speeding on the road was within acceptable tolerance levels.

However, they also reported that they would be prepared to gather new data for fresh analysis in September 2020. It was agreed that the request should be made to undertake a new survey.

Broadband - Following the last meeting a newsletter had been circulated about

broadband across the Village. No feedback had been received. It was agreed a further consultation would take place as the Parish Council would need to gauge the level of interest to be able to approach Open Reach.

No Parking Signs – It was reported that Highways had no objections to a 'No Parking' sign for overnight parking to be placed on the Village Green. It was agreed to give the matter further consideration at the next meeting with Councillors asked to think about how it could be policed.

Village Notice Board – The new notice board had now been sighted outside the Old School Room.

Community Events Committee – the next meeting was due to take place on 23 March at 3pm in The Old School Room.

Future events included an additional Coffee Morning on 28th March in support of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Potential events included a Quiz Night which could be held at Newton-Le-Willows Village Hall.

06.03.20 The Green Tree

Cllr Shepherd laid out the current position with regards to the planning application for the Green Tree Pub, he reported that Highways maintained an objection to the proposal and that the pub remained up for sale. He outlined that the application remained the subject of discussion between the applicant and the planners.

The Clerk read out that the District Council had approved the Parish Council's request to place the Green Tree on the register of community assets giving the Parish Council a right to purchase the public house.

Cllr Ormston outlined that a further meeting with all parties was due to take place to try and find common ground, but the issues pertaining to parking and the objections raised by the Conservation Officer were the stumbling blocks to allowing the application to proceed.

A discussion took place about the benefits and the risks of seeking to raise the finance as a village/Parish Council to purchase the Green Tree.

There were concerns due to the asking price for the public house as well as the extensive works which would be needed to bring it up to an acceptable standard as well as the ongoing management.

It was agreed that if the pub were offered to the community at a serious asking price then there would need to be a discussion with the whole Village, but at this stage the Council would wait for further information from the planning department on their latest discussions.

07.03.20 Clerk Vacancy

The Clerk reported that there were two applicants for the vacancy which represented a 200% increase on the number of applicants since the last recruitment drive.

It was agreed to interview both candidates and that the Clerk would contact them and invite them to interview on 6th April.

It was agreed that Cllrs Shepherd, Chapman and Stratton undertake the interviews.

The Clerk outlined that there was a request to change the meeting dates in the future from one of the applicants, it was agreed that this would be considered through the interview process.

08.03.20 Defibrillator Rota

May – Cllr Stratton

Cllr Chapman raised concerns that the current position to restrict access to the code for defibrillator could potentially endanger life and that from his perspective wider access to the code should be given to prevent any unnecessary loss of life.

A discussion took place with regards to this approach. As part of the discussion the Clerk outlined that this matter had been raised previously and following advice from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service and NHS England the advice to restrict access to the code was left in place.

It was agreed that the matter would remain under review.

09.03.20

Reports of previous month's meetings etc. - to hear from Town/District/County Councillors on any meetings attended or other information of interest to the Parish Council: -

Cllr Stratton reported on the planned extension at Newton-Le-Willows Village Hall and that plans were still due to be submitted for works which could cost up to £50,000.

Cllr Stratton outlined that work remained on-going to facilitate the two communities working together on a more frequent basis.

Cllr Chapman reported on the joint meeting between Newton-Le-Willows and Patrick Brompton Parish Councils, issues which affected both communities were speeding and road safety and issues around the cross roads.

Cllr Shepherd reported on the latest meeting of the Atkinson Clarke Trust. There were no funding applications which they were able to fulfil. The Trust were seeking to purchase a new ramp for the Old School House which was 70% funded by the Area Partnership. Internal works including carpet cleaning were due to take place with a view to potential replacement of the carpets.

Cllr Ormston reported on matters from the District Council.

It was reported that the District Council had just launched a new Community Infrastructure Fund in which grants of up to 70% could be awarded.

A new fund for Disability Grants had also been launched with £272,000 worth of

funding to help people remain in their own homes.

The next Area Partnership Meeting would be taking place on 18th March at 6pm at the Middleham Key Centre.

10.03.20 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that all correspondence had been circulated.

11.03.20 Planning

a) There were no planning applications.

b) Planning Updates

The Clerk reported that at the end of January Councillors had been consulted about Listed Building Consent for a conversion and extension to store to form a two storey dwelling at Northfields Farm.

The Clerk outlined that the Council had made a response to the consultation with reference to pay due attention to the management of surface water.

Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm.

Closure

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9pm