PRESHUTE PARISH COUNCIL 3- 2022/23

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 14th November 2022 at 7pm at Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge.

**Present:**  Cllr P Morgan (Chair), Cllr I Wroth, Cllr H Wroth, Cllr J Penn & Cllr S Mills.

**In attendance**: Ms S Roberts (Clerk) & one parishioner.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
* Apologies were received from Cllr J Clark & Wiltshire Councillor Jane Davies.

1. **To receive declarations of interests**
* None.
1. **Items to be taken in private session**
* 39. vi Clerk’s salary – NALC salary award for 2022/23.
1. **Minutes of the previous meetings**
* The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th September 2022 was approved unanimously and signed as a true record.
1. **Report form Wiltshire Councillor Jane Davies**
* A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
1. **Clerk’s Report**
* Rough Sleepers – the annual request for numbers of rough sleepers in the Parish has been requested, all agreed there was only one rough sleeper they were aware of in the Parish.
* Forestry England – the Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting details of works to be carried out in Savernake Forest.
* Cost of Living Crisis – Wiltshire Council has set up a dedicated section on their website offering details of all the support available as well as details of warm spaces in and around Marlborough.
* AONB Annual Forum – Cllr Peter Morgan will attend.
* Community Safety Partnership meeting – unfortunately none of the councillors are able to attend.
1. **TRAFFIC**
* Flooding at Clatford – Cllr I Wroth has written to Martin Cook of Wiltshire Council Highways to request a site meeting with the occupants of the cottage whose land requres a trench digging to aleviate the flooding issue. Cllr I Wroth to update on progress at the next meeting. **Action Cllr I Wroth**
* Frees Avenue – A recent Atkins study commisioned on behalf of Marlborough Town Council recommended Frees Avenue from Rockley to the Marlborough Town boundary be subject to a speed restriction of 40mph. The councillors agreed at the last meeting to support the Atkins recommendation of 40mph subject to cost. Cllr P Morgan reported the cost was likely to be in the region of £4,000. The Council did not feel the proposed 25% cost to Preshute represented value for money for its residents and have not included the amount in the budget for 2023/24.
* Traffic calming on A4 Bath Road at Manton – progress on this is very slow, costings are not anticipated until July 2023.
1. **Rights of Way**
* Cllr Simon Mills is in the process of reviewing all the footpaths. **Action Cllr S Mills**
* The footpath at Temple Farm has been reported by a Councillor from Kennet Valley Parish Council as being difficult to navigate. Cllr S Mills agreeed to investigate.  **Action Cllr S Mills**
* Cllr P Morgan raised the question as to how the split of funds works between Highways and footpaths in the new LHFIG, formerly CATG.
1. **Website**
* Councillor email addresses – instructions will be distributed shortly. **Action Clerk**
1. **Trees of remembrance**
* The Council discussed the planting of the tree of remembrance and the Jubilee commemoration tree. Both trees would need to be ordered soon for delivery in March. The Council agreed the best location for the Jubilee tree would be close to the Clatford crossroads and agreed a Copper Beech would be more appropriate at that location than a Horsechestnut. Cllr I Wroth agreed to order the trees. **Action Cllr I Wroth**

The tree by the bus shelter may require some attention. Wiltshire Council to be asked if their Aboroculturist can take a look at it. **Action Clerk**

1. **Neighbourhood Plan (NPWG) & Covid Copse**
* The Neighbourhood Plan is awaiting a Decision Statement, once this has been received it will be ready to go to Referendum in January.
* The Parishioner present requested permission to speak. Although the public participation time is before the start of the meeting the Chair kindly agreed to allow it on this occasion. The Parishioner wanted to advise the Council that in his opinion any affordable housing may not end up being designated for people local to the Parish and asked if there had been a consultation on the requirement for these. Support for affordable housing had been expressed in the Preshute Neighbourhood Plan consultation. The site had been identified as the only qualifying area in the Parish.
* The Covid Copse Group have not yet met and should be encouraged to do so.

The Parishioner left the meeting.

1. **Marlborough Area Board**
* Cllr P Morgan reported on the Grant to Sustainable Marlborough to fund a talk to the pupils in Year13 at St Johns. Concerns were raised that the group arranging the speaker have links with the controversial group Extinction Rebellion and the councillors questioned whether this was appropriate use of grant funds and should the talk not also be made available for the general public. The Council agreed a letter expressing concerns should be written to the Marlborough Area Board. **Action Cllr P Morgan**
1. **Finance**

The accounts for the year to November 2022:

Balance carried forward from last year: £10401.87

Total receipts for the year to November 2022: £4117.38

Total payments for the year to November 2022: £3572.68

The available (cash book) balance in November 2022: £10946.57

The Council approved payments of outstanding cheques:

200072 S Roberts – Salary November 2022

200072 S Roberts – Back Pay March 2022 – Oct 2022

200073 S Roberts – expenses Oct–Nov 2022

200074 Community First – Insurance renewal £198.67

200075 S Roberts – Salary December 2022 - post-dated

1. The Council reviewed the current expenditure for 2022/23
2. The Council looked at the Tax Base for 2023/24
3. The Draft Budget for 2023/24 was approved.
4. The Council considered the Precept for 2023/24. Although the Council does have some reserves these have now become significantly depleted due to costs associated with the Neighbourhood Plan and a general increase in running costs. It was noted the annual council running costs exceed the current level of the Precept and all agreed a slight increase would be necessary. The Council agreed to a 5% increase taking the Precept to £4438.18.
5. The Asset Register was reviewed, it was noted the bin at West Manton had been added.
6. The Council closed the meeting temporarily to take the item of the Clerk’s salary in closed session. The Council approved the NALC salary award for 2022/23.
7. BACS changover is still ongoing due to difficulties in communication with the bank.
8. **Preshute PC Strategy & goals 2023**
* This item was carried over to the next meeting due to time constraints of the meeting.
1. **Agenda items for the next meeting**
* Covid Copse
* Neighbourhood Plan
* Annual Parish Meeting
* Coronation

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. This is the last page of the minutes.

#### PLEASE NOTE

## The next full council meeting is arranged for Monday 23rd January 2023 at 6.30 pm at

## Kennet Valley Hall – Lockeridge.

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