PRESHUTE PARISH COUNCIL 4- 2022/23

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 23rd January 2023 at 7pm at Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge.

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

**In attendance**: Ms S Roberts (Clerk).

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

* Apologies were received from Wiltshire Councillor Jane Davies.

1. **To receive declarations of interests**

* None.

1. **Items to be taken in private session**

* 56. ii Clerk’s homeworking allowance.

1. **Minutes of the previous meetings**

* The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th November 2022 was approved unanimously with a small ammendment on attendees and signed as a true record. It was noted there was a discrepancy with the trees of remembrance – only one tree is being ordered soon to commemorate the Jubilee, this will be a Copper Beech to be planted at Clatford Crossroads, the tree of remembrance will be ordered next winter.

1. **Reports**

* Wiltshire Council are currently prioritising potholes.
* Cllr Peter Morgan gave a brief update on the Marlborough College Stakeholders meeting, he did not consider it would be worthwhile attending again.

1. **Clerk’s Report**

* WALC Extraordinary Meeting – the Clerk attended a remote meeting to discuss the membership of the Executive Committee and the budget for 2023/24. The meeting was very well attended but sadly the Chair was somewhat unprepared. Many present complained about the lack of training available for new councillors and felt they were not getting value for money. The new WALC representative is going to do her best to get the issues addressed.
* Manton Village Hall availability – Cllr Peter Morgan has advised there are now free evenings at the village hall and all were in agreement to hold the next few meetings there instead of the Kennet Valley Hall. Cllr Peter Morgan agreed to make the new bookings. **Action Cllr P Morgan**

Cllr Hugh Wroth joined the meeting.

1. **Trees of Remembrance**

* Cllr Ian Wroth advised the Copper Beech tree would be planted in February close to the pound with a commemorative plaque to go on a Sarsen stone, space permitting.
* The Council noted an existing commemorative tree in Clatford requires a new post for its plaque, all agreed this should be replaced as soon as possible.
* Cllr John Clark kindly agreed to talk to the owner of the tree by the bus shelter about the loose limbs on the tree that may be in danger of falling. **Action Cllr J Clark**

1. **Traffic**

* Flooding at Clatford – Cllr I Wroth has met with Martin Cook of Wiltshire Council Highways and the occupants of the cottage whose land requires a trench digging to alleviate the flooding issue. Martin Cooke has agreed for some grips to be installed to help aleviate the flooding. Cllr Ian Wroth agreed to follow up on progress in the next couple of weeks. **Action Cllr I Wroth**
* Frees Avenue – the Council were invited to consider if their position would change now the proposed contribution from Preshute had been significantly reduced and would now be calcultated on a per head basis. This was following a recent Atkins study commisioned on behalf of Marlborough Town Council recommending Frees Avenue from Rockley to the Marlborough Town boundary be subject to a speed restriction of 40mph. The councillors agreed they would now consider supporting the proposal once the exact contribution had been confirmed.

1. **Planning**

* **PL/2022/09663 – erection of a barn (retrospective) – Manton Park Farm, Manton, Marlborough, SN8 4HB.** The Council reviewed the application and agreed unanimously to support the application.

1. **Rights of Way**

* Cllr Simon Mills has reviewed most of the footpaths within the Parish and identified a few that could benfit from either a kissing gate or a new stile. Permission will need to be sought from the landowners before an application can be submitted to the new LHFIG formely know as CATG. **Action Cllr S Mills**
* The footpath signage will need to be reviewed next and the practicalities of reopening paths which are currently not passable. **Action Cllr S Mills**

1. **Website**

* Councillor email addresses – instructions will be distributed shortly. **Action Clerk**

1. **Annual Parish Meeting**

* The Council agreed the Annual Parish Meeting should be held immediately before the Annual Meeting but proposed to change the venue to the Manton Village Hall if avaialble on Monday 22nd May.

1. **Neighbourhood Plan (NPWG) & Covid Copse**

* The Neighbourhood Plan is going to Referendum on Febuary 2nd. All Councillors were reminded of the need to vote and to encourage others to do so.
* The Covid Copse Group has not yet met.

1. **Marlborough Area Board**

* Following concerns raised by Preshute Parish Council about the grant awarded to Sustainable Marlborough to fund a talk to the pupils in Year 13 at St Johns responses were received from Wiltshire Councillor Jane Davies and the Community Engagement Manager, Andrew Jack.

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: £5067.50

The available (cash book) balance in November 2022: £9451.75

The Council approved payments of outstanding & retrospective cheques:

Retrospective cheques:

200076 P Morgan – AONB Forum £10.00

200077 Print Image – NP leaflet £89.00

200078 Kennet Valley Hall – room hire £160.00

200079 P Morgan – stamps & envelopes NP £91.96

200080 S Roberts – labels NP £16.98

200081 Devizes Foodbank – reissue cheque £100.00

Current cheques:

200082 S Roberts – salary January & NP

200083 S Roberts – expenses Dec – Jan 2023

200084 SLCC subscription £53.10

200085 Netwise – subscription £396.00

200086 Idverde – bin emptying July – Dec 2022 £54.60

200087 S Roberts – salary February (post-dated)

The Council closed the meeting temporarily to take the item of the Clerk’s homeworking allowance in closed session. The Council approved a very small, short-term increase for the winter months.

1. **Correspondence**

* The Chair advised the Council he intends to stand down before the Annual Meeting in May.
* An architects view of an idea for changes to Marlborough High Street had been received. The Councillors had very mixed opinions about the idea with some concerns over the loss of short term parking.

1. **Agenda items for the next meeting**

* Covid Copse
* Neighbourhood Plan
* Tree of Remembrance
* Coronation

The meeting closed at 8.30m. This is the last page of the minutes.

#### PLEASE NOTE

## The next full council meeting is arranged for Monday 20th March 2023 at 7pm at

## Manton Village Hall.

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