PRESHUTE PARISH COUNCIL 3 - 2023/24

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 25th September 2023 at 7.00pm at the Manton Village Hall.

**Present:**  Cllr S Mills, Cllr J Clark, Cllr I Wroth & Cllr S Johnson.

**In attendance**: Miss S Roberts (Clerk) & Unitary Cllr Jane Davies

**Public Participation** – there were no members of the public present.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

* Cllr H Wroth & Cllr J Penn sent apologies.
* The Chair gave thanks to Peter Morgan for his time on the Council, Preshute Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan would not be where it is today without all his hard work and diligence.

1. **To receive declarations of interests**

* None

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

* None

1. **Minutes of the previous meetings**

* The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th June 2023 was approved unanimously and signed as a true record.

1. **Clerk’s Report & report from Unitary Councillor Jane Davies**

* Bobby Van Stay Safe Online Scheme training – a training course specifically aimed at the over 60’s and over 18’s with a registered disability. The Council decided their Parish was too small to offer to host a session but would put the details on the Parish Council website.
* Electoral Review response – the response was given to the Electoral Review Committee confirming Preshutes intention to withdraw from an application to consider a Boundary Review.
* Parish Steward Scheme - the Parish Steward is due to visit Preshute on 17th October and again on 14th November 2023. All councillors present were reminded to pass on details of any jobs for him.
* Unitary Councillor Jane Davies reported Wiltshire Council had very little overspend this year and have a sound 3 year financial strategy. An additional 10 million has been allocated for the resurfacing of roads.

1. **Traffic**

* The Council supported the proposal by Avebury Parish Council for a 50mph speed limit on the A4 at Beckhampton.

1. **Rights of Way**

* The footpath leading off the golf course onto Frees Avenue was on a steep bank and dangerous for pedestrians due to the original access point being blocked by a fallen tree. The original opening has now been cleared.

1. **Tree of Remembrance**

* The plaque for the commemorative tree at Clatford crossroads will be ordered soon and a Sarsen stone to attach it to has been sourced. **Action I Wroth**

1. **Covid Copse**

* Covid Copse – the group need to meet to agree locations and order trees. A suggestion was made for a copse or avenue of trees on footpath 33, the landowner will need to be contacted to see if this would be viable. **Action Cllr S Johnson**

1. **Policy Documents**

* The Council reviewed and agreed minor ammendments to the Working Group Guidelines, Procedure for conducting co-options, Email Guidance, Communications Protocol & Document Retention Policy.

1. **Wiltshire Local Plan**

* The Council expressed their utter dismay that contrary to both the Preshute and the Marlborough Neighbourhood Plans, Land at Barton Dene has been included for a substantial housing development in the Wiltshire Local Plan.
* The Council expressed their dissapointment at the lack of respect for the AONB shown by Marlborough College who own the land at Barton Dene to even consider building houses on a tranquil and quiet river valley in the heart of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
* The Council resolved to alert the neighbouring residents and parishioners of the proposal contained in the Wiltshire Local Plan, urge them to attend the drop-in event at Marlborough Library on 9th October 3pm-7pm and to comment on the Plan itself.
* The Council discussed the first draft of their response to the consultation. The next draft will be circulated prior to the November Council meeting for approval.

1. **Finance**

* The accounts for the year to 22 September 2023:

Balance carried forward from last year: £9037.14

Total receipts for the year to September 2023: £4942.65

Total payments for the year to September 2023: £2723.07

The available (cash book) balance on 22 Sept 2023: £11256.72

* **Retrospective BACS**

S Roberts – Salary July 2023

Netwise – Domain name renewal £24.00

S Roberts – Salary August 2023

WALC – Councillor training £54.00

* **Current BACS payments – to be approved.**

S Roberts – Salary Sept 2023

S Roberts – expenses Aug – Sept 2023

* The RFO called for funding requests for 2024/25 ahead of the budget and the Precept being set at the November Council meeting.

1. **Meeting dates**

* The Council agreed to bring the November meeting forward to November 13th to enable them to approve their response to the Wiltshire Local Plan consultation before the closing date of 22nd November 2023.
* The meeting dates for 2024 will be circulated after the meeting. **Action Clerk**

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

* Review Draft Budget 2024/25
* Setting of the Precept for 2024/25
* Policy Document reviews
* Response to Wiltshire Local Plan
* Covid Copse

The meeting closed at 9.10pm. This is the last page of the minutes.

#### PLEASE NOTE

## The date of the next full Council meeting is Monday 13th November 2023.

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