PRESHUTE PARISH COUNCIL 4 - 2023/24

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 13th November 2023 at 6.30pm at the Manton Village Hall.

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

**In attendance**: Miss S Roberts (Clerk)

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

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
* Cllr H Wroth, Cllr S Johnson & Unitary Cllr Jane Davies sent apologies.

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 25th September 2023 was approved unanimously and signed as a true record.
1. **Clerk’s Report & report from Unitary Councillor Jane Davies**
* Council email addresses – further detailed guidance has been sent to all Councillors as to how to set up their Council email addresses; the Clerk will now issue passwords to see if this will aleviate difficulties in the set up process. **Action Clerk**
* Parish Steward Scheme – the Parish Steward is due to visit Preshute on 14th November. All councillors present were reminded to pass on details of any jobs for him. The layby/passing point on the LHS heading towards the A4 from Clatford crossroads near the bus shelter is deeply rutted, it was not thought this was necessarily something the Parish Steward would deal with but the Clerk suggested she add it to the My Wiltshire App for consideration. **Action Clerk**
1. **Traffic**
* Traffic Regulation Order– the County of Wiltshire (C18 Frees Avenue and Hyde Lane) (40mph Speed Limit) Traffic Order for 40 mph is out for consultation until 11th December. Copies are available in the Marlborough Library. No date has been given for the proposed implementation. The Council agreed no response would be required to the consultation from Preshute PC due to part of the scheme being within Preshute and the provision of a financial contribution towards the scheme.
1. **Defibrillators**
* The Department for Health & Social Care is currently awarding match funding grants of £750 towards the purchase of defibrillators. There are currently no publicly available defibrillators within the Parish with the closest ones being located at Manton, Lockeridge and Fyfield. The Council considered the viability of providing units taking into consideration the population distribution of the Parish, cost implications and the need for a power supply. The Council does not own any assets with a power supply, any power would most likely need to come from a private dwelling or be solar. Investigations into the cost of solar powered defibrillators and possible locations where a power source could be utilised need to be carried out. **Action Clerk &** **Councilors** The item will be discussed further at the January Parish Council meeting.
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**
* Coronation tree – a possible location for the tree has been found, the landowner needs to be contacted to decide the exact spot. Species, planting and ongoing care of the tree will need to be agreed before the tree can be ordered. Cllr I Wroth agreed to check with our current supplier for cost and availability of a suitable tree, possibly Oak and Cllr Joy Penn will discuss siting and ongoing care with the landowner. **Action Cllr I Wroth & Cllr J Penn**
1. **Covid Copse**
* Covid Copse – the group need to meet to agree locations (possibly footpath 33) and order trees. The landowners will need to be contacted to discuss viability and ongoing care of the trees. **Action Covid Copse Working Group**
1. **Policy Documents**
* The Council deferred this item to the January meeting.

1. **Wiltshire Local Plan**
* Following the Council’s 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 neighbouring residents and parishioners have been informed of the plans. They were encouraged to attend the drop in session held at the Marlborough Library and to comment on the Plan itself.
* The Council discussed the final draft of their response and voted unanimously to submit the final draft response to the Wiltshire Local Plan Consultation to Spatial Planning at Wiltshire Council. **Action Cllr S Mills**
* The Council noted the submission form and the online portal are set out in a way that is incredibly cumbersome. The Council considered this to be non inclusive and could discourage those willing and able to submit a response and act as a barrier to others. A letter to Wiltshire Council will be sent highlighting this serious oversight. **Action Clerk**
1. **Finance**
* The Council reviewed the current expenditure for 2023/24.
* The Council considered the draft Budget for 2024/25 noting year on year the general running costs exceed the annual expenditure, the current level of general reserves held and the current cost of living crisis and resolved to increase the Precept by a very modest 5% to £4660.05.
* The Council reviewed the current insurance quotation and resolved to take the option of a 3 year agreement to keep the premium at the same level.
* The Council considered a donation request from Carer Support Wiltshire and donations to other local charitable organisations. The Council resolved to donate £50 each to Carer Support Wiltshire, Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group and Marlborough Kids Meals.
* The Council noted the NALC pay award for the Clerk has finally been awarded for 2023/24 and the back pay and new rate of pay will need to be implemented as soon as possible backdated to 1st April 2023. **Action Council**
* The accounts for the year to 13 November 2023:

Balance carried forward from last year: £9037.14

Total receipts for the year to November 2023: £4942.65

Total payments for the year to November 2023: £3400.08

The available (cash book) balance on 13 November 2023: £10579.71

* **Retrospective BACS**

S Roberts – Salary October 2023

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

S Roberts – Salary November 2023

S Roberts – expenses Oct – Nov 2023

S Roberts – Back pay Apr – Oct

Upper Kennet Churches – Local Plan flyers £40.79

Community First – Insurance renewal £220.76

1. **Agenda items for the next meeting**
* Coronation Tree
* BT Big switch off and mobile phone coverage
* SSEN support
* Policy Document reviews
* Rights of Way
* Covid Copse

The meeting closed at 8.20pm. This is the last page of the minutes.

#### PLEASE NOTE

## The date of the next full Council meeting is Monday 29th January 2024.

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