

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Acol Parish Council held on Friday 12th May, 2023 at 5.00 p.m. in the Acol Village Hall, The Street, Acol.

NOTE: Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mssrs. R. Steel. G. Winstanley and Mrs. W. Winpenny signed the declaration of acceptance of office form and took their place at the table.

Present: R. Steel, G. Winpenny and Mrs. W. Winpenny.

Also present: Councillors Ms. Bambridge and Barlow (TDC) and Crow-Brown and Ms Wright (KCC) & Roy Wade.

1. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported that at the election of councillors for Acol Parish Council on 4 May 2023 had been uncontested and the following members had been elected unopposed: Richard Steel, Gavin Winpenny and Wendy Winpenny.

Note: the former Chairman of the Council read a statement stating that she had not stood for election to the Council because she had been unwell.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Steel be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2023/24.

The Chairman took the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chairman thanked Council for appointing him Chairman and thanked former councillors Miss Bransfield, D. Haywood, J. Inchley and Mrs. I. Osborn for their service on the Council and their commitment to the Village over many years.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 30th January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman reported that he had worked for a period of time to rebuild the Speedwatch team and that application would not be made for grants to purchase the available monitoring equipment until the team was in place.

4. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that an application had been received from Ms. Chenice Butterworth to be co-opted the Council. A further vacancy existed for the one vacancy and he would discuss with the Clerk the way forward.

RESOLVED: That the application for Ms. Butterworth be approved and she be appointed to the Parish Council.

NOTE: Ms. Butterworth took the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported (i) notice of meetings, which will be held in the evenings, will be published in the Village Voice and placed on the Council's website, (ii) an item dealing with highway issues will be placed on every agenda,, (iii) further consideration will be given to creating a footpath from the Village to Birchington, the CCTV system the preparation of a neighbourhood plan.

8. ANNUAL AUDIT/FINANCIAL MATTERS

The annual audit will be held on 19th May 2023 and the following and Members noted the following documents (i). Income & Expenditure for 2022/23 and ((ii) Expenditure for 2022/23. A report would be submitted to Council as soon as the auditor's report was received. The Chairman and Clerk will be changing the banking arrangements to reflect the new structure of the Council.

The bank balance at 1st May 2023 was £17,609.37

9. REPORT OF MEMBERS

Members noted that the reports referred to in item 8 above would be considered at future meetings.

10. REPORTS OF KCC/TDC COUNCILLORS

Ms. Barlow expressed thanks for the support she had received.

Ms. Bambridge would attend and report to Parish meetings as often.

D. Crow-Brown thanked the former chairman, Miss Bransfield, for her hard work within the Parish Council and Village over many years.

The meeting was advised that much of the work of KCC related to the appalling number of potholes. He also advised that the allowances for Members to held within the villages had been severely reduced.

(A resident raised concerns at the lack of a bus stop in Minster Road and Cllr. Crow-Brown took note of the matter.)

Finally Derek gave notice of an event to be held on 16 August 2023 to pay tribute to a Belgian pilot who was awarded the D.F.C during World War 2. Further details would be put on the website.

Ms. Linda Wright reported that she was mainly concerned with the negotiations to draw up contracts for care in the community.

At this point the Chairman allowed Jim Barber t address Council to outline measuring being discussed by the Church Authorities which may result in the closure of St. Mildred's Church. The parish Council would be involved in the consultations.

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May 2023