

IGHTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full council meeting held on the 13th of March 2023 at Calverhall Village Hall.

Present: Cllr M Astley, Cllr M Procter, Cllr H Hitchman, Cllr L Roberts, Cllr W Heywood-Lonsdale and district Cllr P Wynn.

In Attendance: Clerk – Mrs C Martin.

1/23 Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the councillors present, there were no members of the public present.

02/23 Present, apologies or absent.

Apologies have been received from Cllr E Rich and Cllr D Price.

03/23 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests or requests for Dispensations

No declarations were made in regard to items included in this agenda.

04/23 Whitchurch Whippets

The council reviewed the correspondence received by the Whitchurch Whippets and debated the proposed use of the pathway for the running club event as proposed in the correspondence. The council discussed their concerns regarding the issue of parking for the event and suggested that the council should not object to using the path for the proposed event but will ask that the club park responsibly. Cllr Procter proposed subject to the conditions set forward, the council will allow the use of the footpath for the requested event, this motion was seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed unanimously by the council.

05/23 To approve the Minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2023.

The council reviewed the minutes of the last meeting dated the 16th of January 2023. Cllr Astley proposed to accept these minutes as a true record of the meeting, this motion was seconded by Cllr Hitchman and agreed unanimously by the council.

06/23 Reports: Unitary Councillor, Councillors & Clerk

Report from Cllr Wynn:

Cllr Wynn reported on the following issues: Mr Gladwin sends apologies in the delay to the council's query, he also reported that council tax is going up 4.9% in the local area, the last item that Cllr Wynn reported was that there are many sets of Roadworks are in Whitchurch and the surrounding area at this time.

Cllr Heywood Lonsdale:

Cllr Heywood Lonsdale asked for Cllr Wynn to pass his thanks on to the members of highways for working quickly and assisting with pothole and draining management.

07/23 Parish Matters - An opportunity for Councillors to report items requiring attention:

a. Street lighting

No reports were made indicating remedial works being needed.

b. LED upgrade – awaiting completion.

The council is awaiting the final lamp to be completed and will be updated when more is known regarding the timeline of work completion.

I. Scottish Power unmetered billing

The chairman updated the council on the lack of change in energy usage after the switch to LED lamps has been made, Cllr Astley informed the council that Scottish Power are using old data to bill

the council for the electricity usage. The chairman has launched an enquiry into the usage and asked for them to alter the amount, the council will receive an update when this enquiry has progressed.

c. Ightfield playground refurbishment project

Cllr Astley had nothing to report at this time.

d. Playground report

Cllr Hitchman reported that the posts that the gate are hung on are rotten and need to be replaced, he also reported that the swings are damaged and in need of repair. Cllr Hitchman is awaiting a quote to repair these issues to the playground. Chairman Astley proposed that the swinging gate and top beam need to be fixed and to accept the quote provided by Peter Haynes (if it is at a reasonable cost which will be decided by the chairman) as this is a safety issue that needs to be resolved quickly, this motion was seconded by Cllr Heywood Lonsdale and agreed unanimously by the council.

e. Pathway report

I. Pathway repair

Cllr Astley updated the council that the pathway repair has been completed. The chairman reported that the work done on the pathway was completed to a good standard. The council would like to formally thank K&S Landscaping for the work done and Chartland for assisting by donating the material for the project.

II. Flooding area

Cllr Astley reporting that the flooding area in the parish has been resolved and no longer poses a threat to safety.

f. War Memorial Wall

A quote has been received from the company DJP which was acceptable and the chairman has provided a purchase order for the work which will commence in April.

g. Agree Grant awards for this financial year

The grants for the financial year 2023/24 were proposed by Cllr Astley to be as follows:

- £500.00 to be awarded to the Village Hall
- £300.00 to be awarded to Calverhall in bloom
- £250.00 to be awarded to the North Shropshire Wheelers
- £250.00 to be awarded to Morris Chandler

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hitchman and agreed unanimously by the council.

08/23 Highways/Environmental Health

a. Matters to report/updates on items previously reported to including drainage issues.

No reports made.

b. Parish Maintenance

Cllr Astley updated the council that Guy at Marches Landscaping has acknowledged the Purchase Order and the maintenance contract will commence in April. The contractor has been instructed to deliver quarterly bills to be presented in the Parish Council meetings.

c. Move signage.

The council was updated that the 30 mph signs are expected to be moved in April.

09/23 Planning (to include all received since the last meeting)

a. Applications – None.

Cllr Hitchman raised the planning enforcement issue relating to a member of the parish that had been discussed previously. Since the last report concerns have been raised that the building development is not being completed to the specifications that were permitted in the planning application process. Cllr

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Heywood-Lonsdale proposed by that the clerk should report the case to planning enforcement this was seconded by Cllr Procter and agreed unanimously by the council.

- b. Decisions – None Received.

10/23 Finance

- a. Balance reconciliation & cash book for information

The council reviewed the information provided and the clerk updated the council on the VAT return amount the council can expect to receive from the return.

- b. Cash flow statement

The council reviewed the cash flow statement.

- c. To approve payment of invoices – to include payment of invoices received post agenda

The council reviewed the payments awaiting authorisation. Cllr Astley proposed to accept the payments awaiting authorisation, this was seconded by Cllr Procter and unanimously agreed by the council.

11/23 Housekeeping

Cllr Astley updated the council on the clerk's resignation, Cllr Astley proposed that the council accept the clerk's resignation, this was seconded by Cllr Procter and agreed unanimously by the council.

Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale proposed that the HR team remains the same and that they are given delegated authority to interview the clerks replacement, they will bring their comments and outcomes on the interviewees to council at the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Hitchman and agreed unanimously by the council.

Cllr Astley sent round the information regarding HR services via email prior to this meeting; the chairman informed the council that the cost of the HR services are £48 per hour. Chairman Astley proposed to use them if they are required in regard to the clerks notice period, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale and unanimously agreed by the council.

12/23 Items for Next Agenda – to enable Councillors to bring forward items for the next meeting on May 15th, 2023.

Nothing was noted.

Meeting closed at 20.24.

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