

IGHTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the full council meeting held on the 15 Jan 2024 at Calverhall Village Hall

Present: Councillors M Astley (Chair), H Hitchman, W Heywood-Lonsdale, M Procter, L Roberts, E Rich,
Unitary Councillor: Cllr. P Wynn (Arrived late due to other commitments)

Clerk: James Howard

Meeting Started 19:45

1 Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Public Session

The Chair welcomed all in attendance. No members of the public attended.

2 Present, apologies or absent

Cllr Price sent his apologies.

3 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests or requests for Dispensations

Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale declared an interest in the planning application to be discussed.

4 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

The minutes were approved and the following updates discussed.

Cllr Hitchman to provide details of signs to Pin Seeker.

Pin Seeker were thanked for their offer of a Corra Place sign and two signs for the footpath.

The speed sign in Ightfield has now been moved into position.

The case of road issues on Bletchley Road had been closed. Clerk to report again as resurfacing issues.

There is no new news on the gatepost planning issue.

United Utilities are keeping all informed and only the fencing remains to be completed.

5 Reports: Unitary Councillor, Councillors & Clerk

This will be covered later in the meeting when Cllr Wynn arrives.

6 Parish Matters - An opportunity for Councillors to report urgent items requiring attention.

a) Playground reports – Ightfield and Calverhall.

Calverhall - The Council wishes to show their thanks to Glyn Wygley for repair of the rocker and offer to repaint the other one. The small gate is still not shutting and P Haynes needs to carry out a repair. It is thought to be hinge problems. The invoice for this will be put on hold.

Ightfield – The playground is now looking good and the activity trail has been refurbished by Peter Haynes. The parallel bars and pole are also now in order. The multiplay area needs reseeding later in the year.

b) To approve the grounds maintenance contract from Marches Landscape for FY24/25.

New costs have been received for the contract with the new annual charge of £6009. This is an increase but covers the reseeding and new soil to be put down and the Greek hedge to be lowered. The price was accepted. It was noted that some of the grass cutting is the responsibility of the village hall. The Council need to be informed if the village hall want it cutting.

c) Cashflow report for January.

This was presented. New procedures will be in place for the new financial year including reference numbers on all invoices.

7 Highway/Environmental Health

In Corra Meadows there is an old lamppost half removed and coned. Next to it is a new lamppost which is not working. It is thought to be part of the LED upgrade. Details of Old Stubb Road regarding its status as adopted or not to be sought by Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale and provided to the Clerk. It was noted that parking outside the new estate is not good and could be dangerous but this is not an issue for the Parish Council and comes under the jurisdiction of Shropshire County Council.

8. Planning (to include all received since the last meeting)

23/05228/FUL

Erection of replacement dwelling and garage. 7 Burleydam Road. To be discussed later when Cllr Wynn arrives.

9 Finance

a) Balance reconciliation & cash book for information

Information presented. It was agreed to put the payment to Peter Haynes for gate repairs on hold until the work is complete.

b) Payment/Invoices – all other payments approval proposed by Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale and seconded by Cllr Procter. Cashflow for the next FY will be provided by the Clerk.

c) Budget – to approve the budget for 2024-25

Approved with change to £6000 for grounds maintenance.

Budget Heading	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 24/25 Budget
Salary	3144	4095
Administration	400	220
Room Hire	150	175
Audits	175	500
Electricity	850	400
Lighting Maintenance	400	160
Grounds Maintenance	5100	6009
Pathway repair	0	500
Playground	500	200
Insurance	660	760
Grants	1200	1400
Affiliations	325	300
Election	0	0
Bank Charges	72	72
Assets	0	200
Playground refurbishment	1324	400
Training	200	100
Total	14500	15491

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INCOME		
Precept	14500	15450
CIL Local		1223
Interest	0	428
Grants	0	0
Total	14500	17101

- d) Precept – to confirm the precept requirement for 2024-25
A precept of £15450 was agreed which represents a 3% increase on council tax. Clerk to advise Shropshire County Council.

At this point Cllr Wynn arrived and gave his presentation.

He stated that the Council budget is under huge pressure with 84% being for Social Services. Staff may have to be cut and green bins may be charged for in future. The Centre in Whitchurch has RAAC problems with the roof. The cost of demolition is about £1m and the cost of rebuild about £6.5m. No decision has yet been reached.

Planning was now discussed regarding the issue of the replacement house in Ightfield at 7 Burleydam Road.

Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale left the meeting having declared an interest earlier. The Chair agreed not to vote as he has some interest being in close proximity to the proposal. Following a discussion the following statement was agreed.

“The Parish Council supports the development to improve the village of Ightfield. The sight has been deteriorating for a number of years and the visual impact is detrimental to the village. The Council also believe it also creates safety issues.”

Clerk to forward statement to Cllr Wynn by email.

Clerk to inform Planning online.

Meeting ended 9.15pm