

# ***Harbottle Parish Council***

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023** **At The Star Inn**

Present: Cllrs. S. Bolam, S. Kenny; J. Ormston, A. Stripp , S. Wardlaw (Chairman)

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April were approved.

4. Matters arising:

A meeting was held with three County Council officers on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April concerning the siting and operation of an electric vehicle charging point installed outside the School. The School Head also attended. There had been no consultation with the Parish Council or the School prior to installation. Council officers explained that EV points could not be sited outside private residences, they had to be adjacent to an electricity supply and on a pavement wide enough to still allow pushchairs/wheelchairs to be used. It was agreed that the installation outside the School was the only possible position for the EV point in Harbottle village. Following representation from a nearby resident, the bright light on top of the charging point was deemed unnecessary and intrusive in a rural area and the officers switched it off. The EV point can only be fully operated with a mobile phone for payment. The Council seemed unaware that there was no mobile phone signal in Harbottle and in the circumstances agreed that the point could be used free of charge until such time as mobile phone connection is made available in the village.

5. Finance:

(a) Annual Accounts for 2022-3 and Audit. The following were agreed and signed:

- (i) Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review
- (ii) The Annual Governance Statement
- (iii) Accounting Statements for 2022/3 and variances noted
- (iv) Risk Register
- (v) Asset Register

It was agreed that the accounting documents would be published and open to public scrutiny from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 for one month.

(b) A bank balance at 18<sup>th</sup> April of £14,697.05 was noted, including receipt of £500 as first precept payment, £260 grant from NCC towards the coronation celebrations and £436.12 VAT return. Internet banking had been approved by Lloyds and card and pin number were awaited.

- (c) The following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- (i) Gala Tents: £2,210.95
  - (ii) Sharon Graham: £458.38 (coronation celebrations provisions)
  - (iii) Greenbrae £185.49 (sausages for coronation)
  - (iv) Greenwell Bakery £100.80 (buns for coronation)
  - (v) Peter Stott £240 (fireworks for coronation)
  - (vi) Alan Stripp £22.98 (cakes for coronation)
  - (vii) Star Inn £111.26 (soft drinks, etc. for coronation)
  - (viii) Sue Bolam £50.00 (payment to James Tait for music for coronation)
  - (ix) NALC £164.16 (subscription and website licence)
  - (x) Zurich Insurance £172.26.

#### 6. Northern Powergrid Foundation Grant.

It was noted with satisfaction that a heavy duty tent had been purchased and used successfully for the coronation celebrations, along with a mobile generator. It was agreed that bags to store the tent should be purchased along with lighting and some extra bobble ties.

Housing of the equipment was discussed and further research into sheds and siting agreed. SB reported that she had asked Zurich for insurance cover and was awaiting details and premium cost.

Letting out of the tent and generator was discussed. It was agreed that care needed to be taken to ensure that use by other organisations was properly supervised and managed.

#### 7. Coronation Celebrations

The Parish had joined with Alwinton and Netherton Parishes to provide joint celebrations and mugs for the coronation. Beacons were lit at Alwinton and Elilaw (Netherton) with hot sausages and soft drinks, with the addition of fireworks at Elilaw. A tea with games and competitions, music and face painting was held on Monday afternoon on Park House haugh in the marquee and much enjoyed by all attendees. Alwinton had also received a grant from NCC towards the costs. It was noted that net costs after grants, VAT reclaim and sales of mugs was taken into account, were likely to be small.

#### 8. Proposed boundary changes to the County Council Electoral Divisions

As the proposals did not affect Harbottle, Councillors had no comment to make.

#### 9. Any Other Business

SW enquired as the situation regarding the bus shelter at Holystone which was deteriorating. SB to investigate.

#### 10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Chairman

