

DRAFT MINUTES OF FIVEHEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Monday 16 January 2023, at 1830, at The Village Hall, Stowey Road, Fivehead

Present:

Mrs K Beacham – Chair (KB); Mrs L Howard (LH); Mrs C Munday (CM); Mr R Wynn (RW); Mr D Braddock (DB); Dr B Ferguson (BF); Mrs J Parsons - Clerk/RFO (JP) and the parish newsletter editor

4393 Apologies

District Councillor M Cavill

4394 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Relating to matters at Min 4395a – BF, as a member of the Playing Field Committee, would be asked to withdraw from decisions on grant funding as necessary.

As Members with a property within the administrative area of Fivehead and Swell Parish, the setting of the Parish Precept would relate to or affect a disclosable pecuniary interest that has been registered. Members signed a request for dispensation. Dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer (the Clerk) to the Members in attendance, to allow them to freely and fully participate in relation to setting the Precept for FY23/24.

4395 FY23/24 Finances/budget

- a) Playing Field (PF) grant request – as the PF Committee had been postponed to 24 Jan, the grant request would be considered in February, when further information on the PF finances and future fundraising plans would hopefully be available. **Action:** Clerk to add to Feb 23 agenda
- b) Price increase for parish newsletter advertising 2023 – Members discussed the advertising schedule provided by the editor, who had joined the meeting to review the rates for 2023. Members proposed applying a small price increase of 5%, due to escalating printing costs. This would be the first increase for over 4 years and it was hoped this would be acceptable to the valued supporters of the newsletter, as the publication was very well received by residents. The publication still offered good value advertising, as it was distributed to all households in the parish free of charge and was also available via the parish website. A meeting to discuss possible ways to reduce print costs would take place with the editor, Chair and Clerk the following week and the editor would feed back on renewals. **Resolution: to approve an increase of approximately 5% from January 2023 (rounded to a manageable figure).** Proposed by DB and seconded by CM. Carried unan.

The editor was thanked for his input and left the meeting.

- c) Grass maintenance contract FY23/34 – an estimate with a fixed 2% increase had been included in the budget for the purpose of setting the precept. The contract renewal would be considered at the February meeting when it was hoped that a response on service delivery would be available from SSDC. **Action:** Clerk to add to Feb 23 agenda
- d) Draft budget and precept for FY23/24 – an updated budget with precept calculations had been circulated to Members. Areas for paring down the budget were discussed. Taking into consideration the high inflation rates and cost of living crisis, it was agreed that a precept increase of 9.3% (equivalent to £5.73 pa on Band D charge) would be necessary for FY23/24, which would support a budget of £18095. The precept requested was lower than the total budget requirement of £18392, so the deficit of £297 would be covered from general reserves. **Resolution: to set the budget requirement of £18392, with a precept of £18095 and £297 from general reserves, assuming a grant allocation of £0.** Proposed by LH and seconded by CM. Carried unan.

4396 Matters of Report, Questions and Items for the Next Meeting

- a) Drainage update – MC had spoken with some of the local landowners and the drains had been dug out near Stillbrook Farm. There was no obvious blockage but there may be an issue on Watery Lane. MS had written to the Environment Agency so it was hoped that they would be able to resolve the issue. The matter would be added to the February agenda.
- b) Burial request – St Martin's Church had received a request from a family for an interment of ashes in an existing family grave in the churchyard. The church warden was waiting for advice from the Diocese as to whether this could be authorised, which may be dependant on whether it is in the closed or open part of the churchyard. The matter would be added to the February agenda for the Parish Council to consider the Diocese's response and whether the Council would also need to give permission for the burial, although it would not have issued the Deed.
- c) Out of hours works at Glendale – the Council had been notified of residents' concerns over Sunday working with heavy plant machinery on the site. As there was a planning condition for no out of hours works, the matter had been referred to Enforcement and would be added to the February agenda.

4397 Date for Next Meeting

Monday 6 February 2023 at 1830 at Village Hall, Stowey Road, Fivehead

The meeting closed at 7.03pm.

Chairman.....Dated.....