

Zeals Parish Council

Draft Minutes of 29 November 2021 Parish Council Meeting

nb. This was a re-arranged meeting as the scheduled meeting due to occur on 18/11/2021 had to be postponed. The meeting was not open to members of public as the venue used (St Michael's Parish Room) could only cope with 6 people owing to covid recommendations at the time.

Present: Cllrs Spencer (CS) (Chairman), Corbin (DC), d'Ambrumenil (LD), Hole-Jones (CH-J), Patch (AP) and Parish Clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs Gibbons and Gray.

32 Declarations of any interest: DC with regard to item 6 on the agenda. (point 35 below)

33 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 21 September: It was proposed by CS and seconded by DC that the minutes presented a true and accurate record of proceedings; all councillors were in agreement.

34 Matters arising from the minutes:

- SID for Bells Lane. CS has now sourced an appropriate pole and it will be in place as soon as possible.
- Grass cutting contract. The Clerk had received 2 quotes. Mr PM Buttress would continue charging £80 per cut, whilst Mr A Light quoted a charge of £45 for the same. CS proposed that we accept Mr Light's quote, seconded by LD, and agreed by all. Action: Clerk to offer the contract formally to Mr Light, and then inform Mr Buttress.

35 Green Pastures: DC informed the meeting, that-

- Lease Transfer. The lease currently held by Zeals Youth Trust (ZYT) will be transferred to Seeds4Success (S4S) with the same terms and conditions applying.
- Trustee from Zeals. It would be appropriate if another trustee would come forward from the village in addition to the 2 from ZYT already in place. He is actively seeking another trustee. AP has expressed an interest.
- Payment to the Parish Council: ZYT wish to donate to the Parish Council, with the Parish Council being the owners of the site, the full sum of the costs involved in installing the underground services connecting electricity, water and drainage to the site where concrete foundations are to be laid down, upon which a future wooden pavilion would be placed that would be used by many youth groups in the future. CS proposed that this offer is accepted, seconded by CH-J and agreed by all. Action: The Clerk to arrange for the cheque to be written from the parish council and sent to the contractors involved in the project namely C and J Dyer. (£12,601.24 including £2,100.24 vat; £10501.20 excl vat)
- N.B. To support the development, especially as it is in order to benefit the young people in our area, the Clerk reminded the meeting that there is a sum of £2,600.00 of S106 funding still available to be used by the Parish Council for the benefit of youth-based activities within the parish, and that item 5c (from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021) proposed that the Parish Council would offer this financial support. Action: It was resolved that DC and the Clerk submit a claim for the remaining S106 funds.

36 Financial matters:

A . Payments for approval: (i) Clerk salary October and November £373.44 (ii) Clerk office payment and printing ink and paper costs (£50, 16+34 respectively) (iii) water2business £60.36 for allotment water charges (iv) Mrs Corbin £17.95 for Remembrance wreath (v) Bourton Fencing £186 includes £31 vat for swing gate repairs (vi) Section 137 Grant awards to local organisations a) To St Martin's £250 for assistance with the essential maintenance of the churchyard; b) to Zeals Village News £150 for publication costs of the village circular which goes to every household within Zeals each month; c) to Mere Link Scheme £125 that assists any resident with essential transport when

needed. (vii) Nick Gatehouse Forestry £260 for maintenance of the Memorial Tree area, cutting back footpath edges and for strimming an abandoned allotment plot. (viii) PM Buttress £400 late summer/autumn grass cuts.

It was proposed by CH-J and seconded by AP that all payments are approved, and agreed by all.

B. Summary of the Half Year Financial Report prepared by the Clerk.

Expenditure so far: As the spread sheet shows, most sections are comfortably within the predicted budget, but two sections have exceeded their expected allocations already. Firstly, grass cutting, hedge trimming and tree work are all significantly above expected levels: mainly due to the prolific growth of vegetation over the summer period and an increase in cuts made as a result, and an increase in the charges from the contractor from £50 to £80 for each cut. Some tree work was needed along the allotment hedge and no specific allowance was made for that, Miscellaneous expenditure also rose significantly above expected limits. The village notice board and swing gate from Portnells lane to Tulse Hill had to undergo essential repairs. However, more had to be spent on the playground than was initially forecast as some costly routine repairs were needed following the Safety Inspection from earlier in the year, together with the repairs that were needed later in the year following deliberate damage to the climbing frame.

Funds are, nevertheless, still available to meet all commitments for the rest of the year, although to make sure that all consequences can be covered a sum of money will be transferred from our Savings Account .

Our financial situation remains healthy overall.

C. Precept request for the Financial Year 2022-2023.

As the suggested precept sheet illustrated, figures are predominantly in line with this current year. The parish council's reserve funding, if needed, could make up for any shortfall that might arise. Hence, a precept closely in line with the current precept has been recommended. This follows the aim of the parish council not to overburden unnecessarily our residents without diminishing any standards of care and service.

It was proposed by LD, seconded by DC and agreed by all that a figure of £5061 be requested from Wiltshire Council.

37 Correspondence with Wiltshire Council. Two items have been reported as needing their attention. A sycamore tree on the bank opposite the Green needs to be either felled or pollarded as it is dead. The street light on the eastern approach to the village is in need of repair, especially as it would illuminate the damaged build-out structure which is not easy to notice in the dark.

38. Any other business: Clarification is need on the condition of some ash trees at the old picnic site. Action: DC agreed to investigate.

39 Date and time of the next meeting: 6.45 pm on the evening of Thursday 20 January 2022.

Closure: 8.45pm

Signed:Chairman.