

**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 11h January 2024 held at Northiam Village Hall**

**Present: Cllr Fairbrass (Chair), Cllr C Biggs, Cllr Harding, Cllr Luckett, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sargent, Cllr Fenton & Cllr Schlesinger**

**Also Present: Nicola Ideson Clerk - Cllr T Biggs (RDC), and approximately 22 members of the Public**

**Date: 11th January 2024**

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|  | **To receive and accept Apologies for Absence**  Apologies were received from Cllr Wadie these were accepted. |
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| 1. **m** | **Chairman’s Announcements**  The Chairman announced that even though the planning application for the stables is still being processed the Council are open to offers of interest regarding the letting of the stables. |
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|  | **To adjourn the meeting to enable members of the public and Councillors to address the meeting. This is a ‘for information’ session only and no action can be taken upon those items raised.**  *The meeting was closed at 19.01*  *Members of the public made a representations on items FC24/316, FC24/332 and FC24/326*  *This was noted by Council* |
|  | *The meeting was re-opened at 19.10* |
|  | **To receive Declarations of Interest and Lobbying**  *To receive any declaration by members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of the interest and whether the member regards the interest as personal, pecuniary or prejudicial under the Code of Members Conduct.*  *A member of the public declared they were recoding the meeting.* |
|  | **Minutes** – It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th December 2023 be approved as a true record of the meeting. Subject to an amendment to item FC24/303 clarifying the resulting action to be taken. The minutes were duly signed. |
|  | **Minutes –** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 2nd January 2024 be approved as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed. |
|  | **To receive report from County Councillor**  Cllr Redstone’s report had been published and was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. |
|  | **To receive report from District Councillors**  The District Councillors’ report had been published and was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. |
|  | **Finance** |
|  | The payments for January 2024 were circulated at the meeting and **AGREED**. |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Payee** | **Amount Gross** | | John O’Conner | £1,082.50 | | NVHT | £26.00 | | NVHT | £100 | | NVHT | £50.00 | | EDF | £256.74 | | Matt’ll Fix IT | £70.00 | | Castle Water | £111.75 | | GH Lowe | £3951,63 | | HMRC | £561.83 | | N Ideson | £1612.13 | | N Ideson | £1.95 | | DS Chestnut | £1308.00 | | Castle Water | £0.25 | |
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|  | **To note the bank reconciliation for November –** The bank reconciliation was **AGREED** and signed in conjunction with the bank statements.  Co-op £131,056.59  Unity £26,593.75  Nationwide £52,476.98  Barclays £36,045.32 |
|  | **To ratify the Locum Clerks time sheet (April – November 2023) –** The Locum Clerk’s time sheet was **AGREED** a total of £3951.63. Including a payment of £2240 already approved in the October minutes. |
|  | **To consider the draft budget recommendation from the Finance Committee.** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the draft budget. A named vote was requested and the vote was unanimous. The Chairman commented that the Council will be in a position to start the budget setting process earlier for the next financial year. |
|  | **To consider the precept request 24/25 –** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the increase to the precept by 5.1% to £113000. For a Band D Council Tax Payer this will be an increase of £5.26 a year. |
|  | **To receive and note the interim Internal Audit.** The Internal Audit was noted by Council. |
|  | **To consider continuing the previous Clerk’s email supplier’s subscription for 6 months.** The previous email supplier will not extend the subscription as they have already given Northiam Parish Council 12 month’s notice. |
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|  | **Expenditure in line with 4.1 of the Financial Regulations.** No Expenditure |
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|  | **To discuss the installation of the new perspex to the noticeboard.** It was **AGREED** that Councillor volunteers will install the perspex. |
|  | **St Francis Field** |
|  | **To consider the status of the current stables planning application due to the change in circumstances.** The application needs to be re-submitted to RDC using a different form resulting in the incorrect fee being paid. |
|  | **Reports from Councillors** |
|  | Cllr Biggs gave an update on fly tipping at the allotments. After speaking with RDC they explained that the case close was closed. Cllr Biggs informed a Rother District Councillor who subsequently got in touch with RDC. RDC advised that the situation be monitored during the grass cutting months and report any future instances to RDC.  Cllr Schlesinger said she had been asked by a resident if they needed permission to add an additional sign to the ‘Park View’ street sign.  Cllr Sargent announced that the Football working party would be meeting on 15th  January and the Playground working party would be meeting on 13th January. |
|  | **Second Session for Public Questions**  As resolved for inclusion at the July 2023 meeting, a second session for public questions or comments.  *The meeting was closed at 20.08*  *Residents made representations on items FC24/332 and FC24/326.*  *This was noted by Council* |
|  | *The meeting was re-opened at 20.18* |
|  | It was **RESOLVED** in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 that, because of the confidential and/or sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, (may it be legal, contractual or employment issues), the press and public be instructed to withdraw.  The meeting moved into closed session at 20.36 |
|  | **Leases & Licences** |
|  | **To consider rent reviews for the bungalows.** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** a 10% rent increase to the bungalows. The Council’s managing agent will be instructed to proceed and confirm that the rent increase would still be at least 80% less than market value. This is due to an affordable housing clause in the planning permission for the bungalows. |
|  | **HR** |
|  | **To discuss Social Media comments by individuals.** Recent social media posts from non-public FaceBook pages were discussed. It was **AGREED** that these posts should be ignored and not responded to, this would prevent any pre-determined comments. A social media policy was suggested. |
|  | The meeting closed at 20.52 pm  Signed………………………………………………………………………………………… |
|  | Date………………………………………………………………………………………… |