

STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Group Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th DECEMBER 2022 in the Village Hall , Staunton on Wye.

Present – N Sellar (Chair) , A Andrews , S Williams . R Skyrme, J Price,

There were nine members of the public present in attendance together with Cllr G Jones.

1. Apologies for Absence – P Dyke, E Pearson-Gregory, J Nelson, P Pantall

2. Declarations of Interest – No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of meeting held on the 26th SEPTEMBER 2022 – The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising – The only matter that was raised was that regarding the hosting of the website. It was agreed that such should be resolved and secured as a matter of urgency.

5. Report from Councillor Jones – Councillor Jones reported that he had attended a County Council briefing on Children’s Services and that Daryl Freeman had been appointed as the new Head of Children’s Services. Extra Caseworkers had been appointed at a cost of 6.5 million pounds.

The budget had been 11.2 million pounds overspent. To set the next budget there would be a public consultation exercise. This would be held locally.

The County Council would be considering moving the bus station next to the railway station as part of the plans for the Transport Hub. Plans were also being considered for the erection of a multi-storey parking facility to be placed next to the railway station.

6. Planning Matters –

The issue was raised that a planning application had been submitted recently without a request to the Parish Council for its views. Cllr Jones replied that in the circumstances of some internal changes to property such requests would not be forthcoming.

Snuffles Wood – It was noted, and concern expressed that a caravan / mobile home had been placed in the land of Snuffles Wood. Cllr Jones agreed to talk with Mark Tansley to ascertain if such a placement was in contravention of any policies regarding mobile homes.

7. Playing Field – The Clerk informed the meeting that the goal posts and nets had been ordered and had been delivered to A Andrews for placement. It was agreed that either a group or professional company should be employed to install the posts and nets to ensure that the task was done safely and properly.

The report on the Play ground has been received. A. Andrews has received a copy and will report back to the next Parish Council meeting with the main points and those that need action.

The Clerk has agreed to detail the regularity, the venues and the costs of grass cutting in order that the Parish Council can forecast more accurately the financial outcome for the coming year.

8. Highway Matters – It was reported to the Parish Council that there was a prospect of a 20mph limit being applied within the village as part of a larger County Council plan to reduce the speed limit in villages around Herefordshire. A draft letter will arrive with Clerks, in the New Year, setting out how to apply for those communities wishing to participate.

The Clerk had received thanks to be passed onto the Parish Council for the reinstatement of the white line outside the houses opposite the old school. However concern was expressed that a multitude of fresh lines had been placed in error outside the old school which is no longer open.

The matter of speeding traffic on the A438 was raised once more. The only way this matter can be legally and satisfactorily resolved is by the Parish Council seeking a TRO which has a considerable cost implication. Certainly it is clear that the final figures regarding traffic calming measures will be the the numbers of accidents and deaths on a specific section of road.

Concern was again raised about the numbers of potholes that are to be found in the Parish. People should be encouraged to report such potholes on the appropriate website. The Clerk agreed to report the damage to a number of sand bins in the area and the damaged sign at the foot of Tin Hill.

9. Parish Council Website – The meeting was informed that V8 the Parish Council website hosts had gone into liquidation. Consideration now had to be undertaken to ensure that the website was properly hosted and that it was legally compliant.

10. Defibrillator – As reported at the last Parish Council meeting the defibrillator pads have been purchased and fitted. Information should be obtained to ensure that the list of contacts was running properly.

11. Footpaths – The meeting agreed that a list should be compiled of those people who would wish to assist in walking footpaths. The Chairman further requested that the Parish Clerk ascertain if a map and definitive list of footpaths was available.

12, General Correspondence – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received correspondence from the Highways Department regarding the possibility of installation of a bus shelter outside the Village Hall. There would be no cost implication for such installation or for the shelter itself. The Clerk was requested to arrange a site meeting and to respond to the correspondence in a positive manner.

13. Finance – The Clerk reported to the Parish Council on the current state of the Parish Council finances. These were deemed satisfactory.

An annual precept of £4000 was agreed. The proposal was nominated, seconded and voted upon satisfactorily.

The Clerk expressed concern that he had still not been able to find anyone in the community to fulfill the position of Internal Auditor. Mrs L Allen expressed an interest in taking up the position. The Clerk agreed to arrange a meeting with Mrs Allen to explain the process.

14– War Memorial – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a letter signed by a number of residents requesting that consideration be given to the possibility of moving the local War Memorial from its present position on the A438 to the centre of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk return to the next meeting of the Parish Council with more information on such a project.

15 – Any Other Business – There were no items of any other business

16 – Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on the **6 MARCH 2023** at 7.30pm in the Staunton on Wye Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 2045 hours.