

STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Group Parish Council Meeting held on MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 held in the Village Hall , Staunton on Wye. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present – A Andrews, B Arthur, M Jones, S Marsh, E Pearson-Gregory, J Price, N Sellar, W Shepherd, S Williams.

There were five members of the public present in attendance including County Councillor Mr Robert Highfield.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 15 MAY 2023
– The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING – Reference was made to the meeting held between the Chair and the clerk with the County Councillor at which priorities for the Parish, including the village bus shelter, were raised.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBERT HIGHFIELD – Cllr Highfield congratulated the Parish Council on the placement of the new bus shelter. He informed the meeting that he had met with and had asked Balfour Beatty to cutback hedges at T junctions. Cllr Highfield agreed to raise the issue of double yellow lines at Bredwardine Bridge and to treat this as an urgent matter with high priority. The issue of the lane down to Little London was raised and it was agreed that after complaints about vehicles getting stuck due to the poor surface Balfour Beatty would give an assessment as a high priority.

Cllr Highfield reported that the Conservative Group was now running the Council and that scrutiny committees would be run by opposition groups.

- The by-pass is now back on the Agenda
- Review of the plan for the new library in Maylord Orchard
- Shire Hall requires repair and refurbishment with a re-estimate of those costs
- Children's Services in special measures but linking in partnership with Leeds Council to improve services.
- County Council requiring 200 million pounds to resurface roads in the County.
- A conference is being scheduled to bring various professionals together to discuss the poor quality of local rivers and to consider a way forward.

6. FINANCE – PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024 The Clerk distributed a budgetary proposal paper. A recent e-mail from the County Council in respect of the Lengthsman Scheme was debated as part of the proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk should make an application expressing an interest in the scheme with reference to maintenance of the playing field and playground and the clearing of gullies within the Parish.

The Clerk raised the issue of the size of the Precept and also the size of the Clerk's pay in comparison with other Parish Councils. It was agreed that the Clerk should monitor his hours and report back to the Parish Council. It was further agreed that there would be further consideration of the size of the Precept at the Parish Council meeting in December. It was agreed that if the Precept is to be substantially increased then the public should be informed of the reasoning behind such increase with reference to the projects being undertaken.

The budget was formally accepted.

There was debate regarding the setting up of volunteers for the defibrillator lifeline. The setting up of this project may well require the purchase of equipment. This would be costed and fed back to the next Parish Council meeting.

7. PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE AND GRASS CUTTING –

The Clerk reported to the meeting that he had received a quotation for installing the goalposts and nets amounting to a total of £ 1,160 . It was agreed that S Williams would talk with that company and also with other individuals to ascertain if that work could be undertaken at a lower price. There was the possibility that the metalwork being removed could be done in house.

The wood chips have still not been priced or arrangement made for such delivery. The Clerk to report back.

8. UPDATING OF WEBSITE – The meeting was informed that the Website was still not up to the National Standards. A working party has been set up to ensure that the required documents are uploaded to ensure compliance. Any cost element will be reported back to the next meeting of the Parish Council

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – A report was received on the latest developments in respect of the proposed refurbishment and movement of the War Memorial.

An issue was raised by a member of the public regarding the collection of dog faeces. That member of the public agreed to feed provide the Clerk with details of a company who has set up a collection service. The Clerk will circulate any details that he collects.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – It was agreed that the next meeting be held on the **3 SEPTEMBER 2023** at the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 2045 hours.