

STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Group Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th MAY 2023 in the Village Hall , Staunton on Wye. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present – A Andrews, B Arthur, S Marsh, J Price, N Sellar, W Shepherd, R Skyrme

There were six members of the public present in attendance.

1. INTRODUCTIONS – The Clerk requested that Parish Councillors introduce themselves following the recent Parish Council elections. He informed the meeting that following those elections there were two vacant seats in the Parish of Monnington on Wye with Brobury. The Clerk further informed the meeting he had received information from the Elections Office that the Parish Council was legally entitled to co-opt Councillors into those positions. Following those comments E Pearson-Gregory and M Jones, both residents of Monnington on Wye were properly proposed and seconded and elected as Parish Councillors.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2023 / 2024 – NIGEL SELLAR was duly proposed and seconded and elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year. RICHARD SKYRME was duly proposed and seconded and elected as Vice Chair for the forthcoming year. N Sellar took the Chair.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – S. Williams had apologised for his absence.

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

5. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 6 MARCH 2023 – The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th March 2023.

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBERT HIGHFIELD – The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Highfield had been elected for the Castle Ward at the recent County Council election. He had been in contact with Councillor Highfield who had sent his apologies for that night's meeting. However Councillor Highfield had agreed to meet with the Clerk and Chair in a meeting to update himself with the latest issues pertinent to the Parish Council. He had agreed to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS – There have been no recent planning applications. The Clerk informed the meeting of those applications that had been received by the last Parish Council and their outcomes. Their being no issues outstanding business from those applications it was agreed to move to the next item of business.

9. PLAYING FIELD – A Andrews informed the meeting that the annual report had been received regarding the playing field. Within that report she outlined the following issues -

- wooden table to be removed
- rubbish bin to be secured
- bark to be replaced
- entry gate requires attention in order that it shuts automatically
- remove wobble board and replace
- remove and grind protruding bolts on equipment
- screws missing from signs should be replaced
- attention to the climbing frame

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 the Clerk should search to ascertain if there was a company / individual willing to carry out the work at a lower price. Concern was also expressed at the quality of the grass cutting in the Playing Field and that there had been no strimming around the fences and edges.

10. HIGHWAY MATTERS – There was continuing discussion regarding the proposed 20mph speed limit through the village. There had been a meeting attended by the Highways and by M Jones earlier in the year. Unfortunately the meeting had been held at a time of day when the traffic outside the school and surgery were limited. M Jones commented on the situation in other villages and Parishes and it was agreed that the matter be taken up with R Highfield and the appropriate Highways Officers prior to the next Parish Council meeting. Comment was also made about the possibility of signs being placed outside the local school.

The Clerk informed the meeting that had received information that a bus shelter was to installed at the bus stop outside the village hall. He had been informed that the installation should take place either in May or in June.

The meeting agreed that it would be helpful if the Clerk were to approach the Clerk at Kinnersley Parish Council to ascertain their views upon the speed of traffic on the A438 and any actions that they may be pursuing in respect of a 50mph limit.

It was a greed that the Clerk invite the Locality Steward to a future meeting to discuss the maintenance of verges and hedges at local road junctions.

11. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – The meeting was informed that the Website was still not up to the National Standards. A number of documents would require uploading to ensure that it reached those standards.

S Marsh agreed to work with the Clerk to form a working group with H Kirby to bring the website up to standard as soon as possible.

12. DEFIBRILLATOR – It has been agreed that to commence the list discussed at previous meetings the following people would be available to be contacted should the usage of the defibrillator be required – A Andrews, S Grist, B Arthur and W Shepherd.

13. FOOTPATHS – The Clerk informed the meeting that nobody had contacted the meeting to accept the position of Footpath's Officer. However he was aware that a number of people continued to walk the footpaths in the Parish. It was agreed that it should continue to be advertised that he should be informed should there be a replacement stile and/or stile required and he would obtain any replacement from Balfour Beatty.

14. WAR MEMORIAL – The Clerk reported to the meeting that a sub-committee was being formed to consider the proposition of the movement of the memorial from its current position into the centre of the village. B Arthur agreed to sit on the Committee which will report back to the Parish Council after each meeting.

15. COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT – The Chair informed the meeting that there was already an agreed Code of Conduct in place relating to the Parish Councillors. However it was agreed that the correspondence from the County Council should be circulated to enable Councillors to ascertain if there should be any amendment.

16. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE – B Arthur has written to the Parish Council, through the Clerk, requesting funding for the hire of the Village Hall for further first aid courses. The cost would be £100. The proposal was properly moved and seconded and agreed unanimously.

17. ACCOUNTS 2022 / 2023 – The Clerk introduced the following section by introducing Mrs L Allen to the meeting. Mrs Allen had internally audited the Parish Council accounts. Her auditing had proven to be a very positive exercise as she had highlighted some areas that could be handled in a different manner which would be to the benefit of the Parish Council in future years.

- a) - Certificate of Exemption (Part 2) - The meeting agreed that such application was appropriate.

- b) – Internal Report – The report was examined and unanimously passed

- c) – Annual Governance Statement - The Statement was considered and passed unanimously.

ACCOUNTS 2023 / 2024

- a- ConfirmClerk’s remuneration – It was agreed that such remain at £1100 per annum.

- b – Signatories for cheques – It was agreed that the following Councillors remain as signatories – N Sellar, A Andrews and R Skyrme.

- c – Responsible Financial Officer – It was agreed that Mr S Grist remain in the post.

- d – Internal Auditor for 2023 / 2024 – It was agreed that Mrs L Allen remain in the post.

- e – Proposed budget for 2023 / 2024 – The proposed budget did not meet with unanimous agreement. Certain amendments have been suggested and a re-convened Parish Council meeting to be held on the 3rd July to give the matter further consideration.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – There were no items of any other business.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – It was agreed that the next meeting be held on the 3rd July at the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 2045 hours.