

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Inkpen Parish Council Meeting was held on 31st January 2024 at 7pm in the Inkpen Pavilion.

Those attending the meeting were: Councillor Bates, Councillors Corne, Cox, Fisher, Lester & Thomas. Also attending was Clerk, Mrs Gloria Keene.

1. Apologies: Councillor Durham, was unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – the draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th October were deferred to the next meeting on 19th February due to the urgency of issues requiring a decision.

3. Matters Arising: all matters were deferred to the next meeting on Monday 19th February 2024

4. Declaration of Interest:

4.1 Dr Thomas declared an interest in the grant for the History Group due to personal involvement.

4.2 The following declaration is made on all minutes for clarification.

Inkpen Parish Council is the Corporate & Custodian Trustee of the Memorial Playing Field Trust and registered with the Charity Commission as the Corporate and Custodian Trustee. Trust meetings and funds are held separately as required by the Charity Commission and confirmed by the External Auditors.

5. Clearance of the ditch adjacent to Post Office Rd. and fallen trees

5.1 Councillor Lester had received one quotation for the work required to remove the fallen trees and further work along Post Office Rd. to ensure the future safety of dangerous trees. The oak trees will need to be referred to the WBC Tree Officer. Replacement trees should be considered. The work may need to be undertaken in stages due to the significant cost of removal.

Action: Councillor Lester will obtain two further quotes and contact the Tree Officer at WBC.

6. Expenditure & financial Statement 2023/2024 & Precept for 2024/2025

6.1 The Clerk had circulated the financial statement for the month ending 29th December 2023 and copies of the bids requesting Grant funding, prior to the meeting to enable councillors to raise queries if required.

6.2 A change of signatories on the Parish Council account and the mandate to NatWest had delayed payments during December.

6.3 Receipt of the Precept (part 2) of £7,000 had been received since the last meeting. Non regular costs were recorded: payment of WBC Election- cost of £2,582; payment of the battery replacement for the defibrillator - £230. A Reserve of £6000 is held in the account against unexpected costs.

All expenditure was approved by Councillors.

- a) Grant application for Inkpen Bulletin of £500 was discussed, as it carries local village issues as well as Church information. Following discussion, it was agreed to grant £500 as part payment towards the cost of publication. With thanks to Tim and Alie des Forges for their support. Grant application for Inkpen History Group - £850 was requested by Dr David Thomas, who provided clarification on the work undertaken by the group.

Following discussion, it was agreed to Grant £850 for the History Group to enable the work to continue.

Dr Thomas agreed to set up a separate Bank Account for the History Group.

Action: Councillors agreed the above expenditure. Dr Thomas, to set up a separate bank account.

- b) All expenditure for 2023/2024 plus a projected outturn for the year ending 2023/2024 was tabled at the meeting to enable Councillors to assess in year spending and agree projected costs for 2024/2025.
- c) Following discussion of projected costs, Councillors agreed that the Precept for 2024/2025 should be increased to £15,000 as it was not possible to absorb further increased costs. (Precept had been previously held at £14k for the last 5 years without an increase).

6. The Date of the Next Meeting will be the on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Inkpen Village Hall if Councillors are available. Meeting closed at 20.30 hrs.

Signed:.....Date: