**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2021**

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

In attendance: Cllr Eric Williams (Chair), Cllr Gordon Wordsworth, Cllr Jean Dickinson,

Cllr Cynthia Ransom

Apologies: None

**2 Declaration of Personal Interest**

None.

**3 Adjournment**

No adjournment was taken.

**4 Approval of Minutes**

1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 20 May 2021 were proposed by Cllr Wordsworth and seconded by Cllr Williams.

**5 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

1. Item 8.i: Quotation for essential tree work to be carried over (GW).
2. Item 8.ii: Contact GMBC for results of their tree survey to be carried over (GW).

**6 Vacancies**

1. Two villagers have been seconded to the Parish Council, subject to completion of the necessary forms and acceptance by DMBC. They are Margaret Marsh and Margaret Goddard.

**7 Update on Insurance Claim: War Memorial**

1. Following the incident at the War Memorial caused by a delivery van’s faulty brakes, Cllr Wordsworth lodged a claim against the delivery company involved, DPD. They have responded with details of their insurance company.
2. Cllr Wordsworth has received two quotations for remedial work to replace 11 posts which are between £3,300 and £3,500.
3. As the damage is to the war memorial, it was felt it should be repaired as soon as possible and in the most sympathetic way. As advice has been to oil, rather than paint the posts, this would involve replacement of all 21 posts, at a cost of £4,800. The aim is, therefore, to attain funding to cover the excess that can be claimed from the insurance company, in order to have all posts alike and in keeping with site.

8 Finance

1. Cllr Wordsworth explained that there was £4,481.20 in the bank and that £4,205 had been paid out, including the biggest outgoing for the defibrillator, the cost of which had been covered by the Banks Wind Farm grant.
2. The second precept payment of £3,300 is due in August and a VAT claim is to be submitted for around £300. All this is in line with expectations.
3. A total of £3,500 is budgeted for gardener’s fees, leaving £280 for tree maintenance. Capital funding has a spare £700 which will be used to fund the excess cost of the war memorial repair.
4. The decision of the VHMC to not have hanging baskets on the Club/Village Hall is creating a saving of £60 on maintenance costs.

**9 Payments to Receive Authorisation**

1. Two invoices have been paid but require retrospective authorisation:
   1. Netwise (web maintenance for the year) £360 Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Dickinson
   2. Gardener (work carried out April/May 2021) £470 Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Dickinson

**10 Update on Halifax Estates Lease**

1. Cllr Wordsworth explained that the Village Club is run by the Village Hall Management Committee but that the Parish Council is the Leaseholder.
2. The renewal of the lease had been discussed with the Halifax Estates representative who, in deciding the length of the lease to grant, had been concerned about the demographics of the village and Committee. When he had been reassured that the majority of the Committee members were young and, therefore, going to take on the running of the premises for long into the future, he had agreed to a 20-year lease (rather that the five or seven-year lease he had offered). It continues to be a full repair lease
3. The amount of rent, currently £4,000 per year, has not yet been set.
4. The Chair thanked Cllr Wordsworth on behalf of the Parish Council and of the village for his efforts to secure the lease.

**11 Planning Applications**

1. DMBC have an application to fell and remove a Silver Birch tree stump in the open space in Castle Hill Fold. This includes plans to plant four replacement trees, in line with DMBC’s practices. This will include a replacement tree in the open space in accordance with National Building standards and three on the highway approaches. No objections were raised.
2. Erection of a conservatory at 5 Home Farm Court. Plans were examined and no objections were raised.
3. A planning application had been made by Hickleton House in Barnburgh to create ten buildings which could affect access through Barnburgh village. This was noted.

**12 Any Other Business**

1. Cllr Ransome gave a rundown of plans so far to create a bypass/relief road for Hickleton. She explained that the building of the road would be advantageous to Barnsley, rather than to Doncaster Council, particularly since comments from prospective organisations about a move into the proposed developments around Goldthorpe have cited the difficulties getting through Hickleton village on the A635 as a sticking point. The Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, has commissioned an engineer to work on the project. We await further news.

**13 Date of Next**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 8.15 pm in the Village Hall.