**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 March 2022**

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

In attendance:

From the Parish Council: Eric Williams (Chair), Gordon Wordsworth, Jean Dickinson

Others: None

Apologies: Margaret Marsh, Margaret Goddard

**2 Declaration of Personal Interest**

None.

**3 Adjournment**

No adjournment was taken.

**4 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 27 January 2022 were proposed by EW and seconded by JD.

**5 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

1. The Jubilee Hedge: carried over to the next meeting.
2. Snow Wardens: JD reported from her meeting with Ellis Meek of DMBC that there had been a hold up in sending out equipment until the relevant training was available. This would now be focussed in preparation for next winter.
3. The Golf Club fence: carried over to the next meeting.
4. Compost heap: it is still being used for bulk tipping of garden waste and, in order to avoid non-compostable materials being left and therefore misuse of this facility, signage will be looked at to be discussed at the next meeting.
5. Speeding through the village: there have been over 800 speeding offences per month. It is thought highly unlikely that this will generate any income for the village.
6. With regard to the A635, a traffic/pollution survey is ongoing, awaiting results which will be reported.
7. JD met with Ellis Meek who is an Engineer with DMBC’s Highway Asset Maintenance, on Monday 31 January 2022. He pointed out that Castle Hill Fold is still on the maintenance list from the last inspection by David Snell in 2019 but agreed that the road had deteriorated since then through degradation and through buckling caused by tree roots. Assessments of the Borough’s roads are made in April/May and scores are allocated to denote where they come on the to-do list. Ellis pointed out that the footpaths are also in need of maintenance. Hopefully, the road will move up the list but this may well be hampered by immediate remedial work that we have requested to the area around the Village Club in preparation for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee street party in June.

**6 Financial Reports and Statements**

1. Changes in the way Virgin Money is being run mean that, for the first time, bank charges are now being incurred of £28.10 to date.
2. The Parish Council has had to pay election charges for the recent changes to Hickleton Parish Council, even though the election was not contested. This is to cover administration costs of £146.75.
3. Gardening costs remain the biggest expenditure, at £2685 to date this year. A further £720 has been spent on tree maintenance.
4. Receipts of £10,199.28 include a Banks Wind Farm grant and £3,300 DMBC Parish Precept. Expenditure totalled £9,494.63. This, together with £3,452.88 brought forward from the current account, leaves a Cash Book Balance of £4,157.53.
5. The form which has to be completed by GW in order to qualify for DMBC’s Parish Precept has now been updated, as two houses which previously stood empty have now been occupied. The new form was approved by EW and seconded by JD.

**7 Payments to Authorise**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Decorative Aggregates | £292.48 | Proposed by EW | Seconded by JD |
| 2 | Bank Charges | £21.70 | Proposed by EW | Seconded by JD |
| 3 | DMBC Election Charges | 146.75 | Proposed by EW | Seconded by GW |
| 4 | Woolley Edge Christmas Tree | £190 | Proposed by EW | Seconded by JD |
| 5 | YCLA Subs. | £130 | Proposed by GW | Seconded by EW |
| 6 | Village Hall Room Hire | £108 | Proposed by GW | Seconded by EW |

1. The payment to Decorative Aggregates refers to gravel purchased for the renovation of the central memorial site.
2. The YCLA subscription fee ensures that changes in legislation are received.
3. The Village Hall room hire fee is for 5 meetings not previously paid for to the VHMC. These will now be submitted annually.

**8 Open Spaces**

1. In the absence of MM and MG, this will be carried over to the next meeting.

**9 Plans for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

1. GW has a number of forms to complete to satisfy DMBC’s criteria for the safe holding of a street party. These he will complete and return and await any comments or queries.
2. A village meeting has been held and tasks allotted. Entertainment has been arranged and bunting acquired, amongst other things.
3. EW’s chief concern is ensuring that a street party is carried off safely, especially in view of the nature of the A635, in an environment where those attending will be drinking, will have children around and will be very relaxed. It was pointed out that the Parish Council is not taking responsibility for the decisions, that discussions are taking place within village meetings where all residents are invited to attend.
4. The issue of wardens was mentioned which can be discussed at future meetings.

**10 Planning Applications**

1. Application No. 22/000230/TPO refers to two Horse Chestnut trees which are to be taken out of the crossroad memorial site – no objections raised as the application was from the Parish Council-
2. Application No. 21/03425/FUL refers to tree remedial work in the village - no objections raised as the work was commissioned by the Parish Council and is already completed.
3. Application No. 21/03425/FUL refers to the erection of a single-storey extension to an existing garage at 24 Lady Mary View – no objections raised.

**11 Any Other Business**

1. JD asked if the start time for the Parish Council meetings could be brought forward. It was agreed that the next meeting will start at 7.30 pm.

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting which will be held on Thursday 26 May 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.