**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18 November 2021**

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

In attendance:

From the Parish Council: Eric Williams (Chair), Gordon Wordsworth, Margaret Goddard,

Jean Dickinson

Others: None

Apologies: Margaret Marsh

**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 16 September 2021 were proposed by GW and seconded by EW.

**5 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

1. GW reported that the work on the War Memorial had been completed and payment by the insurance company was expected in the next few weeks.
2. With regard to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the VHMC would like to work with the Parish Council to celebrate the event. GW suggested that Doncaster MBC be asked if part of Castle Hill Fold could be closed outside the Club in order to hold a street party.

**6 Discussion and Approval of Financial Reports and Statements**

1. GW circulated financial reports and statements and reported that the second part of the Parish Precept, £3,300, had been received.
2. There was a total of £3,807 in the bank with £750 to come following the insurance work on the War Memorial.
3. Compared to Budget, the only overspend has been the webpage due to the price rise.
4. Gravel was ordered for the War Memorial and a further two bags will be purchased to complete the improvements.
5. Having never been subject to bank charges before, Virgin Bank have imposed a £7.40 charge, with a similar amount to follow each month.
6. In total, there has been an underspend.
7. Finance Statements were proposed by EW and seconded by JD.

**7 Payments to Receive Authorisation**

1. There were four payments to be authorised:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Fencing Supplies Yorkshire | £1100 | Remedial work on the War Memorial | Proposed by EW, seconded by MG |
| b. | G Simpson, Gardener | £320 | Gardening Fees | Proposed by EW, seconded by MG |
| c. | Decorative Aggregates | £289.98 | Gravel for the War Memorial garden | Proposed by EW, seconded by MG |
| d. | Virgin Money | £7.40 | Bank charges | Proposed by EW, seconded by MG |

**8 Discussion and Approval of Proposed 2022/23 Budget**

1. GW explained that the budget has to be sent to Doncaster MBC for assessment of the precept.
2. He explained that £125 is paid for membership of the Yorkshire Local Council Association.
3. £3,500 has been allocated to Open Spaces which represents an increase on the current year.
4. The projected bank balance at the end of March is £3, 800 and this, together with a Parish Precept of £6,800, gives a projected amount available to spend of 10,800. Of this, £7,168 is already allocated. Currently, there is £700 to spend until the end of March 2022. Should this not be spent, it will add to next year’s opening balance.
5. GW explained that the Budget is to be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting in January.

**9 Open Spaces**

1. MG explained that she was pleased with progress so far on plans for the village’s open spaces. Villagers were commended for their work in tidying the War Memorial and garden and Jamie and Lindsay Clarke for kindly applying the weed treatment.
2. The next project looks likely to be the area up to the Church and work will probably be carried out over the winter.
3. MG circulated a detailed plan of action for the Open Spaces.

**10 Review of Tree Survey Risk Assessment**

1. GW explained that, in order to progress the recommendations from the Tree Survey carried out on the areas under Parish Council jurisdiction, a decision will need to be made at the next meeting about which actions need to be prioritised. A copy of the tree survey has been circulated and the trees marked 4 or 5 require more urgent treatment.

**11 Planning Applications**

1. One application, 21/02917, had been put before DMBC by the occupants of Castle Hill Farm, concerning the removal of one elm tree. There were no objections.

**12 Update on Meeting with DMBC’s Director of Economy/Environment**

1. GW explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed bypass, pollution etc. Mr Swaine had explained that the outline business case was not strong enough to progress and that a more detailed survey would cost in excess of £1 million and would not be done. He maintained that electric cars will reduce pollution. Marr does not breach accepted pollution levels.
2. Data was given on results of the installation of speed cameras on the A635. In May/June there were 133/180 offences but the cameras were not working properly for the whole of this period. In July/August, there were 758/797 offences. The Council was asked how many offences had led to prosecutions and/or fines. Thanks to the cameras, there are a lot less speeding vehicles than previously.
3. With regard to the amount of traffic on the A635, data from the automatic counter in Marr shows that in August/September there were 616,000/618,000 vehicles, around 18,870 per day.
4. The number of HGVs using the road: in August it was 13.8% and in September it was 15.3%, which is about 2,750 per day, around the same as in 2015.
5. The A635 is not regarded as congested in comparison with national roads.
6. The Goldthorpe Master Plan has been approved by DMBC but there is as yet no buyer for the site. When asked about the effect of traffic on the A635, Barnsley MBC expect it to impact, but not greatly.
7. A future contractor for the site could be subject to a Section 106 in which they have to pay an amount for amenities. Barnsley MBC have stated that they will give money to DMBC, possibly to fund a staggered junction at the crossroads. Hickleton residents need to think of ways money could be used to make the village safer.
8. There is also the proposed new Independent Rail Plan and this will be monitored to see what impact it could have on the village.
9. DMBC were asked for pollution data, prosecutions by postcode, if it can be extended to supply ENPR and a copy of the Independent Rail Plan.

**13 Snow Wardens**

1. Following DMBC’s request to update their list of Snow Wardens, ie residents willing to keep paths (not roads) clear of snow, a request will be placed in the forthcoming ‘Hickletone’ for volunteers. Equipment (high visibility vests, snow shovels, gloves and salt) will be given to volunteers, along with insurance and appropriate training.

**14 Any Other Business**

1. There will be footpath works on 24 – 26 November in the village for BT ducts.

**15 Date of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 27 January 2022 at 8.15 pm in the Village Hall.