

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 in the Village Hall

**PRESENT:**

S. Fardon, (Chair), J. Abbott, P. Jones, P. Olney, R Saunders, T Saunders, J Walker, P. White, R. Worker, the Clerk, Mrs. Paice and 0 members of the public

**1. Public Open Session:**

Cllr. Walker noted that a resident in Dewlands had asked her to raise the problem of the dustcart persistently driving over and damaging the verge on the first corner. He had contacted the Borough Council and asked Council to do so too. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

Cllr. White commented that the painting of the yellow lines in Station Road was poor with lines painted over loose stones and a section missed where a car had been parked. Clerk and Cllr. Abbott to pursue.

Clerk/JA

**2. Apologies: C. Bays (personal), Cllr. C. Worker (personal)**

**3. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. White for item 6 as Chair of the Village Hall Committee

**4. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024:**

**Resolved:** to adopt the minutes.

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024: none**

Action

**6. Support for Village Hall Grant Application:**

The Village Hall was applying for a Borough Community Infrastructure Grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to replace the curtains on the stage. The current curtains had been in place since 1995 and the fabric was threadbare and the fixings broken. The work had to be completed by January 2025 and the application required minuted Parish Council approval and a signature of the Clerk or Chair stating that the project was in the interests of the local inhabitants. It was expected that the cost would be around £5,000 and without a grant it would be several years before the Hall would be confident to spend more of their reserves on this project.

Proposed by Cllr. R. Worker, seconded by Cllr. R. Saunders that Council support the project

**Resolved**

**7. Finance Matters:**Action**a) accounts to pay****Income and balances:**

NatWest Bank - Current account balance at 31.03.24.	£7,377.42
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 31.03.24.	£2,383.96
Nationwide - Savings Bond	£61,006.43
Hampshire Trust - Savings Bond	£85,013.20

**Received since last meeting:**

ORA	Newsletter	432.00
Hazel Kaye	Newsletter	432.00
Whites	Directory	70.00
Barton Petroleum	Directory	70.00
Day Centre	Directory	35.00
Old Road Securities	Directory	1085.00
Badminton Club	Directory	20.00
Carpet Bowls	Directory	7.00
Village Hall	Directory	20.00
Worker	March quiz	246.00
NatWest	Interest	5.63
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,422.63</b>

**Payments Already Made:****Chq. No.**

Old School	Rent for upper rooms March	153.83	s/o
Salaries	March payment	1482.58	s/o
Pension Fund	March payment	526.33	1925
Anglian Water	Allotment water	18.17	d/d

**Payments Made:**

Oakley Properties	2024 playing field rent	951.32	1926
White Hart Press	Printing Spring Newsletter	865.00	1927
Fenland Leisure Products	2024 play area inspections	367.20	1928
Paice	Balance of 2023/24 salary	792.48	1929
Information Commissioner	Data protection renewal	40.00	1930

**Total 5,196.91**

**b) reinvestment of bond**

Hampshire Trust Bank bond matured on 28.03.24. and a new one year bond with no withdrawals would pay 4.25%. A TSB one year bond would pay 4.00% with no withdrawals and NatWest 3.25% for a 35 day notice account. Council already had a Nationwide account.

Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. R. Worker that £85,013.20 be reinvested in Hampshire Bank with interest paid to the current account

**Resolved**

Clerk

**c) amendment to salary standing orders**

Following pay increases for Clerk and litter picker/bus shelter cleaner, salary standing orders needed to be amended.

Proposed by Cllr. T. Saunders, seconded by Cllr. Jones that standing orders be amended to £1,155.47 for Clerk and £426.14 for litter picker/bus shelter cleaner w.e.f. April 2024

**Resolved**

Clerk

**d) website renewal**

Website manager had quoted £1,280.00 (no VAT) to host and manage the website for 2024/25 which included £60.00 for 12 months fully hosted mailbox and £20.00 for 12 months oakleyvillage.co.uk domain name renewal and which was the same price as the previous year.

Proposed by Cllr. R. Saunders, seconded by Cllr. Jones that the quotation for £1,280.00 be accepted

**Resolved**

Clerk

Cllr. R. Worker enquired how many hits the website receives and Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

**8. Date of Next Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Annual General Meeting**