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Atworth Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 9th January 2017 at 7pm
in The White Hart Skittle Alley

Present:

Cllrs. Effie Gale-Sides (Chairman), Alan Lee, Richard Clark, Maureen Weston, Charles Boyle, Alan Bagnell, and Phil McMullen (Clerk).

William Bird arrived late, but the meeting had closed early.

Ref. Agenda items

145/16 **1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the Council Meeting, the first of the new year.

146/16 **2. Apologies for absence**

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Arnold Snowball and Maggie Ledbury our police representative have submitted apologies.

147/16 **3. Declarations of Interest**

Effie Gale-Sides and Richard Clark are trustees of the Atworth Village Hall Committee. Maureen Weston represents the Parish Council on the same committee.

4. Closure of meeting for public participation

The meeting was closed in order that members of the public could raise issues of concern

5. Public Participation

There were no issues raised.

6. Reconvene meeting

The meeting was reconvened.

148/16 **7. Minutes of the previous meeting**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st December 2016

CB proposed, seconded by MW and all were in favour that these were a true record of the meeting.

149/16 **8. Clerk's Report**

Updates on the following actions arising from previous minutes:

8.1 Clock Tower area improvements

The Clerk reported that resurfacing work and erection of the new notice board had been completed on Friday 16th December.

There had been several compliments received regarding the work.

There had been a complaint from a resident concerning damage to a patch of grass owned by him. This had been followed up by a letter pointing out that the grit bin has been placed in an inconvenient location. All Councillors agreed that the bin would remain on the east side as at present.

It was agreed that the Clerk is to respond on behalf of the Parish Council, and furthermore write to Highways pointing out that the verge in question is private property. The Clerk will investigate suitable signage to place at this site.

8.2 Dropped kerbs progress

The Clerk reported that Mark Stansby, Highways Engineer, had met with Atworth PC on 21st November and had been advised that the new dropped kerb needs to go opposite the existing dropped kerb. It is understood that the work would be undertaken by the end of January.

8.3 Village caretaker

Richard Clark had spoken to John Day regarding the caretaker work. He had confirmed he would be happy to undertake some work when he is available.

The Clerk circulated a draft schedule of work for the Parish Steward and asked the Councillors to assist with identifying locations where the work needed to be undertaken.

CB stated that previously there had been three key contacts: himself for Purlpit, Robert Hole for Bradford Road and Robert Floyd for Gt. Chalfield. He was willing to continue to provide information on behalf of Purlpit.

150/16 9. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that no planning applications had been received in the past month.

151/16 10. Finance:

10.1 Approval of Payment Schedule to date and authorisation of cheques

Approval of Payment Schedule to date.

Payments were submitted for approval as follows:

Approvals for the meeting taking place in		January 2017			for approval at the meeting held in January 2017		
Date Approved	Payee Name	DD/Chq No	Net £	VAT £	Gross £	Payment Details	Approved By
	Philip McMullen	DD	285.11	-	285.11	Salary and office allowance Dec 16	
	HMRC	DD	71.28	-	71.28	HMRC income tax for wages	
	P. McMullen	DD	23.50	-	23.50	Amazon refund toner cartridge	
	Atworth WI	001007	346.93		346.93	Atworth WI Dec 16	

CB proposed and MW seconded that the Payment Schedule to December 2016 was a true record and that payments were made as per the schedule. This was agreed by all present. The schedule was accordingly initialled.

10.2 Approval to accept Budget Monitoring Statement to end of December 2016

Atworth Parish Budget Monitoring 2016/17
December 2016

	Annual Budget	Spend to date	Balance Remaining
<u>Expenditure</u>	£	£	£
CLERKS GROSS SALARY	6,900	2,650	4,250
OFFICE EXPENSES	690	264	426
CARETAKING	750	288	462
GENERAL ADMIN	1,450	337	1,113
VILLAGE HALL	4,000	4,000	-
VILLAGE HALL RATES	110	89	21
RECREATION GROUND RATES	150	123	27
WATER RATES	140	106	34
INSURANCE	3,450	3,602	(152)
AUDIT FEES	275	275	-
PRESENTATIONS	100	42	58
YOUTH CLUB RENT	30		30
GRASS CUTTING	2,000	458	1,542
ARMISTICE WREATH (S.137)	20	17	3
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING	-		-
OTHER VILLAGE AMENITIES	-	886	- 886
FLOOD RELIEF	-	1,560	(1,560)
NOTICE BOARDS	700	678	22
VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT; GATEWAY ETC	500	-	500
CLOCK TOWER SITE IMPROVEMENTS	500	1,000	- 500
QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION	100	98	2
BOOKS OF CONDOLENCE (2)	50	50	-
QUEENS LONGEST REIGN PLAQUE	1,000		1,000
DROPPED KERBS	830		830
WALC	360	415	(55)
SLCC	-	48	(48)
VAT Balance		690	(690)
			-
Total Expenditure	24,105	17,676	6,429
Income			
	£	£	£
PRECEPT	24,020	24,020	-
WILTSHIRE COUNTY GRANT	85	85	-
Grants		33	- 33
Interest		5	(5)
Car parking and gates		322	(322)
Total Income	24,105	24,465	- 360
Net Expenditure	-	(6,789)	6,789
Balance Brought Forward	16,992		
Current Balance (Cashbook)	23,781		
Current Balance (Deposit A/c)	4,564		
-Current Balance (Bank)	23,368		
<i>=Unpresented cheques</i>	<i>4,151</i>		

(NB Grant Thornton and Village Hall)

CB proposed, MW seconded and all were content that it represented a true record.

152/16 11. Reports

11.1 Police Report

PC Maggie Ledbury provided a report as follows.

CURRENT SECTOR SERIES and EXCEPTIONS

Crime Exceptions are where the volume of crime exceeds the levels we would expect over a specified period. This is based on evaluation of data, over like to like periods historically.

There were no significant exceptions in the rural Melksham in the last month.

There are no current priorities in the area.

LOCAL CRIMES

This covers from 8th December 2016 to January 5th 2017

24/12/2016 An attempted non-dwelling burglary in Bradford Road.

153/16 12. **Agenda items**

12.1 **Agree the Precept for 2017/18**

The Chairman outlined the three choices tabled by Councillors, each of which represented very good value at around £1 a week. The 2016/17 figure was £49.00 but that included a subsidy from Wiltshire Council which had been withdrawn altogether for 2017/18.

The cheapest option is £56.30 per annum; the most expensive was £57.87 which would include raising the “village enhancements” element to £1,000, thus enabling the Council to undertake much needed work to improve the Parish.

The Councillors voted on the three options.

£56.30 received 2 votes

£56.85 received 0 votes

£57.87 received 4 votes, and was therefore passed as the majority were clearly in favour.

It was thereby resolved that the precept figure for 2017/18 was to be £28,221.00

EGS observed that the new incoming Council could, if they so desired, lower this in a future year.

12.1 MetroCounts

Alan Lee has asked for more detail on the Metro counts which had been in place at the Bear Garage. It had confirmed that the village is still eligible for Speedwatch, but did not show the fastest speeds recorded at this location. The information has so far not been forthcoming.

12.3 Gateway to Recreation Ground.

EGS stated that the work needed to be completed by the end of February. (Later WB confirmed that he had made a start on this, but a piece of equipment had broken causing a delay)

154/16 13. **Correspondence**

There had been no further correspondence beyond that noted above.

155/16 14. **Any Other Business**

CB asked that the Council revisit the subject of affordable housing for the village. A study had been undertaken in 2014 but nothing had come of it.

AL observed that the Clock Tower’s wreaths tend to get blown around and queried whether hooks and wires could be erected to secure them. It would require checking with Historic England whether the listed building, the tower, could have eyelets added in this way. CB noted that poppies could be removed one month after remembrance Sunday (10th December)

In addition to the tubs of flowers to be placed at the Clock Tower, there was agreement for other locations such as the entrance to Mead Park, in the village green and in front of the Village Hall.

There was also general agreement that It would be useful for the Village Hall notice board to be exclusively for Hall matters.

156/16 **15. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 15th February 2017 Atworth Village Hall

Meeting closed at 20:15

Signed.....

Date