Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29th February 2024 in Farlow and Oreton Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

**MINUTES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Present | Parish Councillors | Neil Sutton (Chairman) |
|  |  | Emma Gittens |
|  |  | Ann Broomhall |
|  |  | Helena Hale |
|  |  | John Derricut |
|  | Clerk of the Council | Fern Chadwick |
|  | Unitary Councillor | Simon Harris |
|  | Lengthsman | Anthony Harman |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Apologies** | Parish Councillors | Jim Workman |
|  | Unitary Councillor | Gwilym Butler |
|  |  |  |

1. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

Councillors were reminded of their obligation to declare any pecuniary interest they may have regarding ANY item of the agenda.

1. **Public Open Session**

Several members of the public were in attendance and discussions were held over the following key areas;

1. Significant pothole, drainage and surface issues on Hill Houses Lane as it’s a by-way, services 11 houses and requires maintenance by highways which hasn’t been sustained.

Lengthsman to go to site and review the maintenance that can be completed to aid the improvement of this lane.

1. Drainage issues down Cramer Gutter as water coming off New Road and the adjacent fields are causing swelling of the road chippings and blocking of drains.

Lengthsman to keep a section of New Road by gateways clear to see if this helps with the issues down Cramer Cutter.

A suggestion was made that a polite reminder be put out to all landowners to remind them that it’s their responsibility to clear ditches that are adjacent to highways.

1. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the last Meeting held on 29th February 2024 all approved and sanctioned to be posted to the website.

1. **Report by Unitary Councillor**

Full report on Parish Council website.

Items of note;

1. Nick Nolan the new police officer for Highley and Cleobury is interested in receiving updates on crime figures for rural areas.
2. Budget has been approved and has established that a £62,000.00 cut needs to be made and likely to leisure such as libraries and leisure centres as the demand on social care is increasing.
3. North west relief road has been fully funded and the pothole funding of 100million is associated with this funding so hopefully this will be distributed to rural parish highways.
4. **Lengthsman and Highways**

Jobs to do:

1. Go and see Hill Houses lane for drainage issues and clear if appropriate and able.
2. National speed sign has been knocked down and requiring fixing.

Jobs completed:

1. Over hanging tree on New Road has been cleared but still requiring a small trim.

Lengthsman has requested that the parish raise the hourly rate of pay to approximately £14-15 per hour. To be discussed at the next meeting.

1. **Planning**

23/05285/OUT | Outline planning application for erection of 1No. dwellinghouse (including matters of access only) | Proposed Residential Development Land North Of Boulangerie New Road Oreton Cleobury Mortimer Shropshire

No comments were requested to be made by Councillors.

Decision: Permission Granted

1. **Correspondence**

None received.

1. **Nature Recovery Initiative**

Cllr Hale offered a brief overview of the initiative and stated that the scheme is operating a 30/30/30 rule, 30% of land, 30% of sea will have nature recovered or in progress by 2030. Shropshire is the lead county in England for this initiative so it’s likely that each Parish Council will need to take part in the scheme once the plans are released in the coming months.

1. **Concern for damp issues in the defibrillators as it’s been an issue in adjacent parishes.**

The Councillors that undertake the care of the boxes haven’t noticed any significant damp other than small condensation that gets cleared frequently.

1. **We Don’t Buy Crime Smartwater scheme by West Midland Police Crime Commissioner.**

The Parish Council collectively decided that they wouldn’t invest in the scheme at this time.

1. **Date for Parish litter pick.**

Sunday 7th April 2024 was confirmed and for Chairman Neil Sutton to contact the Village Hall to notify them as they’ve requested.

1. **Parish Meeting theme and Spokesperson**

Clerk to contact Cleobury Gardeners to ask for guest speakers which they’ve used to see if they would be available instead. If no response or no availability then to contact Allan Wilson instead.

1. **Donations:**

A cheque was issued to Brown Clee Medical Group of £100.00, cheque number 000755

1. **Financial Matters:**
2. **Bank account balances**
3. Current Account @ 09/01/2024 £24,083.19
4. Business Instant @ 09/01/2024 £728.35

Bank statements agreed and signed.

**2.** **Payment of Invoices**

i) Clerk’s Salary £432.00 – cheque issued 000752

ii) Clerk Training from Ian Cruise-Taylor, invoice CTS008/2023-24 £50.00 – cheque issued 000752

iii) Counsellor Training Ref. Cllr Gittens, Invoice 2201 £30.00 – cheque issued 000753

1. **Interest Account Decision.**

It was unanimously decided that Chairman Sutton would open a Lloyds 32 day notice savings account and deposit £20,000.00.

1. **Meetings and Training Attended**

None attended.

1. **Precept.**

Acting Chairman Councillor Gittens signed the Precept form for submission.

1. **Items to be put on agenda for the next meeting.**
2. Parish meeting theme and spokesperson.
3. Parish litter pick
4. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 28th March 2024** in Farlow and Oreton Village Hall commencing **at 7.30pm.**