

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY IN THE DURLING VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 6.30PM

001/23 To Record those Present and list any Apologies

Those Present: Councillors S Bull – Chairman, J Tritton, L Rhodes, L Cronin, S Parish and N Fursdon; also present was Cllr J Hollingsbee – F&H DC, 2 members of the public and the PC Clerk.

Apologies were received from Cllr G Worthy and S Carey – KCC Cllr.

002/23 To Declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Significant Interests (OSI's) or a Voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

None were declared

003/23 To agree and sign the minutes of the previous Council meeting

Having been previously circulated these were Agreed, and will be signed at a later date, due to being unable to print a copy prior to the meeting.

004/23 Finance

a) To note & agree the following invoices and payments

The Clerk handed out an updated list to Councillors, they were **unanimously agreed**.

b) To discuss and agree budget 2023/24

The Chairman handed the Meeting over to Cllr Parish – Chairman of the Finance and General purposes Committee to present the budget.

The following was explained;

- The budget had been increased considerably to £123,178.00 due to:
- The requirement of 2 part time staff when we take over the open space known as The Lees.
- More efficient and new equipment was required this amounted to around 15K
- In April the cost of living wage will increase by 9.9%, the policy of the Council is that the living wage would be paid, rather than the minimum wage.
- Taylor Wimpey is handing over a new office for the council, but this will be as a shell, so building works will need to be done to complete the building will be around 30K.
- Once the last house has been occupied, then there is an amount of money, agreed under the section 106 of the local planning act that will for the use of the maintaining the open spaces for the next thirty years and will be required to be ring-fenced.
- Once the money has been received a review of the investment policy will take place.

A short debate took place and it was Proposed by the Cllr Bull and seconded by Cllr Fursdon, that the budget of £123,178 be agreed. **agreed unanimously**

To agree the Precept for the year 2023/24

Cllr Parish explained that as some of the increased costs will be taken from ringfence section 106 monies.

The Clerk handed out a comparison for the last three years

Precept year	Budget	Total Precept	Band D properties	Average Band B precept
2021/22	£75,184.00	£52,500	866.12	£60.61
2022/23	£77,584.00	£60,000	855.69	£70.11
2023/24	£123,178.00	£70,000	995.89	£70.28

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After a brief debate it was Proposed by the Cllr Bull and seconded by Cllr Fursdon, that the precept request of £70,000 be made to the District Council. **agreed unanimously**

Public session

(Agenda item numbers will be adjusted to allow this to take place.)

It was noted that there was no public session on the agenda and so the Chairman closed the meeting for the public to ask questions or raise any queries.

Meadow Grove.

A member of the public raised the issue of the trailer that has a lot of waste and rubbish and has not been moved.

The Chairman explained that he had been putting notices to get the owner to remove it, the notices were being removed almost immediately, and although it is on Parish Council land the PC is not allowed to just move things. It was also noted that

It could be a health hazard as it is not know what is actually in the trailer.

The trailer and the contents cannot be moved as there is too much weight on it and chassis of the trailer looks unsound.

It was **agreed** that a letter needs to be sent to all properties in Meadow Grove, and this will take place after a date to have the trailer removed is agreed with a third party.

Cllr J Hollingsbee arrived, she apologized for being late, the Chairman assured her this was not an issue.

Another member of the public stated:

- He was happy with the budget and the way that Cllr Parish had presented it as it explained things in more detail.
- He showed Cllrs a document that he had found on the internet on how another council had presented its finances to residents
- He highlighted that a large amount of the precept is staff costs, hoped that once we got the new office open it would have more opening hours,
- Asked about the future use of The Lees
- Asked about the 106 agreements and CIL

District and County Council Reports

Cllr Hollingsbee explained that she had sent out a report, the Clerk confirmed that she had sent this to have placed on the PC website.

She highlighted

- Budget consultation of the District Council
- There are lots of schemes to support families and vulnerable people so could Cllrs, if they of anyone in difficulty, tell them about and go to the website or phone the District council.
- Help and support fund version 3 is used up, but she makes sure that teachers and heads know about this.
- UK prosperity fund has been agreed over a 3 year period, and is for Replacement boilers etc Oil boilers off the grid etc.
- She was concerned that the PC had not responded to an email regarding a planning application, which is locally known as The Piggeries 1, the DC are now minded to approve. The Clerk will on her day off look at the plans and respond and see if she can resolve this, given that she was given conflicting information.

(member of the public raised the quality of the design and the overdevelopment of the site could be used by the Clerk)

Piggeries 2. A second application adjacent to the above application is still on the table, and comments are required.

To note the draft F&GP Minutes

The Clerk explained the following had been debated at the F&GP

1. O- Licence withdrawn for Coolfruit at Otterpool Quarry. **Agreed** Clerk to write to Folkestone and Hythe Town Council to understand current situation in detail and bring to next suitable meeting. (The Clerk explained she was still waiting to hear from the planning department regarding Otterpool Quarry.)
2. School Parking/ Barriers to front of school request for Parish Council to help fund. **Agreed** Clerk would write to Kent Highways and ask for an idea of cost to enable a discussion to be taken to a future suitable meeting. (The issue over parking required further discussion with the School and Highways and the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) before it could be updated.
3. Village Hall, hall hire costs and vat on electricity. Agreed Clerk to take to January Council. See below

c) To consider the hire of the village hall and agree any actions

The F&GP had felt that the Council should consider the cost of the meetings being held in the hall.

The Clerk had explained that the Chairman of the Village hall had noted that the VAT could not be passed on to the PC when being recharged for the electric that we use in the office, and to cover the costs a suggestion was made that perhaps the PC should now pay for the use of the hall. This was **unanimously agreed**

005/23 Planning

a) To note any decisions made by the District Council

There were none to note

b) To note receipt of any applications received and agree comments

1. 23/0008, Sycamore House, Moorstock Lane. Application for a detached pool house. This has already been agreed, however this application is for it to be moved closer to the boundary. It was agreed that Cllr Fursdon would investigate further and send a report for consideration to the F&GP Committee meeting, for a decision.
2. 22/2159, Potton Cottage, this had previously been considered at the F&GP Committee in December, and there were no objections to the application.
3. 22/2018, 7 Belle Vue. Private track and Ménage. This application was raised by a Cllr, as to whether the council had been made aware. The application had been considered previously, and no objections had been raised, the only item highlighted was that the PROW needs to be safely maintained.

006/23 Correspondence

To note any items that require to be discussed and agree any actions

- The Clerk explained that all items via email for information are forwarded as they come in.
- An email from the Solicitors regarding the transfer of The Lees had been received, it was noted that there are still items not corrected so members felt that the Clerk should contact Taylor Wimpey and get these resolved.

- An issue with the pond was raised, due to the dry weather the water table, which is the only way that the pond is maintained was low, there was nothing anyone could do about it; since the large amount of rain fall the pond is now in a good position.

007/23 To consider the date of Annual Council meeting, in light of the elections in May.

With Election on 4th May, and the Coronation of the King on 8th May, a Preliminary date of 16th.May will be confirmed.

008/23 To consider the outstanding projects and agree if Cllrs can volunteer to assist.

The Clerk handed out an internal document which listed all the projects that have been previously agreed, but for various reasons have not progressed – the main one being the Covid-19 pandemic. – but also, the Clerk having been on compassionate leave. A discussion took place on and it was agreed that will be updated as actions are completed.

009/23 To consider and agree how the PC can enhance community engagement

Once The Lees has been handed over there will be a chance to hold events, the first hopefully being the Coronation. It was further agreed that small working group should be formed to consider this event. The Clerk stated that a small number of people who live adjacent to The Lees have volunteered to help when events are being planned and she will make contact.

010/23 Matters of General interest

Councillors raised various issues:

The District Councillor was asked if she could advise

- what to do with Slug pellets, now that they have been banned.
- There is still litter behind 16 & 14 Greenfields
- Where can you get a Covid booster

It does not look like the Grant application is on the website, the Clerk will investigate

011/23 Date of Next Meeting & Close

The date of the next meeting will be on 14th February, there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm