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| Present: **Councillors:** Mrs. P. Crathorne **(Chair)** Dr. S. Drew **(Vice Chair)** Mr. P. Mayhew Mrs. P. Drew Mr. R. Vaughan Mr. P Metcalfe Mr. T. Hall Mrs. M. Walker Mrs. V. Parnaby Ms. J. Snowball Mrs J. Beetham - Yelland *In attendance: Mr D. Snowball* ***(Parish Clerk)*** |

**156\_****23/24** **APOLOGIES**

Were received from councillor Mrs J. Grafton.

***and members agreed this.***

**157\_23/24** **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

***There were no declarations of interest for this meeting and members noted this.***

**158\_23/24** **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting.

***Members noted this.***

**159\_23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of public raised concerns with the dirt on the road outside tarmac quarry and this will be raised with he representative at the quarry at the next liaison meeting.

There was also concern with mud on the road outside the entrance to the old scrap yard in station road and the resident was advised to use the County Council do it online system to report this.

**160\_23/24** **MINUTES**

ORDINARY meeting held on; Monday 11th December 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mr T. Hall, and it was;

***RESOLVED:***

***That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 11th December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair at this meeting.***

**161\_23/24 MOTIONS**

1. C.C.T.V.

Councillor Mr T Hall proposed to put this motion on hold as the P.C.C. are currently assessing all C.C.T.V. in County Durham and are also in communication with the County Council.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the provision of C.C.T.V. is placed on hold while further meetings are held between the relevant organisations.***

2 The Green Up lights

Councillor Mr P. Mayhew presented the motion for the up lights to be replaced as requested by two residents of the green area.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mr R. Vaughan and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Metcalfe, and it was;

***RESOLVED:***

***That the clerk arranges for the electricity supply to be evaluated and to survey residents in the corner area adjacent to the location of the tree to determine their opinion on the up lights being brought back into use.***

**162\_23/24** **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The County Councillor was not present due to being on holiday.

***Members noted this.***

**163\_23/24** **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed the meeting that there were no announcements for this meeting.

***Members noted this.***

**164\_23/24** **POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (pact)**

Councillor Mr T. Hall informed the meeting that residents reported an abandoned vehicle that has been removed, and quad bikes in the Maple Grove Cedar terrace areas. A question was asked on the dome CCTV camera located near the junction with the High Street and Cuthbert Terrace but could not be answered and further research into this will take place.

There was a complaint of a dog-on-dog attack and further enquiries are to be made re dangerous dog’s act and potential risk to public. The current position of the concerns with the old scrap yard situation was raised and the County Council are dealing with this. Ther are still no street warden reports for the meeting.

Several residents thanked the Parish Council for the support for the recent pantomime at the Community Centre and new trikes for the nursery that were grant funded by the council.

***Members noted this.***

**165\_23/24** **AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Mrs P Crathorne informed the meeting that there had not been an AAP meeting to report.

***Members noted this.***

**166\_23/24 CLERKS UPDATES**

There were three updates provided by the clerk for this meeting for information only;

1. On Monday 18th December 2023 the clerk was contacted by somebody called Adam who said he was the new owner of the wasteland between Cornforth House and the Flintlock pub, and he was trying to find out who to contact to remove some of the railings adjacent to the path for access on a temporary basis.

The only information provided was that it may be used as a storage yard with access down past the flintlock pub, possibly for small machinery etc but this was in early discussions and not definite. I explained that if the railings were not part of his deeds, then he should contact the county council with his request.

1. The first newsletter has now been proofread and printed ready for distribution and

the original company contacted for distribution informed me that that it would be able to deliver the newsletter in January and to open an account. Eventually a response was received, and it said sorry there are no delivery times for January.

Therefore, on 2nd January I contacted the Royal Mail door to door delivery service and following several telephone calls and visits to their web site an account has been set up for the council and they agreed to book in the first week of February and to carry out a free map assessment of the area and the number of addresses that would be delivered to. At this point I was informed it would cost around £300.

Following receipt of the free mapping this states that there are 1,349 residential addresses at a cost of £1,128.95. I have queried this and await a response, as this cost is disproportionate and does not reflect what I was previously told. As backup I have also tried other companies with one stating that the minimum delivery is 5,000 leaflets and a response has not yet been received from the second company.

3 The clerk gave members an open invitation to the planting of a cherry blossom tree in the Bill Wilson Memorial Park near to the rockery as agreed by council in memoriam of the late queen. This will be this Friday at 10.00am, subject to weather conditions as snow and/or rain is forecast. If it is cancelled an email will be sent to members at the earliest opportunity.

***Members noted these.***

**167\_23/24** **CDALC – PRESIDENT POSITION – (voting by councils)**

Members considered a report of the Parish Clerk that contained a request from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC), requesting that the council consider the two nominations for the vacant president position and if mindful to instruct the clerk to inform them of the preferred candidate from the two nominees as identified in the report. The deadline for this is 31st January 2024 at 23.59.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the council did not wish to submit a vote on the vacant position.

**No action to be taken.**

**168**\_**23/24** **100 YEAR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR THE WAR MEMORIAL IN THE HIGH STREET**

Members considered a report of the Parish Clerk informing the council that it would be the 100-year anniversary of the war memorial in the high street in November this year and for members to consider the funding of the event if it does go ahead. The cost will be approximately £100.

Discussions have been held with the Royal British Legion who are considering this to see if it is an event they will support, and a decision is expected by the end of January.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Beetham-Yelland, and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

***To agree to fund and support the event if it does go ahead.***

**169\_23/24** **PLANNING**

There were no planning matters for consideration.

***Members noted this.***

**170\_23/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS (December 2023)**

Members received the Income and Expenditure Analysis for December 2023 as prepared by the Parish Clerk.

It was proposed by councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by councillor Mrs J. Beetham-Yelland, and it was;

***RESOLVED***

***To receive and approve the Income and Expenditure Analysis for December 2023 and for it to be signed by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne.***

**171\_23/24** **BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT (December 2023)**

Members received the Bank Reconciliation Statement for December 2023 as prepared by the Parish Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Mr T. Hall and seconded by Councillor Dr S. Drew, and it was;

***RESOLVED***

***To receive and approve the Bank Reconciliation statement for December 2023 and for this and the relevant bank statements to be signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne and Councillor Mrs P. Drew.***

**172\_23/24** **QUARTER BUDGET MONITORING REPORT Quarters 1 - 3 (April to December)**

Members received the Budget Monitoring Report and explanations of any overspend in the various budget areas as prepared by the Parish Clerk. The clerk explained that the budget heading for Hire of rooms should read £1,680 not £1,9653 as stated in the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J. Betham-Yelland and seconded by Councillor Dr S. Drew, and it was;

***RESOLVED***

***To receive* and approve the budget monitoring report, with the amendment noted above, and the explanations for the overspend and note the VAT reclaim that is applicable to some of the overspend areas.**

**173\_23/24** **BUDGET and PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR April 2024 to March 2025**

Members received the Budget and Precept details following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mr P. Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Mr T. Hall and it was;

***RESOLVED:***

 **To;**

1. **formally agree the use of £4,525.84 from the Council reserves towards the budget and approve the final budget of £94,425 for the financial year 2024 – 2025.**
2. **Agree the 2024/25 Council Precept at £65,249.16.**
3. **Authorise the Chairman and Clerk to sign the completed Precept Form.**
4. **The Clerk submits the signed Precept Form to Durham County Council by the deadline of Friday 19th January 2024.**

***Meeting closed at 8.00pm***

Signed (Chairman):

Date: