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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston at 7.40 pm on Monday 6th December 2021.

Present: Councillors: S Stacey (Chairman), P. Evans (Vice-Chairman), B Richards, P. Sansom, M. Bennett, and A Stokes

In attendance: Mike Atherton (Clerk)

(06/12/21)

Item 1 - Apologies: Cllr Pay, Cllr Knight, Cllr McKeown and Borough Cllr Andrew Eade

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest: there were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session:

No Members of the public present.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Richards with all members present voting in favour.

Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2021 were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- a. **Encroachment - Wellington Road & Liddle's Bank:** nothing further to report. .
- b. **Future of Health Services in Newport:** the Clerk reported that there was still no response from the Shropshire & Telford Clinical Commissioning Group. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue this via SALC and the Wrekin Area Committee.

- c. **Provision of Seating / Picnic Tables in the Play Area:** the Clerk confirmed that he had now been in contact with Adrian Corney (T&WC) to initiate this project. Following discussions it was further agreed to arrange for a small plaque to be fixed to both seats to show that this was a joint CAPC and T&WC project.

Cllr Stacey indicated that he had not yet been able to speak with a resident in close proximity to the proposed position of the 'sloper' seat but that he would continue to try.

Members briefly discussed linking this project to the Queens Jubilee Celebrations in 2022. A steering Group comprising Cllrs Richards, Stacey, Evans and the Clerk was agreed with a proposal to meet at 11.00 am on 6th January 2022.

In a linked discussion Cllr Evans referred to a request for a simple bench like seat to be located near to the bus stop outside the 'Last Inn' along Wellington Road. After various considerations it was agreed to refer this request to T&WC to determine their views.

- d. **Electoral Review Update:** Cllr Evans provided a brief overview of the recently published LGBCE Report and Recommendations. The Report & Recommendations accept the CAPC request for WNV electoral ward to be re-absorbed into the Church Aston electoral ward.

Consultation on these final proposals runs until 7th February 2022. The form of a CAPC consultation response was discussed and agreed – Clerk to action.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Representative Reports

Village Hall: in the absence of Cllr Knight, Cllr Bennet provided a summary of events and proposals at the village hall. These include provision of new equipment to facilitate film nights. Overall the village hall has a full programme of activities and continues to be a busy focus for community groups. The website has been further updated and publicity of events improved.

Bus User Group: Cllr Evans referred to a recent BUG meeting held via zoom that had not been particularly well attended. The main focus of discussions was updates on road closures and related impacts on bus services.

NRP: nothing to report.

T&WC: nothing to report.

Item 7 – Communications Updates:

Correspondence: the Clerk referred to a letter from Hope House Hospice seeking a grant – agreed to defer until consideration of Community Grants later in the year.

Newsletter: the Clerk confirmed that a draft of the Newsletter would be circulated shortly for comments now that the LGBC announcement had been made. The aim remains to complete and circulate the newsletter before Christmas if possible.

Facebook: nothing significant to report.

Website: remains up-to-date and regularly reviewed.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 8 – Planning Matters

The Planning Schedule for December 2021 was noted.

Members also noted that the Bloor Homes Development latest application is before T&WC Planning Committee on 8th December 2021.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 9 – Accounts & Payments

A (i) Statement of Account: £20,104.75 at close of business on 30/11/2021.

A (ii) Cllr Bennet proposed, and Cllr Sansom seconded approval of the following payment made since the last meeting. All Members present voted in-favour of the motion.

| Payment | Cheque No. | Statute | Amount |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Sally's Flowers – Wreaths (MA) | On-line transfer | LGA 1972 s112 | £100.00 |

A (iii) Cllr Stokes proposed, and Cllr Pay seconded, with unanimous vote in favour from all Members present at the meeting for the following payments to be authorised:

| Payment | Cheque No. | Statute | Amount |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| HMRC (PAYE) – Nov 2021 | On-line transfer | LGA 1972 s112 | £84.40 |
| West Mercia Energy | On-line transfer | LGA 1972 sch 14 | £152.96 |
| Out-of-pocket Expenses (PE) | On-line transfer | LGA 1972 s137 | £15.92 |

Resolved: the above accounts shown at 9(b) and 9(c) above are formally approved for payment at this meeting held on 6th December 2021.

B – Setting a Precept & Budget for 2022/23

Members considered a report setting out various parameters affecting current and future resource requirements and their implications for a precept & budget for 2022/23

After detailed discussion Members agreed that the charge per household for 2022/23 should remain unchanged from the current year. Members noted that there will be a slight change in funds generated because the Council Tax base figure has increased marginally from 517.1 in 2021/22 to 518.7 in 2022/23.

Cllr Evans proposed and Cllr Richards seconded the above with all Members present voting in favour.

Resolved: In setting a precept for 2022/23 Church Aston PC resolves that the Council Tax charge per household for 2022/23 should remain unchanged from that for 2021/22.

Action: Chairman and Clerk to complete the Precept pro forma and return to T&WC finance prior to their deadline.

Members also reflected on current price pressures and discussed various changes to the draft budget for 2022/23. **Action:** Clerk to revise the draft budget and bring back to the PC for approval before current year-end.

Item 10 – Review of Financial Regulations (draft v.1)

The Clerk provided a brief overview on progress in updating the Financial Regulations.

Members were invited to review the first draft (draft v.1) and to provide any comments. Specific attention was drawn to (i) financial thresholds, (ii) on-line banking arrangements and (iii) assets / insurance / risk management.

Following brief discussions it was agreed that the revised Financial Regulations need to be in place prior to the forthcoming financial year.

Item 11 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting dates were noted:

- **Business Meetings:** 10th January, 7th February and 7th March 2022

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a. Cllr Evans reported that he had recently attended the funeral of Mrs Sylvia Smith and then commented on her long service to the Church Aston community.
- b. Cllr Evans noted that the defibrillator (fixed to the Church Hall) was beeping and in need of attention. Clerk to notify Bill Titley and Carl Dixon.
- c. Cllr Richards asked for the following items to be moved to Matters Arising for the next meeting – Asset Management; and Pedestrian Sign at Liddle's Bank.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date