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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held in the Church Hall (Church Aston) at 7.40pm on Monday 9th January 2023.

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

In attendance: Wendy Tonge (Clerk), T&WC Borough Cllr A Eade.

(09/01/23)

Item 1 - Apologies: Cllr J Pay (indisposed).

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

Item 3 – Public Session: No members of the public were present.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meetings held on 5th December 2022

Minutes of the meetings held on 5th December 2022 were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr B Richards and seconded by Cllr P Evans with all members present voting in support of the proposal.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meetings held on 5th December 2022 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.</p>

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- a. **ASB at the QEII Park:** Cllr P Evans reported that the new signs were still not yet installed, he would pursue the matter with T&WC. Members reported they had witnessed suspicious behaviour and what they believed to be drug-dealing activity on the park and the Church Hall Carpark. The Clerk agreed to report the matter to the Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- b. **Liddle’s Bank:** Deferred to Agenda Item 7 D.
- c. **Cost of living Community Grant:** Cllr P Evans briefed council on the local ‘warm place to stay scheme’, and was pleased to report a regular attendance of 50-60 visitors per session. The scheme is based at the Church Hall every

Wednesday 10.30pm to 3pm, the parish council will remain in a supporting role, including receiving potential referrals from users of the service requiring advice.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Grass Verges Project

Cllr B Richards updated members on a walkabout held in December, which himself and the Clerk attended with T&WC Environment Officer Nigel Murray, to explore a planting scheme on grass verges across the parish. The Clerk agreed to contact local Nurseries to obtain quotes for flowers seeds and bulbs, for future consideration by Council.

Item 7 - Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall:** Cllr B Knight provided an overview of matters relating to the village hall. Events continue to be well supported with the recent film The Nutcracker on News Years Day being extremely well attended. She was pleased to report that Finance's were looking good and has resulted in no increase in room hire charges. The next Film is Elvis the movie to be held on 28th January and plans are being made to celebrate The Kings Coronation on the 6th May with an afternoon party followed by entertainment provided by a 'Glen Miller' Tribute Band.
- b. **Bus Users Group:** No update available.
- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership:** No update available.
- d. **T&WC:** Cllr S Stacey (Chairman) invited T&W Borough Cllr Andrew Eade to provide members with a verbal update on developments relating to Liddle's Bank. Cllr Eade confirmed that the implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order required 28 days consultation and has agreed to allocate £500 of his Council Ward Grant to be used for the improved signage. The ongoing issue of speeding between the bridge and Liddle's Bank continued to be raised by residents, he hoped matters would be resolved with the implementation of extending the Speed limit space to 20 MPH. Additional measures of potential 'speed prevention road pads' were discussed at the top and bottom of the road, but due to lack of finances it is not currently an option. However, Cllr Eade remained hopeful that additional funds would become available through the 106 Housing Development site in the future. Cllr S Stacey thanked Cllr Eade for the update and his support, he reiterated the Parish Council remain enthusiastic and desire to continue to work in Partnership with T&WC to resolve the current issues.
- e. **Community Leaders Group:** No meetings have been held.

Item 8 – Communications Updates:

Correspondence: the following correspondence was shared with Members:

- **SALC Training Programme:** It was agreed that Cllr A Stokes will attend the Fundamentals for Councillors training and Cllr M Bennett will attend the Understanding Finances training.
- **T&WC Kings Coronation 2023 Grant:** Cllr M Bennett informed members that the Village Hall are busy planning for the 6th May, with an afternoon party followed by entertainment provided by a 'Glen Miller' Tribute Band, he is currently in the process of completing the form on behalf of the Village Hall. Following further discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council not to apply for a Grant. Chairman Cllr S Stacey reminded members if they had any ideas in the future they wished to discuss, please contact either himself or the Parish Clerk.
- **Notification of External Auditor, Audit Years 2022-23 to 2026-27.** Confirmation has been received that **PKF Littlejohn LLP** are the appointed End of year Auditor. Council agreed the Clerk can now make arrangements for K Baker to be appointed the Internal Auditor for end of year accounts 2022/2023.
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team Priority Plan:** Council agreed the current priorities remain for a further 6 months, with the additional concern for drug-dealing on the Church Hall carpark to be included.

Newsletter: No further update.

Facebook: No further update.

Website: No further update.

Noticeboard: the Clerk confirmed a new 'mug-shot' of Council was now on the board.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 9 – Planning Matters: No applications received.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 10 – Accounts & Payments

- (a) **The Statement of Account:** at close of business on 31/12/22 was =£14,448.41, a detailed summary of the budget showing receipts and payments had been previously circulated to members.
- (b) **Approval of Payments made since the last meeting:** was presented for retrospective approval. Cllr A Stokes proposed, and Cllr F McKeown seconded authorisation of the following payments, with all Members present voting in favour.

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
Telford & Wrekin Council	BACS	LGA 1972	£3,600.00
Unity Bank Trust	DD	LGA1972	£18.00
W M Tonge	BACS	LGA 1972	£66.77

Resolved: the above payments at 10(b) were retrospectively approved for payment at this meeting held on 9th January 2023.

(c) Payments for authorisation at this meeting: Cllr A Stokes proposed, and Cllr B Richards 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
WME	BACS	LGA1972 s14	£203.49
HMRC January 23	300322	LGA1972s112	£44.80
Staff Salary January 23	STD	LGA1972s112	£431.69

The Clerk informed Council an error in her December Salary payment was now rectified, with full payment paid back into the Parish Account.

(d) Budget 2023-2024

A copy of the revised budget for 2023-2024 had been previously circulated to members, a lengthy discussion was held regarding the agreed budget required for 2023/2024.

Resolved: that the Estimated Budget required for 2023/2024 is £19,390.00

(e) Precept 2023-2024

A copy of the Statement of Account at 31st December, prepared by the Parish Clerk/RFO had been previously circulated to members for members consideration. Following a lengthy debate, the precept was agreed for 2023/2024.

Resolved: that the Precept be raised by a 5% increase, that a Precept be made on Telford & Wrekin Council for 2023/2024 in the sum of £20,672.00 for the financial year 2023/2024 to be paid in two equal instalments of £10,336.00.

Vote: 7 members voted in favour of a 5% increase, 1 member abstained from voting.

Item 11 – Roads, Hedges and Ditches

a) Flooding: Cllr Andrew Eade kindly agreed to pursue the matter with T&WC Engineer Department and continue to keep the parish council updated.

b) Other matters raised:

Cllr P Evans updated members that he has collated the detail of the plants used in the parish planters which he kindly offered to draw up a plan, and share once the planting season arrives.

Cllr M Bennett will be meeting a representative from an Energy Company who may potentially be able to provide a free car charger, he agreed to update Council on the outcome of the meeting.

Item 12 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting dates were noted:

- **Parish Council Meetings:** next meeting to be held Monday 6th February, 6 March, 3rd April 2023. It was agreed a decision will be made at the next meeting regarding re-scheduling May's meeting due to the Bank Holiday's.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed Chairman:

Date