

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
Wednesday, 8 January 2025 at 19:30
The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill (Chairman)
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Claire Kelly
Cllr Philip Clover
Cllr Paul Powell
Cllr Dave Fenlon

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 5

C 25 - 001 Chairman's welcome

The Clerk let members know that both Cllr Mike Kay (Chairman) and Cllr Leigh Trevis (Vice Chairman) had sent apologies for the meeting and that a Chairman would need to be appointed. Having been proposed, Cllr Clive Hill agreed to Chair the meeting.

Resolved: *that Cllr Clive Hill was the Chairman of the meeting.*

C 25 - 002 The Public

No matters were raised.

C 25 - 003 Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Michael Kay, Cllr Leigh Trevis, Cllr Anne Clarke and Cllr Mark Noblet.

C 25 - 004 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

None.

C25 - 005 Minutes

The Chairman asked those members present at the 11 December 2024 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record. Save for a correction to Cllr Mark Noblet's name on page 5, the minutes were approved.

Resolved: *that the minutes were a true and accurate record.*

C 25 - 006 Actions update

No actions were updated.

C 25 - 007 Finance & General Purpose Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 16 December 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Members discussed whether to open a 45 day account with the Hinckley and Rugby Building Society as previously agreed or a newly available 90 day account which paid interest at 3.6%.

Resolved: *that the Clerk should open a 90 day savings account with the Hinckley and Rugby Building Society depositing £85k as previously agreed.*

- d) Members reviewed the Budget and Precept Summary and Recommendation document and approved an increase of 9.01% which provided for a precept of £219,170.88, an increase of £7.21 per band D property.

Resolved: that a precept of 9.01% was approved which would provide a precept of £219,170.88, an increase of £7.21 per band D property

C25 - 008 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 17 December 2024 were noted.
- b) Cllr Clive Hill provided a summary of the planning applications that had been reviewed and noted the comments submitted in relation to the application for Croft Holme (PL/2024/02828/MINFOT).

C 25 - 009 Staffing Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 18 December 2024 were noted.
- b) Members reviewed the LC1 salary band recommended for the Groundsman role and approved this subject to review when the role was next recruited for.

Resolved: that the LC1 salary band was approved for the groundsman currently in post.

- c) The recommendation to hold the current salary point for all staff was discussed and approved.

Resolved: to hold the current salary points for all staff.

- d) The Dignity At Work Policy was reviewed and approved.

Resolved: that the Dignity At Work Policy was approved.

- e) Members discussed the suggestion that the Chairman should present the certificates for Long Service to staff. It was noted that the staff did not wish to have their photograph shared on social media and therefore agreed that it should be arranged for the Chairman to make the presentation at the Pavilion and for Councillors to attend if they were able to. Councillors asked the Clerk to thank the Groundsmen for their work in clearing the rubbish away from around the skip that had been dumped on Bickenhill Road.

Resolved: that the Chairman will make the award of certificates for Long Service at the Pavilion and Councillors would be invited to attend if they were free.

Action item: Clerk to thank the Groundsmen for their work in clearing the rubbish that had been left around the skip on Bickenhill Road.

C 25 - 010 Recreation Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 18 December 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Members discussed changing to the National Allotment Society allotment tenancy agreement, holding a consultation meeting with allotment holders and providing a welcome pack for new allotment holders.
- d) The request from a resident to purchase a second ashes plot (Y39) was considered and approved.

Resolved: that the request to purchase a second ashes plot (Y39) was approved.

C 25 - 011 To approve the Finance Approval List

The payments detailed on the expenditure report were considered and approved.

Resolved: that the expenditure payments detailed in the report were approved.

C 25 - 012 Committee Membership

Cllr Clive Hill let members know that Cllr Dave Fenlon had asked to join the Planning Committee with immediate effect. Cllr Paul Powell requested to withdraw from the Planning Committee given that it would have a full compliment of Councillors with the addition of Cllr Fenlon.

Resolved: that Cllr Dave Fenlon should join and Cllr Paul Powell withdraw from the Planning Committee with immediate effect.

C 25 - 013 Benches on Amenity Land

Councillors reviewed the photographs of the newly installed benches on the Amenity Land which a resident had made from sleepers. The skill and workmanship was noted and the Clerk was asked to write to the resident on behalf of the Parish Council to pass on its thanks.

Resolved: that the Clerk should write to the resident who had made the benches for the Amenity Land to thank him on behalf of the Parish Council.

C 25 - 014 Lease Plan

Members discussed the request from the landowner for the Donkey Path to be included in the lease for the 3Ms field. It was agreed that, providing that SMBC were responsible for maintaining the path which was a public right of way, the Parish Council would agree to the path being included in the lease.

Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC to confirm that the Donkey Path is a public right of way and that SMBC is responsible for its maintenance.

C 25 - 015 External Committee Reports

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that things were going well at the Hall with lots of bookings coming in.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Trust meeting had recently been cancelled but it was hoped to be able to open for applications soon.
- c) **Airport Matters** – No update as Cllr Mike Kay was absent due to his attendance at the SMBC Planning Committee meeting on behalf of the Parish Council to speak in relation to Birmingham Airport's planning application relating to night flights.
- d) **HS2 Update** – No update as Cllr Mark Noblet had sent his apologies.
- e) **M42 J6 update** - Cllr Philip Clover provided an update on the M42 J6 works noting that the B4545 had opened but there were issues due to problems with signage and the fact that satnav systems had not yet been updated. Cones had also caused confusion but it was hoped that alterations had now made access easier.

C 25 - 016 Date of the next meeting: 12 February 2025 at 19:30

Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

The meeting closed at 20:27