**HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting on 20 September 2023 at Hillside School, Ribchester Road, Longridge

**Present**: – Councillors Gale, Gee, Gornall, Pell, and Borough Councillor Brocklehurst and

 Seven Residents

**Apologies**: – County Councillor Swarbrick, Borough Councillor Rogerson, Councillor Upton, Yvette Brown (NW Ambulance)

**1 Declarations of Interest:** None

**2 Public Participation:** None

**3 The Minutes of the meeting** on 20 September 2023 were confirmed and signed:

**4 Matters Arising:**

**MIN 3 –** Joint meeting with Ribchester for **Defib** training still in process of being organised. Issues to be confirmed, date, (suggestion of Sunday afternoon offered), and location.

**MIN 4.**1 – Bus Shelter project continues. There had been an apology made in respect of the lack of due process in making the initial decision to remove the shelter. New regulations have been introduced which require a specific distance behind the shelter; should the previous site not have the requisite space, it will not be approved. An additional (likely) cost for its replacement was £7,500. RVBC was reportedly considering these additional costs. A further consideration had emerged which was to do with the ownership of the grass verge, it may transpire that RVBC needs to adopt the verge. However, an overarching issue was that of costs. Cllr Brocklehurst opined that costs were probably the key factor, so obtaining a second-hand shelter might be effective in coming to a conclusion to this long-running issue.

**5 Councillor Vacancy:** It was noted, with concern, that there was still a vacancy for the seventh Councillor. This has been advertised for some time and action does need to be taken to meet the requirements. Fortunately, Mr Matthew Bateman was attending the meeting, and he kindly volunteered to take up the post. This was welcomed by all present, and the ‘Casual Vacancy’ process was set in train.

**6 Financial Matters:**

**6.1** *The Financial position* (from 7 August\*) was a total of £2783.43 in the bank account. \*Date of latest available Statement. This included the £1,400 precept payment and the sum of £500 from the Coronation Grant – to be used for the benefit of the community.

**6.2** *Authorisation of Payments:* It was **RESOLVED** that the following payments be made:

Clerk’s Honorarium to July 2023 (new rate applied) - £396

Payment of Rent for the Hire of the room at Hillside School - £26

6.3 *Notification of Grant Funding available*: It was **NOTED** that money (total £400,000) had been made available for capital grants. Cllr Gee suggested that it might be possible to apply for support for the CCTV required on Hothersall Lane and also for the replacement Bus Shelter. There was an expression of concern about parking at the top of the Lane, which was causing problems, but there was an initial suggestion that grant-funding might be available to alleviate this issue. (Clerk to refer to Sarah Wells to check

whether such a proposal would fall within the terms of the Rural Prosperity Grant.)

6.4 Grants to Households: the ‘Cosy Homes’ initiative had been launched to support increasing levels of insulation. It was noted that it had been identified that these were difficult to apply for, in practice.

**7 Planning Applications:**

No new applications submitted, but it was **NOTED** that there had been a recent ‘Agricultural Determination’ request put forward, but these do not need to be considered by the Parish Council.

**8 Parish Council Liaison Committee:**

The primary issue to emerge from this meeting was the *new policing model* which had been developed to replace the former ‘hybrid’ policing model. The new model will have a more traditional approach of a dedicated response team working over five shifts and 24 hours. This was welcomed by the Council, particularly the re-opening of the Clitheroe Police station from Monday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm: and the rural task force, comprising one sergeant and five officers, who will focus on ‘higher-harm’ crime and organised crimes.

A second key initiative reported to the PCLC is that of the implementation of *the Health and Care Act 2022* which will ‘put the resident at the centre of the Care System’, via ‘Integrated Neighbourhood Teams’.

9 **Other Village Matters:**

9.1 *Latest Newsletter*: it was noted that another Newsletter was probably required to cover current and forthcoming matters (particularly anything in Spring 2024)

9.2 *United Utilities and water leaks.* A continuing problem on the road near the junction. It was noted that despite frequent reports of the problem, no solution appeared to have been found.

9.3 *Grit Box installation needed*. Last winter it had not been possible to obtain an additional Grit Box since a notification from LCC that during the winter they would not be able to provide additional Grit Boxes on roads and lanes. It was **AGREED** that efforts should be made to try and secure on BEFORE the onset of winter.

9.4 *Thefts of bicycles.* Following recent incidents (where bikes stolen from residents’ properties) it was NOTED that these reinforced the proposals for the installation of CCTV cameras.

10 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4 December 2023.

SIGNED…………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

DATE………………………………………………………………………