**HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 November 2022 in SS Peter & Pauls Parish Centre, Ribchester

**Present:** *Councillors* – Gee (Chair), Gornall, Pell, Soper, Upton

**Apologies:** County Councillor Swarbrick, and Councillor Gale

1. Declarations of Interest – None
2. Public Participation – None
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on 5 September 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**

**MIN 4.1** Further update on **Replacement of Bus Shelter.** Cllr Swarbrick had confirmed, prior to the meeting that he was still pursuing the replacement of the Bus Shelter removed from near the junction with Hothersall Lane. RVBC had been contacted, but had not yet resolved the issue and organised its replacement. Cllr Swarbrick was looking at another solution for a replacement but confirmed to the Council that the matter was still being pursued. He also confirmed that he would contact the resident who first made the complaint about its removal.

**ACTION**: Cllr Gee to draft letter requesting urgent action for replacement before the winter weather sets in. Copy of this to be also sent to Cllrs Rogerson and Clark to seek their support in pressing RVBC into action.

**MIN 4.3** The promised **further meeting in respect of the Consultation exercise** related to the new Strategic Plan had not yet been announced. This had been followed up with Colin Hirst, but he did not at that time have any further information as to when this promised next stage would take place. **(ACTION**: to keep pending)

**Installation of Bench, Jubilee Plaque, and Planters.** The work to create a Jubilee Commemoration area/garden around the Parish Notice board had been completed, and this now was a very attractive feature near the top of the Lane. This was warmly welcomed and sincere thanks expressed to Cllrs Gornall, Pell and Upton for their work on the project.

1. **Tributes to Cllr Warren**. Since the last meeting, the Parish and the Council had been very sad to lose Cllr Warren after his recent illness. He had been able to attend the previous Council meeting which was further testimony to how he, despite everything, continued to contribute to the Council’s work and to the whole community. Various tributes were paid to him as expressions of thanks and appreciation of all his service over the years. (Councillor since 2000).

It was proposed to plant a tree by the Jubilee Bench in his memory. Cllr Gornal has a Birch Tree sapling to donate.

Related Correspondence. A Thank you card had been received from Christine Warren and family (**ACTION:** to be displayed in Notice Board for residents’ information).

1. **Councillor Vacancy**. The Councillor Vacancy has been published with the statutory notice about the right to request an Election. The notice period has almost expired and (for the fourth time) there has been no such request. It was RESOLVED that the Casual Vacancy be left to stand until the next Elections (to take place in May 2023). In the meantime, notice of the vacancy to be posted to the Hothersall WhatsApp group.

**ACTION**: Clerk to Notify the RVBC Legal Services Dept (Electoral Section). (**DONE**).

1. **Financial Matters.** Two documents were tabled in respect of the financial decisions to be taken a) in respect of the offer of a new website and b) in respect of considering the application for the 2023/2024 Precept – due by 24 December 2022. The latest available figure in the account was £1843.38

The figures demonstrated that there would be shortfall of £200 for the next financial year, unless there was an increase in the Precept amount. It was noted that although there was currently a healthy balance, over recent years there had been some inroads made into the Reserves. It was agreed that an amendment was essential to stem this continuing reduction.

Councillors were mindful of the current financial situation and were very hesitant to increase the Council Tax other than for essential items given the increases in all other areas of household expenditure currently being experienced.

It was therefore **AGREED** to delay the incurring of the on-costs for the proposed installation of the CCTV cameras and to make applications for the funding of the cameras in the first instance, in the expectation that on-costs would not be payable until the financial year 2024-5.

It was **AGREED** not to further consider the Website offer at this time (which would necessitate a Council Tax increase) but to explore other options *pro tem.*

It was acknowledge that an increase may be imposed by the Insurance Company for the annual premium. **(ACTION** – Clerk to try to ascertain likely costs prior to Precept application being submitted).

(*In Camera*) it was **RESOLVED** to increase the annual Honorarium of the Clerk by 10%. This to be included in the Precept calculation and application.

Finally it was **RESOLVED** that the Precept Application form would be accompanied by a letter to justify the proposed increase.

1. **Planning Application.** It was noted that the recently lodged Planning Application (3/2022/0829) for Mount Pleasant, Ribchester Road, to which there had been no objection from the Parish Council had been **REFUSED** on 3 November.

9  **Parish Matters.**

9.1 – ***Installation of Mirror*** opposite Hothersall Lane junction. This had been raised by a resident as a possible solution to the problem of safe exit from the Lane. It had been established that the installation of mirrors at busy junctions were in fact a safety hazard, and other Councils had banned them.

9.2 – ***Installation of ‘SPIDS’*** (Speed Indicator Devices). A future installation of a SPID(s) on the main road was discussed but the details once considered (for one week only, costs and analysis of data) were agreed to be of limited value and may, in fact cause an increase in speed.

9.3 – ***Installation of CCTV Cameras.*** This has become a ‘project’ for the Council over recent months, led by Cllr Pell. It has been established that funding is available for the cameras themselves, but the annual on-costs would become an issue. Further, it is known that installation at a power source would be more economical than use of solar batteries. There had been interest shown by the Corporation Arms site in installing on that property which might give additional security and collect data on speeding. **AGREED** to continue with the exploration of this proposed project and to expedite the application for the available funding.

**10 Winter Newsletter**

The Chair will prepare a draft for consultation with Cllr Gale who normally produces the documents. To be actioned by month end.

**11 Fly-Tipping at Corporation Arms Site**

It was reported that there was evidence of fly-tipping on the Corporation Arms site – including the dumping of a 2 piece suite.

**12 Speed Limit Signs**

The reversal of the speed limit signs on the main road had been reported to LCC

**13** **Control of Air B & Bs in the Parish.**

Concerns were expressed about a property on Hothersall being converted to an Air B and B establishment. There was no evidence of any controls in these being set up and there were instances of the negative impact on adjoining residents. **ACTION** – Clerk to make enquiries about (any) relevant regulations governing such conversions. There were further concerns raised about the current let to an agency from outside the area.

**14 Correspondence**

A response to previous correspondence had been received from Mr Walker in respect of the Taxis queuing for Hillside. He gave notice of a further comprehensive business development which would be put forward in due course. He also offered two metal styles which he had available for the Council to install on local footpaths, should they be required

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed……………………………………………………………………(Chair)

Date…………………………………………………..