ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Zeal Monachorum Parish Council on Thursday 25th January 2024

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Rob Peck (Chair), Ken Hogg (Vice Chair), Sally Rowden, Peter Heal, Alison Birchwhite, Mike Russell, Jocelin Birchwhite + The Clerk
1 MOP
Apologies –Cllr Natalia Letch (District),

Action

1.	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations of interest were provided by members.	
2.	**To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 30th November 2023** It was noted that at Part 16 of these minutes, Cllr Frank Letch would be replaced with MDDC. The minutes were approved by all members and signed by the Chairman. **Proposed –** Cllr Heal **Seconded –** Cllr Hogg	
3.	**Open Forum** – an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open Forum. MOP – An area near the Fishing Club on Gissage lane has a gully that has not been cleared. This can be passed to Cllr Squires for progression. The Salt box in this area has been damaged and needs replenishing. Cllr Squires will take this forward.	
4.	**County / District Council report.** Cllr Margaret Squires (DCC) Budget considerations at DCC are being considered with Children and Adult social care is an issue and will take up a considerable proportion of DCC's budget. There are currently 900 children in care and a recruit drive is needed for Foster Carers within the county. Agency Foster carers and transporting children with special educational needs to school is an issue. There is no significant increase in the budget for Highways. Excess Hs2 money is being drawn down to Devon with work starting in February. Cllr Squires has provided Highways with information on the most pressing road issues and has made them aware that clearing drainage and gulleys is a priority to prevent future deterioration of the highway. Cllr Hogg noted that Street Lighting is an issue. There is no street lighting since the storms. Cllr Squires would consider this. The Road Wardens are being instructed and members asked why the training was so extensive when only potholes are to be dealt with. This is mandatory for any Road Warden Scheme. Volunteers in the Village were keen to press on with this. Cllr Hogg asked DCC about changing PROW access to Gates and replacing the old styles. Cllr Squires was aware that Ros Davis at DCC had been placed. It was not known who this was but any issues regarding PROW access can be passed to Cllr Squires. PROW, who is in charge at DCC. Styles and gates again. We are not sure who the Warden is here and needs to be found out.	**Cllr Squires**
5.	**Property / Environment** **a. Village Hall – Report** Cllr Heal reports on the work on the building with shutters being added to aid in energy efficiency. These were provided from a grant by the National Grid. Further grant applications have been made including one to Denbrooke.	

	b. Seating for Ken Down. This has been mooted and the village hall are of the same view that a Memorial Seat in memory of Ken Down is fitting and appropriate. Margaret Down has been consulted about the seat and is happy for the village to progress. Cllr Rowden has investigated the potential seat to purchase; it is made from recycled materials and costs approximately £420. There is also an option for a plaque with wording. The location of the bench is unknown, but this will be decided prior to purchasing the seat. It was thought that the village Hal could be asked to provide a donation and Cllr Peck would contact the Committee and ask. Cllr squires would be happy to provide a donation from her locality budget. **c. Village Signage at Hayne, DCC Highways Ref** W231668937 https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/problem-tracking/ The Clerk noted that no further action has been taken by DCC. This will be chased again. It maybe a case that the pole would have to be fixed by the Parish Council. Comment was made regarding the worsening condition of Water Lane.	**Cllr Peck** **Clerk**
6.	**Den Brook Windfarm Fund –** Report Applications end on the 31st January 2024 for report and consideration at the next meeting.	
7.	**s.106 Applications** To report on s.106 funding for village projects. MDDC will not fund the money for the Jubilee Shelter. It is considered an improvement. MDDC would only provide funding for new projects. It was also noted that s.106 money would be readily available as this is entirely new. It was noted that the Fishing Club are seeking s.106 money for the improvement of disabled facilities. This will be applied for by Peter Heal for the March meeting.	
8.	**Planning** 24/00089/CAT **Proposal:** Notification of intention to crown reduce all over by 2 metres 1 Walnut tree in a Conservation Area **Location:** Truants Cottage Zeal Monachorum Crediton **Site Vicinity Grid Ref:** 271966 / 103876 **Parish:** Zeal Monachorum 61 **Link:** https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S7CL4VKS05K00 No comment on the application was to be made. **Proposed** – Cllr Heal **Seconded** – Cllr Hogg **Ref:** 23/01715/FULL **Proposal:** Siting of a temporary agricultural workers dwelling. **Location:** Land at NGR 267531 104491 (Skinnersland Farm) Road from Titterton Cross to Farleys Grave Coldridge **Site Vicinity Grid Ref:** 267612 / 104361 **Parish:** Zeal Monachorum 61 **Link:** https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S3PLI9KS05K00 No comment on the application was to be made. **Proposed** – Cllr Birchwhite **Seconded** – Cllr Hogg	
9.	**Finance** **Balance Instant Access** - £5,641.23 **Savings** - £2,065.37	

Signed……
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	Payment to be agreed. a. David Bowyer **–** Jubilee Seat and sign refurbishment - £100 All members agreed the above payment. **Proposed** – Cllr Rowden **Seconded** – Cllr Russell. The Clerk also noted that our current insurer Hiscox Insurance, would not be able to continue insuring the Parish again due to withdrawing the product. The Clerk had spoken to Zurich Insurance Town and Parish Insurance. They can offer a policy that covers parishes with a precept under £30,000 and without property / land responsibilities. The cost was equivalent if not better that our previous insurer. The Cost would be £241. This had to be agreed to avoid no insurance cover. Insurance was raised and the new price is agreed. Previous Insurer has withdrawn the product and this is agreed. **Proposed** - Cllr Peck **Seconded** - Cllr Rowden	
10.	**To set a budget for 2024/25 financial year.** The Clerk circulated year to date accounts and a draft budget. It was noted that our spending for the past financial year had increased. Our spending to date was £10,355. The largest outgoing was the Jubilee Seat / Shelter project. This would not have to be undertaken again, With this increased spend, the Parish used reserves from previous years. It was felt that financially the Parish was doing well. It was thought that there would be no ned to consider extra funding and excluding the monies for the Jubilee Seat / Shelter, the budget would remain at the same level as last year at £11,800. **Proposed** – Cllr Birchwhite **Seconded** – Cllr Rowden	
11.	**To set the Precept request to MDDC for 2024/25 financial year.** Members noted that there was scope to increase the Precept Request. There was no cap and member noted that everything is increasing in price. Members wished to avoid keeping the precept low. It would be acceptable to progress with a minor increase to £6600. On a band D property, this would result in an increase of £2.48 per year. **A precept of £6600 was agreed by all members.** **Proposed –** Cllr Heal **Seconded –** Cllr Hogg	
12.	**Part 2 -** To resolve that under section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, The public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting During consideration of items of business if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted as it involves the likely disclosure of personnel, commercially sensitive or legal matters. **There was no Part 2 held and the ordinary meeting ended at 8pm**	

Date of next meeting – 28th March 2024 at 7pm

Signed……
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