ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Zeal Monachorum Parish Council on Thursday 26th January 2023

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Rob Peck (Chair) Ken Hogg (Vice Chair), Mark Burrow, Ken Down, Peter Heal (District Councillor) + The Clerk 3 MOP

Apologies - Councillors Sally Rowden, Alison Birchwhite & Margaret Squires

		Action
1.	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations of interest were given by members.	
2.	**To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24th November 2022** The minutes were agreed by all members and were signed by the Chairman. **Proposed** – Councillor Hogg **Seconded** – Councillor Burrow **Matters Arising from the previous minutes.** a. Members again spoke about Highway matters from the previous meeting. The roads are dangerous! Members questioned if the Waie Inn road will ever be rectified. Members sought continued pressure to be placed on Highways to remedy the roads around the Parish. b. The Planning for the Canopy has been passed and it was confirmed that any new canopy would not rest on the Church Wall. c. Cllr Peck has spoken to the residents of Gooseberry Cottage, they will undertake work to the hedge soon, residents at Thorn Court House would rather the National Grid undertake the work.	
3.	**Open Forum** – an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open Forum. 3 MOP **MOP** – The owner of an adjoining property to the Village Hall speaks about actions taken by members of the Village Hall committee entering her property. It seems that the Village Hall have undertaken work on her property without permission. This has been ongoing and at times feel that these actions are close to harassment and legal advice has been sought on the matter by the resident. **MOP** - Speeding within the village. DCC has provided the opportunity to request a 20mph zone within Devon. Is this something that the Parish Council can apply for? Yes, this and the Clerk will review the application for submission. Further, can any speed awareness schemes be adopted to enforce the 30mph. This has been sought in the past but is unlikely with resources and policing.	
4.	**District Council report** **Councillor Heal -**With budget consideration at the forefront of councillors minds, it was noted that MDDC still hope that a balanced budget can be found as increases in charges will have to be introduced. MDDC are increasing the rents on all council owned accommodation. MDDC are also building 60 new council homes in Tiverton. Recycling Trials are soon to take place to bring in weekly recycling. MDDC have now removed the excess waste on the Dog Bin at Beer Lane. A charge will apply for this.	
5. **a.**	**Property / Environment** **Jubilee Seat replacement / Conservation Area Application** – Report Listed building permission has been given. There are requirements that further permissions be sought regarding surface drainage if relevant. It has also been stated that the canopy cannot be supported by the Church Wall. The Parish Council will seek a further quote to incorporate this design change. the meeting was informed that some members of the parish had suggested that the Jubilee Seat should be moved. After discussion there was a unanimous decision that it should remain as it is'.	

Signed……

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b.	**PROW / Footpaths** – Report on PROW network. The Clerk has been asked if the Parish wish to join the formal P3/PROW scheme by DCC. This would require a footpath warden within the Parish to inspect and plan future works on the network. It was felt that at resent, landowners that are encumbered by Footpath access undertake sufficient work themselves. The Parish Council are of an open mind but seek further information and would ask that a representative form DCC attend a future meeting. The Clerk will liaise with DCC on this.	
c.	**Allotments within Zeal Monachorum** – Report on landowner discussions. Cllr Burrow and Peck report that Drummers Field needs to be discounted as there is more than one owner and they wish to keep the field for themselves. This is no longer an option. Members were asked to again consider any options that maybe available and MDDC may have land that would become available if required. The clerk will look at this matter further.	
d.	**Village Hall Update –** Report A grant that was recently applied for was not successful and without this, planning matters cannot progress. Investigations have also been made on the removal of a telegraph pol eon the site. This will cost £10,000. The entrance to the Hall that was planned must now be put on hold.	
e.	**Church Wall Costings** – Consideration of costs and potential contribution by the PC of funds The costs of the building work have increased as further work was required. This has increased to over £900. A donation is requested. The Parish Council considered that £900 would cover most of the increases. This was agreed by all members present. **Proposed** – Councillor Hogg **Seconded** – Cllr Burrow.	
f.	**20mph Speed restrictions** – consideration of formal request to MDDC Weight Restrictions within the village were an issue and width / weight restrictions of bridges in the Parish are available. It was thought that a 'Not Suitable for long vehicles' sign is needed. Cllr Squires will be asked to consider this further. It was also noted that various signage on bridges has fallen off or in need of repair.	
6.	**Kings Coronation 2023** – Consideration of planned events. A venture between the WI, Village Hall and PC to arrange an event has been mooted. All that was known at the minute was that the Parish Council would be asked for a donation closer to the event.	
7.	**Denbrook Windfarm Fund –** Report There was nothing to report in full but it was noted that work for the Church Clock has been applied for.	
8,	**Finance** **Balance Instant Access** - £9,143.20 **Savings** - £2,046.12 **Donation request from Mid Devon Mobility** A donation of £30 had been given in the past and it was noted that the service provided by them is used within the Parish. A donation of £30 was again sought and agreed by all members. **Proposed –** Cllr Burrow **Seconded –** Cllr Down	
9.	**To set Parish Council Budget for 2023/24** The Clerk had submitted draft figures to consider future spending in the forthcoming financial year. The clerk informed members that with MDDC / DCC budget cuts, the shortfall for services that are provided to the Parish by MDDC / DCC may increase. This would include verge cutting and other non-statutory services. Members noted that the Jubilee Seat Canopy will now increase and this will need to be factored into the budget.	

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	The Clerk also added £1500 for an election. This is a possible and the Parish must cover their own election costs to MDDC. Members considered that the finances were good and the budget could increase to £11800. This was agreed by all members. **Proposed** – Cllr Hogg **Seconded** – Cllr Peck	
10.	**To set Precept request to MDDC for Financial Year 2023/24** The Clerk noted that no cap to an increase existed for Parish Councils for the next financial year. It was noted that an increase should take place. It was agreed that a precept request to MDDC would be set at £6000. This represents an increase of 9% **Proposed –** Cllr Burrow **Seconded –** Cllr Peck	
11.	**Member Statements** **Cllr Peck** – There has been a discussion regarding the tree on by the Church Wall that would need looking at in the future. Pollarding had been undertaken some years back and it was known that the Parish Council undertook this work in the past. It was thought that a tree surgeon would be needed to consider this further.	
	There were no further topics of discussion and the ordinary meeting concluded at 20.15pm	
	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. **By Resolution from Cllr Peck, members moved into Part 2.** Matters relating to the Parish Council and external relations with parishioners + Alteration to standing orders to implement this change. The Part 2 meting concluded at 20.30pm	

Date of next meeting –30th March 2023 at 7pm

Signed……
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