**There was a meeting of Chawleigh Parish Council on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm held in the Chawleigh Village Hall.**

**Members Present:** Parish Councillors Steve Godley (Chairman); Daphne Cockram; Henry Martin; Jan Flavin; Dave Stewart; Roger Ayling; Clive Eginton; Bert Batty.

**Also Present:** District Councillor Steve Keable

**In attendance:** Rob Martin, Clerk

**No members of the general public**.

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**MINUTES**

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| **2324-094** | **APOLOGIES**  No apologies had been received from parish councillors.  County Cllr. Margaret Squires had apologised. |
| **2324-095** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY)**  The following personal interests were declared:   * The Chairman in relation to anything on the playing field & CCT * Cllr. Cockram in relation to anything on the playing field and the small shed as she was on both of the committees involved. * Cllr. Flavin whose husband was involved with the CCT * Cllr. Martin as a trustee of the Parish Lands Charity |
| **2324-096** | **MINUTES**  On a proposal by Cllr. Batty, seconded by Cllr. Stewart, it was **Resolved** to approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th September 2023. |
| **2324-097** | **COUNCIL REPORTS** |
|  | 1. **To receive the Clerk’s Report**   The clerk had nothing much to report that would not be included on the agenda items below.  One matter that did occur however was the grant application refusal by the Awards for All Lottery Fund. From the response received it was clear that one of the main reasons was that Chawleigh was not in an area that was deemed to be deprived enough.   1. **To receive the Chairman’s Report**   The chairman reported on the situation regarding the repair of the bus shelter which he was arranging. The plan was for the parish council to get the work done and reclaim the cost from Mid Devon District Council, as agreed.  There was a need to look at the cost of grass cutting and the clerk would get a quotation from Countrywide for this as his experience with this company was good.   1. **Other Councillor Reports**   **Cllr. Flavin** reported that lamp post number 19 had still not been repaired despite having been reported several times over the last three years. The clerk would report it once more and include County Cllr. Squires in any correspondence.  **Cllr. Martin** reported that the Ash trees in the rectory appeared to have Ash Die-Back, which had already been reported to the Diocese by the clerk.  **Cllr. Batty** had used the DCC mechanism for highways defects to report some problems which had not been carried out. He would forward the details to the clerk who would report on behalf of the parish council.  **Cllr. Eginton** reported on the disgraceful state of the A377 next to Eggesford Station, which he had been told via Steve Tucker was ‘in-hand’. He believed that Meg Booth should be invited to a future meeting to explain why a major highway like the A377 does not get repaired when a minor road does. The clerk would email the people that matter on the issue and attempt to get some answers and action.  **Cllr. Ayling** had attended a training session on Class Q planning applications and was surprised by the things that could get passed on appeal when applicants could demonstrate improved energy efficiency, biodiversity and reduced environmental impact.  **Cllr. Stewart** reported that the infected Ash trees at is end of the village had been taken care of, other than one which only had limited work done on it because of the presence of power cables.  He also suggested that it would look good if the parish council could arrange some Christmas uplighting to be installed in the trees opposite the shop. The trees were owned by MDDC and the clerk would enquire whether this was a possibility.  **Cllr. Cockram** requested that the matter of getting quotations for the grass cutting next year should be done shortly. The clerk undertook to do this. |
| **2324-098** | **CHAWLEIGH COMMUNITY TRUST (CCT)**  There was nothing to further to report on the CCT. The clerk would remove this as a standing agenda item for future meetings. |
|  | *The Chairman to declare the meeting closed* |
| **2324-099** | **PUBLIC AND OTHER BODIES’ SESSION**  To hear reports from and allow questions to be asked to District and County Councillors and to take any questions from members of the public.   1. **County Councillor** Squires was not present. 2. **District Councillor**   District Cllr. Keable reported on a Mid Devon petition requiring DCC to take more action on highway defects. MDDC had also protested against rail ticket office closures which has now been stopped by the Government. MDDC reported that there had been a £2.1m budget reduction required with £750,000 still to be found. The 3-Rivers development failure would be subject to an internal inquiry to determine how the council got into the mess it did, but details would not necessarily be available for some time. |
|  | *The Chairman to declare the meeting open* |
| **2324-100** | **FOOTPATH WORKS**  Cllr. Batty asked councillors to consider his proposed letter to landowners to clear a section of PROW between Gables and the Old Chapel. There was some doubt about whether the work had been done in the last two or three days which Cllr. Batty would check on. |
| **2324-101** | **PLAYING FIELD FENCE**  The fence had been damaged by the removal of the Ash Trees because of die-back. The Chairman believed that the fence needed to be replaced. The cost of replacement would be of the order of £2,500-£3,000 and its financing would need to be part of the budget process at the next meeting. |
| **2324-102** | **DISABLED TOILET TAPS**  It was concluded that the parish council revert back to the hall committee to say that the alternatives to the present taps would be very costly to install and probably not be warranted just to avoid the possibility of the taps being left on. The chairman would look at the prices for replacement handles in the toilet as they had turned rusty and looked bad. |
| **2324-103** | **PARISH LANDS CHARITY PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION**  It was necessary to consider who might represent the parish council on the charity now that Cllr. Batty had resigned from the positions of Trustee and Honorary Treasurer. Cllr. Eginton volunteered to take on this role and was immediately unanimously chosen for the position of Trustee. |
| **2324-104** | **SHED LEASE**  Nothing had been heard on this. The clerk agreed t write to Lindsay, the Parish Council solicitor, to try to get some action. |
| **2324-105** | **CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE**  A request had been received from the Chawleigh PCC requesting a grant of £300 towards the churchyard maintenance costs. On a proposal by the chairman, seconded by Cllr. Martin, it was **Resolved** that a grant of £300 would be made for churchyard maintenance and that a request for details of what it is to be spent on be made. |
| **2324-106** | **DEFIBRILLATOR**  Following the request from residents at the Handsford end of the parish for a new defibrillator, the overall cost of which would be £1,000 plus VAT, it was **Resolved** following a proposal by the chairman that the parish council would arrange a contract. Offers of donations to the supply of this defibrillator from residents would be gratefully received by the parish council. The chairman would liaise with the relevant residents on the details. |
| **2324-107** | **BANK RECONCILIATION**  The 31st October 2023 Bank Reconciliation statement was **Approved**. |
| **2324-108** | **RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS COMPARED TO BUDGET**  The statement of Receipts and Payments compared to Budgets for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st October 2023 was **Approved**. The clerk pointed out that this analysis was the starting point for the preparation of the budget. |
| **2324-109** | **RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SCHEDULE**  To approve the payment of the invoices on the schedule below for the period since the last meeting, as below: |
|  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **PAYMENTS** |  |  |  | | **Payment to** | **Services** | **Amount**  **£** | **Payment No.** | | **2023/2024** |  |  |  | | Lilian Jones | Caretaker – November 2023 | 152.08 | SO | | RJ Martin | Salary November 2023 | 492.80 | 2324-23 | | HMRC | Tax Deduction November 2023 | 123.40 | 2324-23 | | IONOS | Website Domain – Nov 2023 | 4.80 | Card | | IONOS | Email Access – Nov 2023 | 7.20 | Card | | Lilian Jones | Caretaker – December 2023 | 152.08 | SO | | RJ Martin | Salary December 2023 | 352.93 | 2324-24 | | HMRC | Tax Deduction December 2023 | 88.20 | 2324-24 | | IONOS | Website Domain – Dec 2023 | 4.80 | Card | | IONOS | Email Access – Dec 2023 | 7.20 | Card | | Royal British Legion | Poppy Appeal | 25.00 | 2324-25 | | A Branch Above | Grass Cutting | 432.00 | 2324-26 | | Jubilee Hall | Rent of Hall | 85.00 | 2324-26 | | Chawleigh PCC | Churchyard Grant | 300.00 | 2324-26 | |  |  |  |  | | **RECEIPTS** |  |  |  | | **Receipt from** | **Services** | **Amount**  **£** | **Method** | | **2023/2024** |  |  |  | | Devon County Council | P3 Grant – PROW | 1,000.00 | BAC | | Mid Devon District Council | Precept | 7,085.00 | BAC | | Jane Hall | Shop Rental | 170.76 | BAC | | NatWest Bank | Interest | 5.17 | BAC | |
| **2324-110** | **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**  To consider the following Planning Applications and to agree comments: |
|  | 1. **Planning Applications made since the last meeting** |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Reference** | **Location** | **Proposal** | | 23/01540/HOUSE | Oak Barn  Chawleigh  Chulmleigh | Erection of double garage with games room above  **Decision: Support** | | 23/01641/ARM | Land at NGR 270843 112725 (East of Holly House)  Bells Close  Chawleigh | Reserved Matters for the erection of 2 dwellings following Outline approval  23/00335/OUT  **Decision: Neutral with Observation on ownership of land query.** | | 23/01738/HOUSE | Lakemoor  Eggesford  Chulmleigh  Devon  EX18 7JY | Erection of an extension  **Decision: Support** |  1. **Decisions made by Mid Devon District Council since the last meeting**  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Reference** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** | | None |  |  |  |  1. **Other Planning Matters**   None |
| **2324-111** | **2024/2025 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**  The clerk had circulated an analysis of the expected outturn for the current financial year which he introduced as phase 1 in determining the budget and precept for next year. It was important, in particular, to consider the effect of the budget on the earmarked and general reserves at each year-end as that was the total expected to be in the bank.  The clerk would update the current year’s figures by the time of the next meeting whilst councillors need to be able to determine what tasks they could see coming up in the next year. |
| **2324-112** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The next meeting of Chawleigh Parish Council is scheduled to be Wednesday 13th December 2023, in Chawleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm. |
| **2324-113** | **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**  On a proposal by Cllr. Eginton, seconded by Cllr. Ayling, it was **Resolved** to close the meeting to the public and press on the basis of confidential business and personal details that need to be considered. |
| **2324-114** | **CHAWLEIGH SHOP AND POST OFFICE**  On a proposal by Cllr. Batty, seconded by Cllr. Ayling. It was **Resolved** to offer up to £5,000 to assist with the restocking the shop in order to ensure that the shop and post office continues to provide a service for the parish. The funds for this will be taken from the parish council’s Shop Reserve made up of the rental income from the building over several years so the decision will have no effect on the precept. |
| **2324-115** | **MEETING CLOSURE**  The meeting closed at 9.45pm |

Signed:…………………………………

Date:……………………………………

**ALL DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT BY REQUEST**