

## Winterborne Houghton Parish Council

**Clerk:** Sam Smith. email: winterbornehoughton@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

### MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**1. Attendance & Apologies:** Bruce Maguire (Chair) Andrea Bardock, Tim Rastall, Claire Eyre, Henry Cole, Sam Smith (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Steve O'Connell

**2. Approve the minutes from the November 2023 PC meeting:** The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Maguire.

**3. Unitary Councillors report:** Cllr Kerby did not attend the meeting or send a report in advance.

**4. Public Participation/Open Forum:** Nothing raised

**5. Declarations of Interest:** None

**6. Planning Applications received & updates:** No new planning applications have been received since the last PC meeting in November. **Whealrose – summerhouse** this is an ongoing enforcement issue. Cllr Maguire has sent a letter/email to DC requesting some action/update on this issue, to date no response has been received. The Clerk will chase up a reply/response from DC.

**7. Clerks financial Report:** The following payments were agreed and authorized –

S Smith <b>£175.82</b>	Clerks wages & exp (Dec 2023)
S Smith <b>£175.62</b>	Clerks wages & exp (Jan 2024)
R Smith <b>£28</b>	grass cutting (Dec 2023) SO
R Smith <b>£28</b>	grass cutting (Jan 2024) SO
Pam Ham Hall <b>£10</b>	room hire (Nov 2023)
B Maguire <b>£137.88</b>	Hotplate & pans (church socials)
SSE <b>£41.37</b>	pond pump electric DD
Microsoft <b>£59.99</b>	Clerks laptop software
HMRC <b>£6.60</b>	Clerks PAYE

The balance in the PC account is currently **£6,583.97**

A copy of the recent bank statement was given to the Chairman.

**7.1 PC 2024/25 Budget:** The Clerk had prepared some financial documents which were circulated to Cllrs. It is predicated that at the end of this financial year we will finish within our 2023/24 budget. The Clerk circulated a draft 2024/25 budget which included inflation & price increases. Last year's precept was £4,600, all Cllrs agreed to keep the precept the same as the previous year at **£4,600**.

## 8. Matters arising –

**8.1 Trees:** Some concern has been raised with regards to the 2 trees at **Blackthorn House** as it is being sold as a development plot. Cllr Cole has contacted the Tree Officer at DC to see if a TPO (tree protection order) can be issued. Cllr Cole to chase up a response from the Tree Officer.

**8.2 The Orchard:** The Orchard trees are well overdue a prune. Rose has agreed to oversee the pruning, with a work party carrying out the work. A date has been set for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Posters will be distributed to advertise. All volunteers are invited for a 10.30am start. Cllr Eyre to provide refreshments.

**8.3 The Pond:** The overgrown bushes still need to be cut back, the weather been awful recently. Cllr Eyre to organise a date for early March.

**8.4 PC review of 2023/aims 2024: 2023** – We had the Coronation/May Queen celebrations. Generous donations enabled approx £600 to be put towards the church toilet fund. The phone box was given a fresh lick of paint, and the internal light is now operational. Pruning of the bridle paths including Whiteway's has taken place, village footpath/road signs have been cleaned. Fly tipping in the village has been reported. The 1<sup>st</sup> church social event has taken place in January, a cheese and wine evening. Future events will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. **2024** – ideas are welcome from residents – a new village road sign, a village project, D Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary? Repairs to the road & drains would be ideal but these would unfortunately be beyond the PCs funding ability.

**9. Other issues raised by Councillors or the Clerk:** The latest delivery of salt/grit has not been paid for yet, the clerk is waiting for the invoice from DC. The pond electric supply (SSE) is on a contract which expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024. The Clerk will contact SSE to re-negotiate another contract from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. Cllr Rastall to check that the timer is still on the correct time with regards to the pond pump. The Clerk has nearly completed her CiLCA qualification, her work to date has been marked. The Clerk should be qualified fully by the next PC meeting in March. The battery on the village defibrillator needs to be replaced, Cllr Cole will order one and seek reimbursement from the Clerk.

## 10. Items for the next agenda: Elections May 2024

End of meeting 7.55pm. Date of the next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. **Pamela Hambro Hall, W Stickland**

Signed.....

Date.....