

## **Mollington Parish Council**

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Mollington Village Hall. Proposal: Cllr Wimpey is to take the minutes of the Mollington Parish Council Meetings until further notice. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Jones.

**Present:** Councillors Phil Crane (in the Chair), Brian Crowe, Mike Jones, Roger Jones, Christine Jones and Rebecca Wimpey.

**In Attendance:** Mrs Helen Fielding.

**19.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**-Cllr Angus MacSween.

**19.01 DELCLARATIONS OF INTEREST**-Cllr Crane made a declaration of interest.

**19.02 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**-No points were raised.

**19.03 MINUTES.**-It was resolved the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be confirmed as correct.

**ACTION:** Cllr Crane to email results of the resident's survey to Cllr Crowe. Mr. Paul Salmon has stated that Stage Coach is happy to review the situation. Cllr Crane previously visited around 80% of residents regarding this matter and remarked that although 70% of residents were favourable, they said they were unlikely to use the service.

**ACTION:** Mr Chris Jones previously sent an email which included a breakdown of the costs for the village hall. Cllr Crane is to seek the email again and ensure that everyone receives this information. Cllr Crane to re-send email relating to costs of the village hall.

### **19.04 INTERPRETATIVE PANEL**

Cllr Christine Jones provided an update and has sought the advice of a design agency and asked individuals present at the meeting to imagine various potential panel designs. One possibility is to present a map of all five villages of the Parish highlighting twelve points of interest. She also remarked that all other parishes have shown great interest in this project.

Discussion also involved the possible location of the proposed panel and she proposed the question as to whether each of the villages may wish to have a panel of their own.

Cllr Christine Jones would produce a mock design of the panel for everyone to view. Cllr Crowe would like assurance that the residents of Mollington would benefit from the panel.

Cllr Christine Jones suggested that this is to be a celebratory panel acting as an informative piece of art which would be of particular benefit to the children of the community.

**19.05 PLANNING**-No applications have been received.

Cllr Crowe provided a recent update on previous applications. He explained that the application for the Willows has been declined.

Also, he explained that recently he called the Enforcement Department with respect to the Oakdene residence and stated that the department is currently six months behind.

**ACTION:** The Parish Clerk will be asked to write to the Chief Executive on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the lack of action from Enforcement.

### **19.06 HIGHWAYS, PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMMENITY CLEANING**

Cllr Crowe stated that Amenity Cleaning was currently providing a good service.

Cllr Christine Jones made everyone aware that a website exists for reporting issues, which in particular can be used for reporting cases of fly-tipping and encouraged individuals to report any issues should they arise.

### **19.07 VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Crane previously sent information to individuals regarding the possibility of a loan which featured in the minutes of the previous meeting where the addition of a precept was suggested. He reiterated the point that the vote was not binding since it has to be voted on at a Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Christine Jones would like further clarification that residents will be canvassed as soon as possible and also put forward the suggestion of a resident's questionnaire. In terms of the agreement of a questionnaire/form then this must possess both consistency and clarity across all Parish Councils. A point was raised that the Parish Council is responsible for all aspects of the loan.

Points of importance covered three main actions...

- Principle of a loan
- Principle of precept
- Responsibility of loan (administration and oversight of the building work)

It was ascertained of the need to agree to a precept and that the precept needed to be raised before applying for the loan.

1) Proposal: Will this Parish Council provide funds in the form of a loan for the village hall project?

Subject to public consultation, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £28,000 up to 15 years rebuilding the Village Hall. The annual loan repayments will come to around £2355. All were in favour.

2) Proposal: Do we support an increase of the precept amount to fund the payback of the loan? It was further resolved that the Council Tax precept for 2019/20 will be increased by £7 for the purpose of the loan repayments. This amounts to an increase of 233% over the previous year which because of the excessive surplus had a nominal precept of only £3.

It was noted that the resulting 2019/20 precept of £13 will still be 38% less than that of the 2107/18 precept.

All were in favour.

3) On the discussion of the precept amount...

Cllr Roger Jones raised the point of a reserves policy.

Cllr Crowe re-iterated it is this Council's policy to hold one year's amount in reserve. It was generally agreed that a representative from this Parish Council is to work with Andrew Harkness on the loan Application Committee.

Cllr Crowe proposed Cllr Crane as the representative on the loan committee. Cllr Crane stated he had previously attended a number of meetings, and suggested that it would be prudent if an oversight board was to be set up. It was agreed that Cllr Crane and Cllr Roger Jones would undertake this together.

Cllr Crane stated that in previous Village Hall minutes - he is currently a Trustee. The Chair wishes to step down as Trustee. The Chair wishes to step down as he sees a conflict of interest between his duties on the council and as village hall trustee. Cllr Mike Jones would take over as a Trustee. Cllr Crane would act as representative on the loan committee along with Cllr Roger Jones as deputy. All these positions to be reviewed in May.

Cllr Crane would act as representative on the loan committee along with Cllr Roger Jones. All of this would be reviewed in May 2019. It was agreed to the importance of avoiding a conflict of interest.

The issue of communication was raised concerning the village hall project -it was highlighted to the importance that lines of communication must be apparent, and set up between all parties involved.

### **19.08 REFERENDUM**

Various ideas of how the referendum with residents should be approached.

Cllr Christine Jones raised a point that justification is required for the re-building of the village hall and stated that Mollington Village Hall is a very busy community building and is visited /utilised by many different groups of people. Cllr Christine Jones stated that there is a strong case for rebuilding the village hall and it remains the only public building in the village.

Cllr Roger Jones explained that in terms of the resolution to borrow it is necessary to carry out a public consultation, and Cllr Crane hoped that the Mollington Village Hall would wish to be involved in this.

Discussion followed various ideas as to the best approach of consulting residents where Cllr Crowe raised the point that other Parish Councils must be involved, and a decision could not be finalised without collating the opinions of other Parish Councils beforehand.

### **19.09 DRAFT BUDGET 2019/20**

Cllr Crane presented the Mollington draft budget 2019/20, with thanks given to Cllr Crowe for providing the draft budget statistics for 2019/20. Cllr Crowe had researched the statistics

for the suggested precept request at the end of January due to strict deadlines. Additionally, owing that time has passed the Borough Council has now confirmed that our request has been accepted and payment will be made prior to the May elections. This is to be discussed in further detail at the next Parish Council Meeting.

The draft budget amounted to £9946.8 for 2019/20.

Cllr Crane suggested that the amount of £10 per month should be included for the utilisation of the Parish Clerk's home as an office. He also reminded the Parish Council that the field licence is paid via a council grant. Cllr Crowe ask to be recompensed for the total sum of £20 for the prior purchase of a wreath.

A point was raised involving the membership of CHALC and it was questioned as to whether it was necessary to continue with subscriptions. It was agreed to review the membership of CHALC and to defer this until the beginning of the new council. Cllr Roger Jones asked to see a copy of the previous year's budget.

**ACTION:** Cllr Crane is to clarify if Judy Morgan has been paid.

#### **19.10 PRECEPT**

**Proposal:** Do we agree to the amount of the precept?Cllr Crowe suggests a precept amount totalling £4368.0 which equates to £13 per head for a band D property.

All were in favour and Cllr Mike Jones seconded that it is to be put forward that the precept amount is set at £13 per head for a band D property.

#### **19.11 RISK ASSESSMENT**

Cllr Crane is to initiate a monthly compliance inspection this year. He also made the point that it is good practice to appoint an Internal Control Officer. The item regarding an Internal Control Officer is to be raised at the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **19.12 OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST/ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Crowe made a general comment that the refuse collection contract is due to terminate in March 2020, and that a drilling application is due to be carried out by IGas on Ince Marshes which will be of a point of interest for residents.

Cllr Crane raised a point concerning business continuity. He said that all Parish Council files were stored on a memory stick by the Parish Clerk and a suggestion was made to put this information on Cloud so that the files can be viewed by everyone.

Cllr Crowe said that the Parish Council had purchased a commemorative bench and plaque and this was due to be located in the churchyard. Delivery was due at the end of January and installation would be done in consultation with the Church Warden.

Thanks, was given to Mrs. Helen Fielding for her attendance this evening.

#### **19.13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at Mollington Village Hall.**

