

MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of a Meeting of Monk Soham Parish Council held on Thursday 8th February 2024

The meeting commenced at 19:30

02/24 - 01 Present

- Graham Wigley (GW – Chairman), Charles Bagnell (Vice-Chairman - CB), Julian Sayer (JS), Caroline Berkley (CJB) and Robert Stimpson (RS).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk.

02/24 - 02 Apologies for Absence

- Katy Nette-Thomas (Approved absence).

02/24 - 04 Declaration of Members Interest

- All councillors were reminded of the need to keep their declarations up to date for themselves and spouses/partners. No changes were declared.

02/24 - 05 Public Open Session

- No members of the public were present.

02/24 - 06 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting (30th November 2023)

- These were agreed and then signed by GW as an accurate record.

02/24 - 07 Action Points from the Meeting

- GR had contacted SCC Highways about alternative options to reduce speeding in the village but had received no replies to emails. CB to purchase wheelie bin stickers for the residents of Oakfields & GR to email the relevant villager.
- The broken fingerpost at FP26 had been reported to SCC Highways but not replaced as yet.
- JS has liaised with Syd regarding spending the “Pride in Your Place” grant of £250.00, but no progress has been made yet on what is required. JS to speak to Syd again soon as there was a limited time scale to the grant.

02/24 - 08 Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting (3rd January 2024 – DC/23/05702)

- These were agreed and signed by GW as an accurate record.

02/24 - 09 Action Points from the Meeting

- GR had notified MSDC of support for the application, together with comments.

02/24 - 10 Hungers Green Progress Report

- The volunteers Risk Assessment was agreed for immediate implementation.
- Much work had already been done by Andrew Muttock, including the removal of a fallen tree, with some of the wood being donated to local residents. It was unanimously agreed that it had been a great start to the initiative.
- JS to check with Andrew regarding his liability insurance and give both him and Syd a copy of the Risk Assessment.

02/24 - 11 Police Report

- GR stated that for the period October to December 2023 one offence of “Criminal Damage or Arson” had been recorded in October 2023 near Kenton Low Road.

02/24 - 12 Report of District & County Councillor

- All recent updates had been circulated.

02/24 - 13 Financial Update (General)

- Expenditure since the last (September) meeting had been Bank Charges of £4.90 (NatWest) and the ICO annual subscription of £35.00. Cheques had been issued but not yet cashed for £19.99 (Royal British Legion -Remembrance Day wreath) and the Website annual subscription -part year) £46.00.
- There had been no income since the last meeting.
- GR produced an estimate for the rest of the 2023/24 year, that without prejudice to any unforeseen circumstances, would require payments of £1014.24 (Clerk’s second half year salary, PAYE and arrears), £77.39 (similarly his expenses), £4.00 Bank charges – NatWest) and the anticipated purchase of items under the Pride in Your Place Grant (£250.00)., All were approved for payment.
- He anticipated a balance on the 31st of March 2024 of circa £1,128.00. This is better than the balance at the 1st April 2023 of £908.04, but still rather low in terms of suggested reserves. However, the increased precept for 2024/25 would improve this figure and the offer of a donation for work on Hungers Green was still available.
- The 2024/25 precept had been agreed with MSDC.
- An estimate of £175.00 has been received for refurbishment of the village sign. David Whitham (DW) to be asked to try and obtain alternative quotes (GR - action point)
- Paul Burrows was appointed Local Auditor for the 2023/24 accounts.

02/24 - 14 Planning Applications .

- DC/23/02257. (Static Caravan at Honeysuckle Farm) – Refused by MSDC and an appeal is now with the Inspector (EN/22/0743)
- .DC/23/04453 (Primrose Farm – Smallholding, etc.)- Refused and enforcement account is underway.
- DC/23/05702 (Glebe Farm - Conversion of barns to House) Supported and with MSDC.

02/24 - 15 Other Correspondence and Any Other Business

- Several potholes had been repaired by SCC Highways and GR asked that any other defects noted should be referred to him. Others will be reported using the SCC Highways portal regarding several broken signs.
- DW had completed fifteen surveys in Bedfield and Monk Soham as part of the Thermal Imaging Project and was in liaison direct with the MSDC organisers. DW was thanked for his enthusiasm and efforts on behalf of Monk Soham residents. An offer of discounted loft insulation had also been received from MSDC and circulated.
- “The Great British Spring Clean” and advice of the safe disposal of vapes had been circulated.
- The “Living Well in Winter” initiative organised by Bedfield and Mon Soham Community Club had been fully supported and subsequently fully funded by MSBC.

02/24 - 16 Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Wednesday 8th May 2024, as the AGM, commencing at 19:00, followed by the Annual Village Meeting commencing circa 20:00 in the Bedfield Community HUB pavilion.

The meeting ended at 2010.

Signed..... (Chairman)