



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 18th October 2022

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), Ben Floyd (BF), Damon Wellman (DW), Peter Weston (PW)

In attendance: Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and one member of the public.

191. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public spoke in support of the grants submitted by both Wealden Citizens Advice (WCA) and the Hadlow Down Parish Magazine. With regard to the magazine, they clarified that at the moment the PC took an average of 5 pages for the minutes; the cost of printing had gone up and there was now a surcharge for paper; if you were taking the equivalent of a full page advert for 5 pages it would cost £280 per page totalling £1,400 p.a. WCA are inundated at the moment with people seeking help and there is now a limit on the number of people that they can see; access to the Foodbank is via a pre-assessment by an organisation such as WCA who offer a holistic service so WCA's need for support has never been greater.

192. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE were accepted from Cllrs. Lewis and Munday.

193. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – SB declared a pecuniary interest in discussions about proposed Village Hall fees and Village Hall grant application so did not take part in those discussions; BF declared a pecuniary interest in discussions about Playing Field Committee grant application so did not take part in those discussions.

194. FINANCE MATTERS:

- i. Bank Reconciliation dated 25th September 2022 were signed by a non-bank signatory Cllr. as part of the quarterly controls.
- ii. Assets Register – was approved and signed as part of the quarterly controls.
- iii. Review of 2021/22 Precept spending – a discussion was held about the precept spending reports that had been sent to the Cllrs. prior to the meeting which outlined actual spending to end Quarter 2; there were no areas of concern and it was acknowledged that the budget had been managed well. The reports were approved.
- iv. Precept – to discuss expenditure for 2023-24 and consider grant applications – a discussion was held about each line of the proposed precept, including grants.

The following was agreed:

1. Fees for Village Hall £40 per month for 2023/24;
2. A 5% increase to all subscriptions to cover possible inflationary charges;
3. A 5% increase to Wealden DC charges for bin collections to cover possible inflationary charges;
4. If work had to be paid for improvements to ditches at the play area of the playing field it would be taken from Unallocated Reserves.

Actions:

The Clerk would send BF the invoice for the low risk tree work at the playing field which was still to be done. **BF** would pursue getting the tree work completed asap.

- v. Agree movements to Reserves – it was agreed that movements to reserves would be reviewed after Quarter 3 actual expenditure.
- 195. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 196. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** had been checked on 18th October.
- 197. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA** – nothing further to add.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:27pm.