

Minutes of the Penton Grafton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 in the Fairground Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mr G Light - Chairman

Cllr Mr J Neal

Cllr Mrs J Osborne

Cllr Mrs P West

Cllr Mrs C Nugent

Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk

Borough Councillors Mrs L Lashbrook and Mr P Lashbrook

Member of the Public – Mr B Funnell and Mr J Bowman – Andover Historical Society.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs P Foster – Vice Chairman, Mrs Pam Mutton and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mrs J Osborne declared an interest in the Fairground Hall.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. Matters arising from those minutes:

HIGHWAYS – County Councillor Mr C Donnelly has not yet reported back to the Parish Council on the various Highways issues reported.

ELM TREE – Highways have not yet carried out any work on the dead Elm Tree at the Weyhill Bottom Crossroads.

PLANNING.

The Parish Council supported a recent planning application for an exit onto the Penton Road from the 'Car Boot' site.

Cllr Mrs L Lashbrook reported that the applicant for the Glamping Pods has lodged an appeal but had no further news to report.

FINANCE.

FINANCIAL POSITION – 10th January 2023

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	December and January	= £ 950.00
Lloyds Bank	Account Charge	= £ 14.00
Curry's PC World	New Computer	= £ 475.00
Wel Medical	Defibrillator Pads	= £ 299.58
PKF Littlejohn	Audit Fee	= £ 360.00
Office Expenses - Christmas		= £ 55.00
		= <u>£2,153.58</u>

Bank Account Summary.

Lloyds TSB Current Account	£ 6,902.44 (31.12.2022)
Barclays 10 day Account 1.5%	£ 4,599.05
	<u>£11,501.49</u>

2023/2024 PRECEPT.

The Parish Council discussed the budget for the Financial Year 2023/2024 and all agreed not to increase the Precept. The 2023/2024 Precept was set at £10,000.

BUS SHELTER – The Clerk reported that he has received a quote of £775.00 from Mr Leroy Harris to refurbish the bus shelter on the corner of the Ludgershall and Penton Road. The bus shelter will be clad in feather boarding and stained with Chestnut wood preservative. The Parish Council agreed to proceed.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS MRS L LASHBROOK AND MR P LASHBROOK.

Cllr Mr Lashbrook gave a report on Policing. Points raised included:

- The Police have successfully foiled a '4X4 Chopped' gang that have been stealing 4X4 vehicles in the area to break up for parts.
- The County Lines Drug Scheme is working well, its aim is to stop the supply of drugs across the counties, Hampshire Constabulary are working with other Police Forces.
- Increase beats are disrupting rural crime, although thefts from Sheds and outbuildings are on the increase.
- The New Chief Constable is settling into his role and has a personal knowledge of Hampshire.
- There is a new Team that are concentrating on speeding and dangerous driving, this is the start of a return to Road Policing units.
- At present the Stockbridge Beat has 1 Constable and 2 PCSO's but it is planned to increase the number of Police Officers on the Stockbridge Beat.
- There have been several incidents of Graffiti in Andover Town Centre and this is being tackled.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mr P Lashbrook for his report and stated that it was reassuring to hear the news.

PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

CLLR MR J NEAL – Spoke about the problem of Dog Fouling in the Parish and weather additional Dog Bins was the way forward. It was noted that there is a Dog Bin sited on the Open Space adjacent to Casterbridge. The Parish Council will consider further sites and discuss this further at the March meeting.

Cllr Mr J Neal reported that the Covid Vaccination Centre in the Andover Chantry Centre has now closed. The space is to be used for a New Heath Hub. Further Information can be obtained from the Test Valley Borough Council Web Site.

CLLR MR G LIGHT – Reported that the entrance to Hardyfair Close still floods every time we have heavy rain. Highways have been out to clear the drain but further investigative work needs to be carried out to solve the problem. This will again be reported to Hampshire Highways and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly.

Cllr Mr G Light reported that the Weyhill Fair Public House has now closed and the Brewery is putting the Freehold of the building on the market. It will be marketed as a Public House or for Development.

With the Weyhill Fair's future in question the Parish Council must consider moving the Defibrillator to another site. Cllr Mrs J Osbourne was tasked to approach the Garage to see if they would be willing to have the Defibrillator on their forecourt.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr Brian Funnell reported that road drain that was tarmacked over does not seem to be causing issues with flooding at the entrance to Linwood.

Mr John Bowman from the Andover Historical Society stated that he had looked at the Parish Council Minutes on the Website and was amazed that there was no mention of the provision of Wi Fi in the Village Hall and the issues the Andover Historical Society have having. All the Halls in Andover have Wi Fi.

The Clerk reported that the Fairground Hall is a separate entity to the Parish Council and there for would not be discussed at a Parish Council Meeting. This was confirmed by the Chairman.

The Clerk went on to report that the Fairground Hall Committee had asked all of its regular hirers if they required Wi Fi. The only group that has requested Wi Fi was the Andover Historical Society (AHS). The Cost of having Broadband in the Village Hall is £26.70 a month, as there is only one hirer requiring Wi Fi. The Hall Committee have not proceeded, informing the AHS some time ago.

However the AHS for a number of years have run a cable from Broadband Router in the Parish Office to the Village Hall on the one monthly meeting they hold.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council are planning to install electric gates to the site entrance and there will need to be a trench dug for the cables. He was sure that provision could be made for a cable from the office to the Village Hall. This will be discussed further by the Parish Council and the Fairground Hall committee.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

14th of March 2023.

DATES OF THE 2023 MEETINGS.

9th of May

11th of July

12th of September

14th of November