

20/23-24

## PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting as Sole Trustee of Pauntley Village Hall Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 6.30pm in Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green.

**Present:** Cllrs P Eastabrook (in the Chair), M Hargreaves, N Fowke, C Philipps, M Hampton, C Chapman-Hughes, J Thomas

**In attendance:** R Freestone - Clerk  
L Harding – Village Hall Management

**Public: 6**

**1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:**

Apologies had been received and accepted from County Councillor Gill Moseley. District Councillor Clayton Williams was absent with no apologies. District Councillor Philip Burford had advised of late attendance.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items:**

There was none.

**3. Open Session:**

A member of the public commented on agenda item 7b. Members were questioned whether the view could be retained following the removal of the brambles and would there be a public consultation on replacement planting? The age of and current maintenance workload for Village Hall volunteers was highlighted with concerns that replacement hedging would add to this. To outsource upkeep would add to the costs required to be covered by fundraising activities. Cllr Hargreaves confirmed that the installation of the fence had been delayed as specialist equipment was required. The local farmer would spray on the side of the field to keep brambles and weed regrowth at a minimum. Any replacement planting to be placed 1 metre from the fence. A member added that the aim is to replace and create a continuous wildlife corridor and advice would be sought to what to plant in line with this with consideration given to maintenance. **It was RESOLVED:** to seek public opinion on replacement hedging.

A member of the public commented on parish council agenda item 9b, the Chair permitted comments at this time. Horses continue to use the footpath and are moving quickly in places. A member commented that the condition of the footpath had been monitored and prohibiting horses may not solve the problem during periods of inclement weather, drainage is an issue. A member of the public added that there had been a stile at the footpath and would it be possible to reinstate with a new stile/kissing gate? **It was RESOLVED:** the clerk to contact Suzanne Hope at GCC to enquire.

A member added that a Footpaths Officer for the parish would be beneficial. **It was RESOLVED:** defer and add to the parish council agenda. To speak to members of the public regarding the position.

**4. To agree and sign the Minutes from the Trustees Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023:** Members considered the minutes of the Trustees Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.

**5. Reports**

All reports had been previously circulated.

- a. Members noted the report from the Village Hall.
- b. Members were informed that the cleaning day will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. The gutters, shed, kitchen and outside all require cleaning. The playgroup are currently using the Village Hall shed for their toys with the space and access now required by the Village Hall. **It was RESOLVED:** to contact the playgroup to look at storage options and possible grants.

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## 6. Village Hall Refurbishment

- a. Members noted that a second company had performed an outside inspection of the building. They had recommended 12 replacement windows and highlighted that the current windows are fitted with safety glass. The original quote is for 5 windows. **It was RESOLVED:** to request a like for like quote for replacement of 5 windows.
- b. Members noted that Caplor Energy had gone into liquidation. Gloucester Solar are to be contacted for a quote.
- c. Cllr Hargreaves informed members that obtaining quotes for the refurbishment project was slow. A second quote had been received from a company who can also project manage with experience of Village Halls. A third quote was being sought. Awards for All had rejected the grant application for the AV soundproofing, citing that the application was not community led. To aid a future application, a community survey is to be created to ask the public whether if improved it would increase attendance/use.
- d. Members noted that the source of the leak in the Gents toilets could not be found. **It was RESOLVED:** to manage pending future restoration work.

## 7. Village Hall Land

- a. Members received an update on the sale of land at the Village Hall from Cllr Eastabrook. The homeowner is no longer interested and the sale is no longer a consideration.
- b. To receive an update on the fencing/hedging around the boundary of the Village Hall:  
Addressed within the open session.
- c. Members considered the condition of the tree at the entrance to the Village Hall. A member reported that the tree is filling out with the recommendation to council to defer to monitor development over the spring and consider any required remedial work later in the year. **It was RESOLVED:** to defer.

## 8. To consider an event to commemorate the 80yr anniversary of D Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>:

Members were informed that the Village Hall Management team have organised for the Beacon to be lit. It is also National Fish and Chip Day and the Tudor fish and chip shop in Newent have been approached to attend with their van. Beacons are to be lit at 9.15pm. A collection for Help for Heroes is being considered. **It was RESOLVED:** the clerk to confirm participation and the lighting of the Beacon.

## 9. Finance

All reports had been previously circulated.

- a. Members noted the Bank Reconciliation and bank balances to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024:

Treasurers Account	£2964.87
BB Online Account	£23190.05

*19.16pm District Councillor P Burford arrived.*
- b. Members noted the submission of the Charity Commission Annual Return for 2023.
- c. Members considered a reduced Hall Hire Fee for a local community group. **It was RESOLVED:** to review Hall Hire rates in April.
- d. Members received an update on the VAT position for a Parish Council claiming VAT back on Village Hall. The clerk reported that HMRC had been contacted for clarification. In certain circumstances building work at a Village Hall can be zero rated at source. The Parish Council are able to claim VAT on any expenditure from their own budget. Members felt that the matter requires further clarification. **It was RESOLVED:** defer pending further research by the clerk.
- e. To receive an update on the Awards for All Grant request for AV equipment and panels:  
Addressed agenda item 6c.
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the following invoices for payment:

• Village Hall Committee Expenses	£31.34
• BJ Cowles Electrical Contractors – PAT testing	£108.00
- g. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:

• EDF – Electricity December DD	£55.00
• EDF – Electricity January DD	£55.00
• WaterPlus – Water December DD	£20.29

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- Waterplus – Water January DD £20.76  
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- Ansvar Insurance December DD £69.82
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- 100 Club December prize pot £180.00
  
- h. Members noted income received:
  - Hall Hire – Pilates £62.50
  - Hall Hire £35.00
  - Fundraising £23.06
  - Deposits Coffee Morning £374.00
  - Electricity £47.00
  - Skittles £94.00

**10. Correspondence:**

There was none.

**11. Next meeting:** Members noted the next meeting of the Parish Council as Sole Trustees of the Village Hall will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.30pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

Chair

The meeting closed at 7.26pm

