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## **PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
7.30pm 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:** Rachel Freestone - Clerk  
Philip Burford – District Councillor

**Public:** 6

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

County Councillor Gill Moseley had sent her apologies. District Councillor Clayton Williams was absent with no apologies.

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

Councillor Fowke declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8a and Councillor Hampton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8c.

**3. Open Session:**

**a. To receive a report from District Councillors Philip Burford and Clayton Williams:**

District Councillor Philip Burford updated members. The agenda of the full FoDDC council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December defined how they would operate over the next 4 years with their Council Plan. £1.9 million has been allocated to buy new waste vehicles with the bulk assigned to the purchase of two electric waste collection vehicles. Strategies are Green Party led with the adoption of an ethical investment policy. FoDDC want to disinvest from fossil fuels etc to meet the strategy which may result in a loss on sale. Salary costs have increased with three positions receiving substantial above inflation increases following a benchmarking exercise. The next FoDDC full council meeting will set the budget. An item of debate has been the proposed increase to car park charges to £2 for two hours from 50p. A counter proposal of the first hour free then £1 for second hour has been offered at cabinet. District Cllr Burford proposes an increase to 70p. The FoDDC need to find a way to save a quarter of the budget (£3 million) within the next 5 years rather than face cuts in 5 years time.

A member of the public questioned the lack of provision of EV charge points in car parks and the placement of one on the roadside in Newent. District Cllr Burford explained that many car parks do not have an adequate electricity supply.

**b. To receive a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor for Newent Gill Moseley:**

In her absence the Clerk read her comments received by email on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024; *‘The budget setting meeting for GCC will take place on Feb 21st at which a balanced budget is expected to be set. Unlike some other councils in the news, the GCC is not expecting to be close to having a section 114 bankruptcy notice served.*

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*Highways problems can now be reported through the nationally used app, Fix-My-Street, instead of Report-It Gloucestershire. Pothole and road repairs continue to be underfunded.*

*Highways along with other services, suffer from years of declining government grant settlements. The LGA (Local Government Authority) continues to lobby Westminster for better funding. To put that into context, it states that councils in England face a £4b funding gap over the next two years.'*

**c. To receive representations from the Public:**

There were none.

**4. Minutes:**

- a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council 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. Biodiversity:**

Members considered the Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan previously circulated:

- a. Biodiversity Policy. **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the policy for 2024-25.
- b. Biodiversity Action Plan. **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the Action Plan for 2024-25.
- c. Councillor Eastabrook updated members on the visit from Dede Liss during the 2<sup>nd</sup> February Parish coffee morning. She confirmed that she is a volunteer not an expert but is currently undertaking biodiversity audit training and will be able to provide a 'bio-blitz' survey of the parish on completion if required. A member questioned 'if audited are the council obliged to act?' This is unknown. Tim Rickard from DyFRA had also attended the coffee morning and had highlighted the need to protect native species with immediate effect due to the changing environment.

**6. Policy:**

Members considered the Equality Policy previously circulated:

- a. Equality Policy. **It was RESOLVED:** to adopt the policy for 2024-25.

**7. Finance:**

All reports had been previously circulated.

- a. Members noted the Bank Reconciliation to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.
- b. Members noted the Bank balances at January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 as £5414.72.
- c. Members received an update on the Build Back Better Grant Application from the Clerk. The award of £3400 had been granted for the installation of a pétanque court at the Village Hall but still awaiting receipt of the funds. Cllr. Hargreaves confirmed that work would commence once the funds are received.
- d. Members reviewed the risk schedule. **It was RESOLVED:** no amendments required.
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the following invoices for payment:
- Clerk expenses – Microsoft Licence £47.13 Net
  - Clerk expenses – HP304 xl printer cartridge B&W £20.28 Net
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:
- Clerk Salary December/January 2023/24 As per contract
  - Nest pension contribution October 2023 £20.40

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- Nest pension contribution November 2023 £20.41
- Nest pension contribution December 2023 £20.40

g. Members noted that no income had been received.

## 8. Planning

a. To receive an update on the Ketford Cabin application. DF16254 P1021/23/FUL. *Cllr Fowke remained at the meeting as no decisions to be made.*

Councillor Thomas confirmed that the application did not go to FoDDC planning committee as planned as pending new ecology reports. The council ecologist has recommended refusal unless improvements can be made therefore, planning are awaiting the submission of revised plans and additional information. The application may be heard at the planning committee session in March.

District Councillor Burford added that from 1<sup>st</sup> March FoDDC are no longer writing to local residents to advise of local planning applications. Notification will be made by green notices at the site, in the press and on the FoDDC planning portal.

b. The clerk confirmed that a response had been received from Nigel Brinn, Chief Executive of FoDDC regarding the Compton Green cabin P1803/21/LD2 on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Councillor Eastabrook informed members that the reply seemed based on earlier comments not the council's most recent letter. **It was RESOLVED:** respond to clarify the change of use which does not match the permissions granted.

*Cllr Hampton left the meeting 8.19pm*

c. T comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Forest of Dean District Council:

- P1437/23/FUL The Reddings, Welsh House Lane, Newent. Variation of condition 02 (approved plans) of P0289/23/FUL to construct in oak framing.

Cllr Thomas explained to members that the application is a variation of condition, amended to an oak frame with no change to the end result. **It was RESOLVED:** to make no comment.

*Cllr Hampton returned to the meeting 8.24pm*

d. Members Noted the Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings Under Devolved Powers:

- P1414/23/FUL Barn at Paunt House Farm, Castle Tump, Newent. Conversion of Barn SUPPORT

e. Members Noted the Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:

- P1312/23/FUL Pauntley Court, Pauntley Court Drive, Redmarley. Construction of hard standing and shepherds hut. GRANTED PERMISSION

## 9. Highways and Footpaths:

a. Members received a report from Cllr Eastabrook. He had met with the South Campaigns Co-ordinator of the Community Champions 20's Plenty For Us scheme and discussed that although motorists are travelling at the legal speed limit in the parish, it is too fast for the type of road. An offer to liaise with Phillip Williams, GCC Strategic Lead for Transport, Highways and Sustainability to nominate Pauntley Parish as an exemplar for rural areas

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was made and gratefully accepted. Dave Norman, the Cabinet Member for Fire, Community Safety and Libraries at FoDDC is seeking details of town and parish council resolutions in support of 20mph speed limits with Helena Amey of Swell Parish Council collating this information on his behalf. Following the North Forest Councillor Advocate Scheme Meeting on 16th Jan and the follow-up meeting with members of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner on 24th Jan, David Holland at Gloucestershire Constabulary had written to Andrew Middlecote at GCC Highways asking to meet with him in person to discuss the possibility of the Pauntley community being treated as an “ideal candidate” for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) or “perhaps some additional signage”.

- b. To consider any matters arising regarding parish highways and footpaths:  
Cllr Eastabrook confirmed that the broken public footpath signage opposite the Brand Green phonebox library had been replaced and reinstated as reported to him at the previous meeting.

#### **10. Training:**

- a. To receive an update on training undertaken and consider any training needs.  
Cllr Hampton informed members that she had been scheduled to complete planning training with GAPTC. It had been postponed and she has not been contacted regarding the new date. **It was RESOLVED:** the clerk to contact GAPTC to query and reschedule.  
15.04.

#### **11. Correspondence:**

Members noted the FoDDC call for Planning Sites and the Shelaar process.

#### **12. Members considered the dates for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. It was RESOLVED:**

Annual Parish Meeting - 29<sup>th</sup> April

Annual Parish Council Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> May

Consider the 2024/25 schedule at the next meeting.

#### **13. Next Meeting:** Members noted the next ordinary meeting to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm following the Village Hall Meeting.

To consider:

Herridges Orchard update

Footpaths and Footpaths Officer

2024/25 Meeting schedule

Signed...*Paul Eastabrook* ..... Dated: 15.04.2024

Chair

Meeting closed at 8.49pm