**Meeting of Warcop Parish Council**

**Held on Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mr A Parkinson (Chairman) Sydall, McDowall &Clee

**ALSO PRESENT**: Clerk Mrs Strong + 4 members of the public.

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| **01/0924** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  Councillor Deighton | **ACTION** |
| **02/0924** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  None |  |
| **03/0924** | **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**  Councillor Clee proposed these as a true and accurate record and Councillor McDowall seconded them.  These were approved and signed. |  |
| **04/0924** | **CHAIRMANS REMARKS**  Several emails were sent to the clerk requesting a parish meeting with regards to Appleby Horse Fair. The Chairman emailed back with instructions on how to do this and to get back in touch when this was arranged. So far there has only been one response back with their concerns; the Chairman has written to W&F Council and including these comments. As no one else has responded back then this action is now closed.  At the end of the path in Corky Wood there is a bridge which is starting to show damage to the stone supports. The Chairman has been in touch with the MOD who say this is not part of their land, despite having cut down all the trees in that area in the summer! The Chairman will speak to the access manager at W&F Council to see if they can help.  Following the discussion at the last meeting regarding claiming back VAT from Parish Council purchases, the Chairman reported that he is now in the process of opening accounts with Pigney’s and J T Atkinson, so that Councillors buying anything for the PC can charge to the Parish Council account then the invoice can go to the clerk to be paid and then the VAT can be claimed back. | **AP** |
| **05/0924** | **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**  There are 3 large sycamore trees in St Columba’s churchyard which are leaning over and pushing over the south wall. These trees do need to come down and the Chairman has started to get some quotes for the work.  Councillor Clee has fixed the Cemetery noticeboard lock and also put it the right way up. Action complete.  The Sandford Pond clean-up and the possibility of a community orchard will be added onto the strategic plan after the review at the next meeting. Action ongoing.  The Strategic Action Plan has been put onto the website. Action complete.  The Chairman has sent the letter reporting on our experiences with regards to the horse fair to W&F. Action complete. No response has been received as yet.  The Chairman sent out a document prior to the meeting with the proposed wording for the Pinfold & Burton Arch sign. Councillor Clee mentioned this is probably going to be quite expensive due to the cost being per word. It was discussed and agreed to see if a QR code could be put onto the sign linking in to the website. Councillor McDowall agreed to look into this.  The Litter bin has now been relocated near the Railway. Action complete. Unfortunately, it has not been emptied this week and has been reported with a request to make sure it is on the emptying schedule in its new location. | **AP**  **CS**  **NM** |
| **06/0924** | **APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**  2024/1322/FPA  Eden Gate – Change of use – no objections raised. |  |

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| **07/0924** | **FINANCE**  Income Received –Cemetery plot reservation fee £795.00  **To note payments.**     |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **CHQ BACS** | **PAYEE Name** | **Amount** | **Reason** | | BACS | A Parkinson | £15.48 | Post Fix | | BACS | A Clee | £96.14 | Paint, Wood | | BACS | M Blackett-Ord | £675.00 | St Columba’s Churchyard | |  |  |  |  |   The Chairman explained that he had renamed the two Parish Council savings accounts as the Reserve Account, containing the reserve of £4000 agreed previously, and the Cemetery Account in which all grave reservations and other cemetery income, will be placed.  The Financial risk assessment was agreed and this will now go onto the website.  Councillor Sydall agreed to cross check the invoices against bank records in line with the 3 monthly bank reconciliations as highlighted in the risk assessment. | **NM** |
| **08/0924** | **SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION & INFORMATION**   * **Communications Policy & Strategy –** This has now been agreed and will be published on the website. All required policies have now been completed. * **St Columba’s –** The Chairman together with Councillor McDowall had carried out a walkdown survey of work required in St Columba’s churchyard. See attached document and photos sent prior to the meeting. Mr Blackett-Ord from the parochial church council had previously offered to oversee the maintenance of the churchyard. After a discussion, it was agreed the PC would make available £400 toward the maintenance work. Unfortunately, the bill has been sent in for £675. The PC will pay this, but the Chairman has insisted this must not happen again and requested all paid work to be stopped.  Councillor Clee reported the collapsed west walls have now been re-built under the paid arrangement. It was agreed to pick 2-3 items off the list to do. Councillor Clee proposed an improvement to the chain link fencing next to the Lych Gate using wooden posts and new chains to improve the appearance. This proposal was accepted. The grass cutting is currently been done with volunteers and is very dependent on the weather. The Parish ride-on mower is unable to be used once the grass gets too long due to wet weather and it has to be strimmed. It was agreed to see if Mr Burgess could use his tractor and topper if this happens to bring the grass back to a manageable level. Additional volunteer resource will be sought to help keep the churchyard in a presentable state. Councillor McDowall will co-ordinate all future work with Mr Blackett-Ord. * **A66 Widening project –** The Chairman reported that the local MP Mr Tim Farron had visited Warcop as part of his summer tour of his constituency and was asked about a number of local issues. The new government has recently cancelled 2 road projects in the South of England and there are concerns that the A^^ NTP also may get cancelled. Tim Farron has raised this issue in Parliament and has written to Louise Haigh the Secretary of Transport. There has been no government decision as yet; the decision regarding the private objection to the scheme is due to be announced in October. * **Broadband –** The Chairman wrote to Fibrus to ask if there was any possibility of fibre being installed in the parish as the B4RN project was abruptly halted due to the government cancelling the voucher scheme. Fibrus have responded to say that the Parish is not included in their work plan. MP Tim Farron has written to BDUK to point this out and request reconsideration of the voucher scheme to enable the work through B4RN. * **Flood Resilience update –** After storm Desmond the Environment agency have looked at ways to try to stop further flooding. Leaky dams and tree planting on the fells were two of the areas considered. Tim Farron had requested an update and was informed that this issue is being considered in conjunction with the A66 NTP and the flood protection being built into that project. * **Sandford Village Institute –** The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from the Charity Commission (via the ex-chairman) regarding the overdue annual financial return. The Management Committee, which originally ran the Sandford Institute, has now been disbanded and the Charity Commission website shows the Parish Council and another individual as the Charity Trustees. It is believed that the Parish Council was appointed as a Custodian Trustee in ca. 1996 whose purpose is to hold the deed to the Sandford Institute ‘on Trust’. The other trustee who holds the deeds no longer lives in the parish. The original deed was made in 1951. The Institute closed when the new Parish Hall in Warcop opened. The Chairman has done some research and the PC needs to confirm the Custodian Trustee status with the Charity Commission. The clerk was asked to get in touch with Kendal Library to access the archive records to see if the Custodian Trustee status is minuted.  In order to be able to interact with the Charity Commission and submit financial information, a registered contact is required who will be granted access to their systems. The Parish Council agreed that the Chairman should register as the contact for the Sandford Village Institute charity. * **Cemetery Maintenance –** See document sent out prior to the meeting. The PC will continue to carry on with the grass cutting, removing brambles, overgrown shrubs or nettles. Some of the shrubs need pruning back or removing. Some of the larger trees on the East wall may need removing at some point. Councillor Clee reported that the Cemetery needed a sign warning of “uneven ground” due to the rabbit holes. Councillor Clee agreed to source one. | **NM**  **AC**  **HS**  **AP**  **AC** |
| **09/0924** | **OTHER URGENT COMMUNITY ISSUES**  The kerbstones around the war memorial were painted today after the damaged caused by the wagon turning around. Unfortunately, just this morning, some further vehicle damage to the grass around the memorial was discovered. Mr Clee volunteered to effect repairs. The PC agreed some additional posts and chains should be installed around the memorial to dissuade ‘short cuts’ across the grass.  The clerk was actioned to purchase a poppy wreath; tthe Chairman will attend the Remembrance Day event to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.  The village Christmas dinner is planned to go ahead again this year and the PC agreed to donate £100 towards this. The clerk was asked to raise a cheque accordingly at the appropriate time.  Councillor Clee mentioned the windows in the bus shelter are starting to deteriorate and will need replacing at some point in the future. The PC agreed to their replacement when required.  Mr Clee queried the responsibility for public liability insurance for St Columba’s churchyard. It was understood that the responsibility for insuring the churchyard against falling trees or headstones lies with the Parish Council. It was felt that the public liability in the case of events arranged by the church however (e.g. weddings) should lie with the event organiser (i.e. the church) however this needs to be checked. The clerk was asked check with the insurance company whether St Columba’s churchyard is covered under the PC liability cover.  The Chairman reported that a member of the public had reported disturbing an individual who looked like they were trying to break into the Cemetery store. The individual had driven off at speed down the public footpath through Corky Wood on being spotted. The PC noted that there is nothing of value in the store. | AC  **HS**  **HS**  **HS** |
| **10/0924** | **PUBLIC SESSION**  Nothing to discuss |  |
| **11/0924** | **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**  **Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7pm**  **Meeting closed at 8.45pm**  **Chair …………………………………**  **Date ……………………………………….** |  |