CHURCH LAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHURCH LAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON 9th January 2019

**Present:** Cllr Jeremy James, Vice-chair (JJ)

Cllr James Hosegood (JH)

Cllr Derek Holland (DH)

Cllr Julie Melck (JM)

Mr Matthew Nahit, Clerk/RFO (MN)

Ms Sara Reilly (prospective councillor)

**552 To Receive Apologies for Absence** Borough Councillor Sally Bragg and Andrew Bearne sent their apologies

**553** **To Receive Verbal Requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not registered** None raised

**554**  **Public Participation –** Sara Reilly briefly introduced herself and was welcomed by the Councillors

**555 Borough Councillors’ Reports –** no borough councillors were present

**556 Minutes** – the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 12th December 2018 were approved

**557 Progress Reports for information** - for information only and are items not on the Agenda

**558 Correspondence for Information -** the attached appendix of items which had been circulated or where available at the meeting were noted

**559 To Approve the Following Accounts for Payment**

**a) Outgoing payments:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Amount** | **In Annual Budget?** |
| Clerk's wages | confidential | Yes |
| New computer for CLPC admin | £378.98 (gross) | Covered by grant |
| Rugby Pest Control | £120 (gross) | Yes |
| Eon electricity charges | £387.14 | Yes |
| Working from home allowance | £156.00 | Yes |

All payments were signed off by the Councillors

**560 Planning** – no new planning applications have been received since the last meeting

**561 New councillors** – Sara Reilly, a parishioner, was present to observe the meeting to assess whether she wished to apply to fill the vacant slot on the Parish Council Louise Baragwanath's, our previous chair's recent resignation, had left.

**562 Grass cutting** – the full amount (£1059) of the verge cutting grant from RBC has been applied for for 2018-19. RBC confirmed that this was the maximum amount available, and that the precept should be used to bridge the gap between this and the actual costs (£1260 per annum currently, i.e. £201 needs to allocated from the precept for this year). No invoices from the contractor who cuts the grass for CLPC (F M Deery Sports Ground Maintenance) have been received this financial year. An e-mail has been sent which has not been responded to thus far, so a Councillor has volunteered to telephone him about the situation.

**563 Grant applications for inclusive play equipment –** an application to Sports England for a grant to (help) cover the purchase and installation of the new roundabout is currently being completed and should be ready to be sent off by the deadline to apply for the next round of grants (13/01/2019). A possible grant from the Trusthouse Charitable Foudation has also been identified, but we will need to have secured a minimum of 50% of the costs of the project from other sources before starting an application.

**564 Precept 2019-20** – income and expenditure from the current and recent financial years were reviewed and used to predict the precept needed in 2019-20. Rises and costs due to inflation were factored in, and when the recently announced 20% rise in street lighting electricity charges were taken into account, a £600 increase is expenditure is predicted. Given that the levels of income are not predicted to rise, there would be a shortfall for that year unless money from the savings account were used to make up the difference. This was deemed to be unacceptable given the Parish Council's duty to hold significant levels of contingency funds as problems with the street lights could occur at anytime and would require a considerable outlay by CLPC. Therefore it was decided to ask for an increase in the precept received of £62.94 to £6,356.62, a 1% rise for the average band D council tax payer. It should be pointed out that the majority of this rise is accounted for by the removal of council tax support funding from central government and a reduction in the council tax base of the parish of 1.34%.

**565 Community items/Village Maintenance**

Tree surgeons are due to carry out the necessary work on recreation ground trees on January 28th.

The erection of new noticeboards about dog fouling for the recreation ground are being considered to act as a greater deterrent. RBC are to be consulted before a final decision is made on this.

The views of parishioners about the stationing of a Salvation Army textile bank in Church Lawford are to be solicited via the Village Newsletter and a post on the village Facebook page.

JJ has carried out the monthly property inspection for January and submitted the completed paperwork for perusal, actions and archiving. The round of inspections took around 40 minutes and was reported to not be too onerous. The completed paperwork will be scanned and sent out with the draft minutes every month from now on. JM volunteered to carry out the February inspections.

Cars and vans have been parking on the pavement of School Street, blocking its use by wheelchair and mobility scooters. A piece in the Village Newsletter and on the Village Facebook page will request that people park here more considerately.

**566 Councillors' reports and Items for Future Agendas** –

Sara Reilly pronounced that she was still interested in joining CLPC after witnessing this meeting. Councillors welcomed this and her, and the paperwork and induction will be completed at our next meeting.

**567 Date of Next Meeting - 13h February 2019 was confirmed as the date of the next meeting.**

Signed: ….............................................. Name (print): ...................................................

Date: …........................................