

KEEVIL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 p.m. ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2017

Present: Cllrs Jerry Wickham (Chairman), Francis Banfield, Rob Kevan, Myra Link, Rodney Meatyard, and Geoffrey West.

In attendance: George Goodwin (Clerk)
Cllr Jonathon Seed (Wiltshire Council)
2 Members of the public

Consultation Period:

- Cllr Seed said that contrary to recent press reports, there was no “£10M Black Hole” in WC’s accounts and that the WC Budget for 2017/2018 would be a balanced one.
- He also reported that due to the many representations received by the government, the Council Tax capping regulations would not be applied to Town & Parish Councils this coming financial year.
- The Clerk reported that PCSO Helen Wilson was being replaced by PCSO Simon Partington as our local police contact.

The Parish Council Meeting commenced with Councillor Wickham in the Chair:

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Andrea Hunter
PCSO Simon Partington

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jerry Wickham regarding a Donation request from Wiltshire Portage.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th November 2016

These minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Parish Council Meeting of 7th November 2016

War Memorial - The Clerk has circulated to Councillors the original War Memorial Condition Report of March 2011. The company that carried out the cleaning of the War Memorial in 2011 are offering to repeat the cleaning operation. Cllr Link suggested that the Clerk contact the Monumental Masons, Young Johnson Limited of Westbury, regarding them undertaking a condition report on the War Memorial before any further actions. The Clerk was instructed to contact Young Johnson Limited regarding the above and to include the War Memorial in the Agenda for the March meeting of the Parish Council.

Season’s Greetings - The Season’s Greetings from the PC have been published in the Parish Magazine.

Main Street Bus Stop - This was reported to WC who do not believe that repairs are necessary at present.

Footway Lanterns - Bulb failures of the lanterns at Pyatts Corner, Keevil School and Martins Road (Martins Farm) were reported to WC. All bulbs have been replaced.

Main Street Dog Bin – WC have declined to repair/replace the damaged Bin and have suggested that it be removed altogether or the PC arrange for it to be replaced. The PC consider the WC response to be unacceptable and Cllr Seed will take up the matter on our behalf.

5. Playing Field

PF Repairs & Maintenance – Cllr Kevan has organised the replacement of two swing seats. In this case Mrs Pat Bartholomew donated £50 towards the cost of these repairs. Cllr Kevan is also organising repairs to the recumbent bicycle and one of the safety surfaces. The bike damage was caused by vandalism/accident and will cost £640 plus VAT to repair. A claim will be made against the PC's Insurance for this cost (excess is £100) The repair to the damaged safety surface will cost around £100 plus VAT. The PC approved the expenditure for both repairs The Community Shed have been awarded a grant to buy a sit-on mower which should arrive in late January. They will take on the PF mowing from March/April. Cllr Kevan will contact A.W. Services to let them know that their services will not be required in 2017. Paul Lenaerts has been looking at the PF Storage Unit with a view to modifying it into a garage for the mower. This will cost around £900 plus VAT. The Storage Unit is a PC asset. Therefore, the Community Shed will provide the funds to the PC who will arrange for the modification to be carried out. These expenditures were proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Link and carried unanimously.

Improvement Project – Works on the footpath improvement and the path to the WI donated seat will start shortly when the weather and the state of the ground enable vehicle access to the Playing Field without damage being caused to the surface of the Playing Field. The Community Shed will take over the maintenance of the Banwell Trust plot on the Playing Field when the Trust have formally registered the plot with the Land Registry.

6. Flooding & Drainage

John Tucker & Paul Lenaerts have been drain cleaning after the recent heavy downpours. Two major drains in Main Street are blocked and have been reported to WC. As it is unlikely that these drains will be cleared soon Paul is looking to rod the drains. Cllr Wickham offered his unwanted steel rods to Paul and his team. The offer was accepted. Paul went on to say that WC have identified a collapsed road drain outside Blagden House and steps had been taken to repair this drain. However, with the awarding of a new maintenance contract by WC, the details of the collapsed drain have been lost and the process will have to be started again. We are still awaiting action from the MOD DIO regarding clearance of the Airfield ditches. Cllr Kevan will use his contacts at Brize Norton to find out when the works are planned to take place.

7. Highway Matters

Blocked Drains were dealt with above. Cllr West said that he had got to grips with the new Parish Steward scheme. The Community Shed are keeping the verges in the village tidy and are carrying out minor repairs for which the PC is very grateful.

8. Donations

It was agreed to make the following donations:

- (a) Payee = Keevil Village Hall
Sum = £100
- (b) Payee = Keevil Parish Magazine
Sum = £80
- (c) Payee = St. Leonard's P.C.C. for Churchyard maintenance.
Sum = £100
- (d) Payees = Bobby Van Trust, Wiltshire Music Centre & Wiltshire Portage.
Sum = £20 each totalling £60

Payments were proposed by Cllr Link and seconded by Cllr West. The proposal was carried with Cllr Wickham abstaining on the Wiltshire Portage request (please see Interests Declared above)

9. Budget 2017/2018

A budget for 2017/2018 of £6,196 (£5,871 in 2016/2017) was proposed by the Clerk. The Reserves would be kept to circa £13,350 (£10,700 in 2016/2017) for capital expenditure on

the Playing Field, Highways, Village Design Statement, War Memorial, Poll Reserve and Web Site.

The suggested budget was proposed by Cllr Banfield seconded by Cllr Wickham and carried unanimously.

10. Precept 2017/2018

The Clerk said that, currently, Parish Council precepts are not capped but that the government was requiring larger authorities not to exceed a 2% Council Tax increase. Based on the Budget for 2017/2018, the required reserves (see above) and the Councillors wish not to exceed the 2% recommended limit, a Precept of £6,475.00 was suggested by the Clerk. The Precept last year was £6,475.00. Two Councillors favoured increasing the Precept by 2% and four Councillors favoured not increasing the Precept. After discussion a Precept of £6,522.00 was proposed by Councillor Banfield, seconded by Councillor Wickham and was carried by 4 votes with 2 abstentions. The Clerk was instructed to notify Wiltshire Council accordingly

11. Financial Statement (before Invoice Payments)

The Clerk reported that the Council's finances stood as listed below:

-	Current Account	£	128.08
-	Deposit Account	£	13,972.34
-	Total	£	14,100.42

12. Cheque Approval

- (a) Payee = Keevil Village Hall
Sum = £11.00 for Hire of Hall 7/11/2016 (£11.00 + VAT £ 0.00)
- (b) Payee = Society of Local Council Clerks
Sum = £55.00 for Annual Subscription (£55.00 + VAT £ 0.00)
- (c) Payee = G.F.W. Goodwin
Sum = £101.95 for Expenses Jul-Dec 2016 (£101.95 + VAT £ 0.00)
- (d) Payee = Mr J. Tucker
Sum = £28.10 for Springie repair (£28.10 + VAT £0.00)
- (e) Payee = Cllr R. Kevan
Sum = £121.22 for Replacement Seats (£101.02 + VAT £20.20)

All the above payments were proposed by Cllr Banfield and seconded by Cllr Link. A total of £317.27 (£297.07 + VAT £20.20) was disbursed with the consent of all present.

13. Any Other Competent Business

- (a) Cllr Kevan asked that the Clerk write a short article for the Parish Magazine pointing out that there would be elections for the PC this year and that there are a number of existing Councillors who will not be standing for re-election.
- (b) The next meeting of the Council is on Monday 6th March 2017 in the Village Hall starting at 7:30 p.m.

SIGNED

DATE

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