Broadway Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Broadway Village Hall on 1st November 2022 at 7.30 pm.

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**713 Attendance**: Councillors Gregory (Chairman), Champion, Preece, Toms, Driskell and Clerk Fiona Mckenzie. 2 members of the public were present. Before the start of the meeting, Kaitlyn Harrop, a pupil at Neroche Primary School, presented the Chairman with a cheque for £1,035 which she had raised for the playing field project.

**714 Apologies**: Cllrs Baker and Frayne.

**715 Declarations of interests**: The Council agreed that Cllr Champion would absent himself from the meeting during the course of the discussion of the refurbishment of the playing field equipment.

**716 Public participation**: 2 members of the Horton and Broadway Eco Community Group (HB Eco) were present and offered HBEco’s help with the playing field project. They proposed to advise on a planting scheme and help with other tasks to improve the field. They were invited to attend the site meeting later that week between Wicksteed Ltd and the Parish Council.

**717 Approval of the minutes of the last meeting:** The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2022 as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.

**718 Matters arising from the minutes:** The Clerk had contacted Zurich Insurance regarding its policy on providing the Council with legal advice. The company had indicated that this does not cover the proactive need for legal advice.

**719 Planning**; No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

**720 Standerwick Orchard**: The Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to a Standerwick Orchard resident concerning the Council’s future policy on the use of the Wimpey money and to another resident concerning the provenance of the Baker and Duke letter of 14 May 2008.

**721 A358 dualling:**  The Chairman said that National Highways had announced that the draft Development Consent Order containing their final proposals for this scheme and expected to be published later this year would not include a link road between Broadway Street and Horton Cross, as proposed by the Council. The Chairman said that at its next meeting the Council would need to agree a draft of its submission to the Planning Inspectorate prior to the Examination in Public.

**722 Playing field**: The Chairman reported that SSDC had finally confirmed the availability of outstanding S106 money to go towards the playing field. The Council agreed that he should proceed with an application for this money: proposed by Cllr Toms, seconded by Cllr Driskell and unanimously agreed. The Council considered Grinters’ proposal and estimate for the restoration of the multi-play tower, swings and other equipment. The Chairman suggested that in view of the urgency with which this work needed to be started, in the light of the Wicksteed schedule of work and Grinters’ involvement with the annual safety reports on the equipment, and in accordance with the Council’s exceptions policy in its Financial Regulations, on this occasion the Council would not seek alternative quotations: proposed by Cllr Preece, seconded by Cllr Driskell and agreed unanimously by the Council.

**723 Correspondence:**

1. The Council agreed that Cllr Preece should be nominated at its contact for the Somerset Emergency Community initiative:
2. Cllr Toms reported that a meeting was being held that evening to discuss the threat to bus services in the area;
3. Cllr Champion briefed the Council on the arrangements for the Christmas tree lights this year. He suggested that, while the residents who allow use of their electricity have agreed the arrangement again this year, the Council should nonetheless give them some payment towards their costs. The Council unanimously agreed. In the light of the success of the appeal last year, the Council agreed to have a funding page again to help with the cost of the tree, lights etc.

**724 Finance**:

1. Payments were approved for Clerk’s salary/admin chq 313 £297.79, NHS defibrillator installment chq 314 £540.00, Somerset Forge (for renovation of road signs) chq 315 £2730.00, donation to Broadway and Ilton Scouts for Xmas lights ceremony chq 316 £75.00.
2. The Council approved overtime for next month’s salary payment to the Clerk, who had attended a Zoom meeting on planning procedures.
3. The Chairman reminded the Council that it would need to consider a draft 2023-24 budget at its December meeting. In view of the uncertainty about the need to replenish the reserves, he suggested that the Clerk should propose a budget which simply moved the 20222-23 budget forward a year, taking account of any increased expenditure and the need to fund maintenance of Standerwick Orchard from the precept. If the outcome of the playing field project meant that the reserves did not have to be replenished, the Standerwick Orchard maintenance could be funded from the reserves and the budget agreed on that basis at the January meeting. Council agreed this approach, subject to discussion at the December meeting in the light of the application for S106 money agreed to earlier in the meeting.

**725 Date of next meeting:** 6th December 2022.