Broadway Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Broadway Village Hall on 11th October 2022 at 7.30

Page 138

**701 Attendance**; Councillors Gregory ( chairman) , Champion, Preece, Toms, Frayne , Clerk Fiona Mckenzie – no members of the public were present

**702 Apologies**; Cllrs Baker and Driskell

**703 Declarations of interests**; None

**704 Minutes**; The Council approved the minutes from the meeting held on 6th September 2022 as a true record to be signed by the Chairman

**705 Matters rising from the minutes**; The council has not received any updates on the sewage work taking place. It was noted the newly renovated signs are back in place

**706 Planning**

a) 22//02605//HOU Highfield House – the Council had no objections

b) 22/02370/ LBC The Grange – the council had no objection

c) 22/02350/HOU Woodcote – To note the council had no objection

**708 Standerwick Orchard**

1. It was noted that following the clerks letter to Residents for views on the area adjacent to Bullen Court and responses given that the Council would make no changes to how it maintains this area.
2. To review the Council’s intention to use some of the money from its reserves as a contribution to the cost of the playing field redevelopment.

The Chairman introduced the discussion by referring to an email dated 9 August 2022 from a Standerwick Orchard resident which questioned the Council's freedom to use its reserves to contribute to the cost of re-equipping the playing field, as the Council intended. The correspondent had sent the Council a copy of a letter dated 14 May 2008 from its then solicitors which implied that the money transferred to the Council by George Wimpey Ltd when the Council took ownership of the 3 public open spaces at Standerwick Orchard and now held in its reserves could be used only for maintenance of those areas. The Chairman then read out a statement which considered the implications of the 2008 letter, particularly for its intended funding of the playing field. He pointed out that the Council had committed itself to the contract with Wicksteed Ltd for play equipment before the solicitors' letter became available and so the Council could not free itself from the financial liability incurred without significant cost. The Council considered whether its contribution could be met via a Government*-*approved loan, but rejected this option because it was too late to be sure of receiving the funds in time and because it would increase the Council's costs by 50%. After a detailed discussion, the Council agreed that the reserves should be reduced to reflect the £11,500 cost to the Council of the funding of Standerwick Orchard maintenance from its general budget since 2016/17. The Council agreed that the revised level of reserves, £44,581, should be regarded as the assumed level of reserves to be replenished by the Council after payment of its contribution to the playing field project. The Council agreed that such replenishment should be the sum of the investment of the capital in the reserves, the reinvestment of interest received and the amount paid by the Council in future out of its general funds for the maintenance of the Standerwick open spaces. The Council considered that such a solution to the problem might take around 6 years to replenish the reserves to the assumed level. In the light of this discussion:

The Council Resolved that:

a) in the light of the contents of the Baker and Duke letter of May 2008, drawn to its attention on 9 August 2022, and until it receives legal advice to the contrary, and subject to the need to honour its contract with Wicksteed Ltd for the re-equipping of the village playing field entered into on 22 July 2022 or any other unexpected or exceptional event,it will in future regard the sum of money retained in its reserve account  as available only for maintenance of the public open spaces at Standerwick Orchard.Proposed by Cllr Toms seconded Cllr Frayne, unanimously agreed

b)The Council further Resolved: that in view of the necessity of using a portion of the money in its reserve account towards the cost of the re-equipping of the village playing field, the Council would in the future restore the assumed value of its reserves to the position it believes it would have been in if expenditure on the maintenance of public open spaces at Standerwick Orchard had not, since 2016, fallen on the Council’s budget rather than the reserves, that figure being in the Council’s view £44,581.proposedCllr Frayne seconded Cllr Preece , unanimously agreed

c)The Council further Resolved: that the restoration of the reserves to its assumed value would include the capital in its reserves, the income from investment and the annual cost to the Council’s budget of maintaining the open spaces at Standerwick Orchard.

**709 Playing field;** It was agreed to deliver leaflets to all households in Broadway informing all of the reburbishment and asking for volunteers and or donations. Cllr Chamopin is meeting with Wicksteads on site on 3rd November

**710 Correspondence** Wessex water informed the council that we were ineligible to receive a grant towards to the playing field project

**711 Finance** Payments were approved for SALC £214.06 chq 310, Clerks salary £295.99 chq 311 Grinters £720 chq 312