

Present:

CLLrs: S Baker, T Earnshaw, K Nixon, C Pearson (Chair), T Saunders, D Brooke, B Kaushiva, G Newby & J Sutcliffe

In attendance:

Mr P Walsh (Clerk)

Cllr M Cummings & Cllr U Ali. PC Craig Steel, West Yorkshire Police. (All three until c7.45pm)

0 members of the public.

- 89 To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr J Carlon (work). The reason for absence was **approved**.
- 90 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on 5th December 2023**
RESOLVED The minutes of the Parish Council meeting 5th December 2023 were **approved** as a correct record subject only to the amendment of the 2024 Parish Meeting from 21.4.24 to 21.5.24.
- 91 To receive declarations of interest** - none
- 92 To be advised of matters achieved or arisen since the last meeting not included elsewhere on the agenda** - none
- 93 Public Forum** - none
- 94 To receive a report from the Wakefield MDC Ward 5 councillors**
Cllr Cummings advised that there was nothing to report. Apart from...
Prior to the meeting a note had been circulated from the WMDC Street Lighting Officer advising that lamp column testings for the use of hanging baskets & Xmas trees (which are tested every three years) were needed during 2024 and that the cost per column would be c£100 and would need to be met by each parish council. Cllr Cummings advised that there may be a solution to this and this would be revealed in February.
Cllr Baker advised that Walton’s columns were last tested in 2022 & their next test would therefore be 2025.
- 95 SAFE Scheme & Police matters**
The latest report was reviewed and a healthy discussion followed with PC Steel including comments about hooded youths on e.bikes riding wildly up & down the Balk.
- 96 Finance & Governance**
Accounts paid and already paid under delegated authority and income received in November 2023 were approved. The Clerk submitted details for November 2023 of accounts paid totalling £12,727.52 and income received of £5,578.02.
The account balances at the end of November 2023 were: -
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Barclays current | £10,893.56 |
| Barclays premium | £8,994.21 |
| HSBC deposit | £1,003.71 |
| Nationwide savings | <u>£103,912.48</u> |
| Total | <u>£124,803.96</u> |
- Council considered the 2nd draft annual budget for 2024-25 and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget as presented and the Precept for 2024-25 at £42,000.

97 Planning Committee Working Party

2x TPO planning applications received during December were noted without comment.

98 To receive reports and consider recommendations from working parties

Village Hall & Coronation Cottage

RESOLVED - Altofts Tree Services to remove the conifer in front of the cottage at a cost of £500

Park & Jubilee Field

RESOLVED – To pay the long outstanding invoice to WMDC for £582.55 for pruning the trees along the Stables

Parish environment

RESOLVED – Clerk to write to WMDC to ask for permission to plant a real Christmas tree on the roadside land at the junction of Shay Lane with Cherry Tree Road (at the site of the current annual Christmas tree)

Floral displays

RESOLVED To pay First Impressions for the winter stone planters planting

Communications – requests for content invited for the next newsletter

Tennis club refurbishment

RESOLVED – To pay the student travel expenses of £159.03.

To invite Working for Walton to discuss the request for a Christmas tree sited in the ex-tennis club area.

CLlr Kaushiva to be added to the Working Party

Staffing Committee

RESOLVED – To increase the caretaker's daily retainer by £1 and to pay the National Living wage from 1.4.24

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

