

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs P. Rogers [in the chair], Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Austin, Mr P. Seller, Mrs J. Giles-Bullock, Mrs M. Squires, and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

Apologies: Mr J. Tucker, Mr P.Heal

[2023/1/1] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th November 2022 which had been circulated were approved.

[2] **Public Conveniences:** MDDC were re-thinking their plans. The disabled toilet would probably remain as a unisex toilet. The Council thought that if the building was sold, it should be stipulated that a toilet should remain.

[3] **Village Green etc.:** It was suggested by Mrs Rogers that a play area should be provided. The best site might be the Church Field. An initial request could be made to the Churchwarden. The fruit trees will need to have the tree guards taken down and also to be maintained. It was hoped to plant more daffodils in the autumn. Another quote had been received for the grass cutting. This needed to be considered. The clay was coming through in the car park. The surface needs to be restored possibly with a new layer of gravel. It was suggested that some granite troughs be placed by the bus shelter. The Road drains needed sucking out. Yeo Road is in a very poor condition.

[4] Financial report:

Current Account Balance as at 1/11/2022 £12,239.75

INCOME: None

EXPENDITURE:

Cheques cashed

402 Village Hall [Rent] £100.00

Current Account Balance as at 1/12/2022£12,139.75

Cheque not yet cashed

404 M. Leach [Grasscutting] £285.00

Signed Date

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/10/2022 £11,574.14

Interest: October: £3.77; November £6.66

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/12/2022£11,584.57

Requests for Payment:

C. Barber [Brush & Hedge Cutting]£240.00

Information Commissioner£ 40.00

These payments were agreed.

[5] **Parish Precept:** The Parish Council had managed to keep the amount of the precept stable for six successive years. There was now a need to adjust for the current economic situation. It was agreed to increase the precept by £800 for 2023/4 on a motion proposed by Mr Clark and seconded by Mr Austin. This will be a 21% rise but on average 3.5% per year.

6) **Coronation Events:** It was proposed that there is an afternoon party on 6th May and a barbeque on 8th May. Possibly commemorative medals to be given out.

Next meeting: Tuesday 14th February

Dates for 2023:

Tuesday 14th March, Tuesday 11th April, Tuesday 9th May, Tuesday 11th July, Tuesday 12th September, Tuesday 10th October, Tuesday 14th November, Tuesday 12th December

Anthony Martin, Clerk 23/1/2023

Signed Date