

**DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Village Hall**

Present: Mr J. Tucker, Ms P. Rogers, Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Austin, Mr R. Hodgson, Mr P. Seller, Mrs N Letch and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

Apologies: Mr S. Penny

In attendance: Mr F Letch

[2023/9/1] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 which had been circulated were amended and should be approved at the next meeting.

[2] **Matters Arising:** Clerk to investigate saving documents to the I-Cloud.

Notice about Dog Warden to be put on the website. There was a problem with dog mess in Yeo Road.

[3] **Public Conveniences.** Suggested action: Letter to be written to the Chief Executive, perhaps asking for a meeting. Mrs Letch would discuss the situation with the finance department of MDDC later in the week but needed to be given more information. An explanation of the situation with business rates was needed.

[4] **Village Green etc :** Mr Austin had produced a map showing the proposed planting around the green. A notice had been put up to show what is planned so that any objections could be raised. One e-mail had been received in favour of the scheme.

Mr Austin explained how the dead trees were being removed and would be replaced. One of them had been planted in the wrong position. The other trees have been pruned.

It was pointed out that grass would need to be kept down around the lavender bushes.

Work on the wildflower bed would need a proper contractor. Some of the overgrown areas needed to be cleared and monitored.

Now that the consultation had been held, the Council was able to go ahead with the work.

Mr Hodgson raised the question of cars parking on the Green. This mainly involved the team of bell-ringers as well as the overflow when there was a wedding or funeral. This could cause damage to the Green and it was better that people parked on the side roads. It was

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suggested that the church could put up a sign when there was a particular event. Action: The Clerk to be in touch with the PCC.

A decision needed to be made about the grass cutting in 2024. Mr Leach and DH Garden Services to be asked for quotes.

**[5] Finance:**

Current Account Balance as at 27/6/2023.....£16,734.57

INCOME: None

EXPENDITURE:

Cheques cashed :

410 Mike Leach [Grasscutting - April] ..... £200.00

415 A. Martin [Clerk's Salary] ..... £500.00

418 A. Martin [Flowers] .....£40.00

419 Ms J. Say [Planters] .....£44.46

Current Account Balance as at 1/9/2023 .....£ 15,950.11

Cheques issued:

420 Mike Leach [Grasscutting- May & June] ..... £200.00

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/6/2023.....£11,638.55

Interest: June .....£11.00

July .....£13.10

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/8/2023 ..... £11,662.65

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

M. Leach [Grasscutting July & August]..... £200.00

This payment was agreed.

**6] Planning:** None

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7] **Emergency Planning:** Mr Austin had begun to compile a list of numbers for people to contact. It was agreed that a dedicated committee should continue the work. MDDC had a template to be used. There should be a list of skills that villagers had and another of vulnerable people.

8] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th October

**Further Dates for 2023:**

Tuesday 14th November, Tuesday 12th December

Anthony Martin, Clerk

2/10/2023

Signed ..... Date .....