

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 in the Village Hall

Present: Ms P. Rogers, Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Austin, Mr R. Hodgson, and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

In attendance: Mr A. Baker

Apologies were received from Mr J. Tucker, Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch, Mrs. M. Squires

[2024/3/1] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12th March 2024 which had been circulated were approved and signed. The Meeting on 9th April had been cancelled.

[2] **Matters Arising:** None

[3] **Public Conveniences:** Mr White was currently in discussions with Steve Densham. The Council wanted to know if business rates were still being charged. They were also concerned that it would be staying open. It was suggested that the whole facility should be open for events. Better signage was needed to show which part remained open. There should also be a better sign on the A377 as there were problems with Wolfen Drive being used.

[4] **Village Green etc:** About 11 or 12 feet had been lost to the Green by tractors cutting into it. The edge could be saved by the installation of large stones. This was agreed in principle. Mr Austin would obtain three quotes. A notice about this was to be put on the board. Comments to be made by the next meeting. The Council agreed to install a "No parking" sign.

The grass had not yet been cut this year and it was now the middle of "No Mow May". There was no fete this year but a barbecue was to be held on 13th July. The grass would need to be cut well before that.

MDDC had installed a mobility ramp which was partially on parish land. A courtesy letter might have been good.

There were reports of an abandoned lawnmower.

The plaster on the bus shelter had blown. A specialist plasterer was needed. Quotes were also needed for resurfacing the car park. Repairs were needed to the Village Pump.

[5] **Roads:** The County Council were repairing roads but mainly with temporary fillings. There were problems with Barn Hill and Yeo Road. Some of the problems were caused by climate change. There had been intense rainfall. Drain suckers were needed.

[6] Finance:

Current Account Balance as at 1/2/2024£15,035.61

INCOME:

Sharland Farm – Community Benefit£1,972.62

Signed

Date

MDDC – Precept [less membership of DALC]£4,418.00

EXPENDITURE:

Cheques cashed:

425 Information Commissioner £40.00
426 Village Hall [Rent]..... £135.00

Current Account Balance as at 1/5/2024£21,251.23

Cheques issued: None

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/2/2024£11,747.67

Interest:

February£13.53
March£13.08
April£15.44

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/5/2024£11,789.72

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

Stapletons [Accountants] £102.00
DALC [VAT on membership fee] £19.90

It was proposed that £10,000 be transferred to the Business Reserve Account.

Internet Banking: Mr Tucker had been unable as yet to provide a specimen signature.

7] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9th July

Future Meetings: Tuesday 10th September, Tuesday 8th October, Tuesday 12th November, Tuesday 10th December

Anthony Martin, Clerk

4/6/2024

Signed

Date