

For And On Behalf Of Hill Croome Parish Council Clerk - Michael Brooks Vine Cottage Baughton Earls Croome WR8 9DQ

THE MINUTES OF HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Earls Croome Village Hall at 7.30PM on Tuesday 13th November 2018

Present: All Councillors at the meeting.

In attendance: One member of the parish, the Lengthsman and County Councillor

1. Apologies: Councillor Owenson.

2. Declarations of Interest – Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Declarations of Interest.

Meeting was adjourned for Public question time, the Chairman deciding to open the floor at the end of the meeting.

<u>3. Minutes</u> - Minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2018 were approved and signed.

<u>4. Engagement of new Internal Auditor</u> - the Clerk reported the news of the retirement of the current auditor, Mr Gallagher. A replacement was suggested by Mr Gallagher – a Mr Dion Petri. Contact has been made and Mr Petri is happy to take on the role on the same terms.

Proposed: Chairman Seconded: Councillor Brooks

Matter passed. Letter of engagement to be arranged.

<u>5. Standing Orders</u> – the updated Standing Orders were presented for adoption in line with the agreement at the August meeting. Chairman signed the new version, to be held on file.

6. Progress reports

Highways – the clerk reported the response from the engineer giving updates on the previous outstanding matters.

- 1. The road gulleys are due for jetting in February/March 2019.
- 2. The ditch on the green is to be dugout by the probation team.
- 3. The drainage issue at Ash Lea is subject to further investigation.

Nationwide Account – the clerk confirmed that the account is now closed with the outstanding 2p being deposited into the current account.

Lengthsman – Malcolm reported:

- 1. The footpaths opposite the Jockey and opposite The Court have no way-mark signs.
- 2. Baughton Lane is still subject to flooding by Keeper's Cottage. No clear drainage at the location.
- 3. His intention to finish this year in post and requested that a replacement be sought at the earliest convenience and in any case by March 2019.

7. Planning

No current applications for the village.



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8. Finance:

- A. Council provided with full disclosure of payments and receipts since last meeting.
- B. Full bank reconciliation provided for Councillors.
- C. The clerk provided a proposed budget forecast for 2019-2020. The merits of an increase, decrease or staying the same were discussed and after some deliberation it was decided to maintain the same level as for 2018-2019. The ongoing uncertainty with government policy being a major factor but it is hoped that the Council will be able to further increase the level of reserves during the next financial year.
 Proposed: Chairman Seconded: Councillor Jarvis Motion carried.

Reconciliation as at 13th November 2018 Current Account £3132.66 Deposit Account £2410.74 Cash in Hand £ 9.06

9. Village Green project

The Chairman outlined the apparent success of the first year and stressed the value of the scheme for both the environment and the finances of the Council. The next season will hopefully show further progress towards our end goal of a wildflower meadow. It is noted that this still could take several more years to come to fruition.

10. Remembrance Day Service

The Chairman expressed his thanks for the organisers of the recent Remembrance Day commemoration in making it such a fine occasion. It was tremendous to see a full church and the gathering at the laying of the wreaths and crosses was a great example of our community coming together. Those present will never forget the day and the display of artefacts, memories and cake at the village hall afterwards all contributed to the successful event.

11. Training

Councillors reminded of the opportunities for training.

12. District and County Councillor Report

In a written report Cllr Owenson informed Council of the current SWDP review and the opportunity to contribute to the debate. He also reminded Council of the Christmas bin collection timetable.

Cllr Middlebrough informed Council regarding the changes to bus timetables, library services and the upcoming 'Protect Your Farm' initiative.

<u>14. Correspondence</u> - no additional items.

<u>15. Councillors' reports</u> - The chairman reported his concerns regarding the speed through the village. This is not a new problem but it is apparent that it is getting worse. The clerk is to write to the County and District Councillors to re-open the debate as to how we can improve the issue.

16. Public questions – no additional matters arising.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 7.30pm at The Earls Croome Village Hall.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date

Chairman - Phillippe Smith Clerk - Michael Brooks Contact Details: email - <u>hillcroomepc@btinternet.com</u> Telephone: 01684 594471