Held at: Victory Hall, Neen Sollars, DY14 0AL

Date: 16/01/2023 Start: 10.02 Hrs

Summons:

**Cllr Chris Jones (Chairman) 01584 890486**

**Cllr David Jones (Vice Chairman) 01299 271204**

**Cllr Steve Painter 01299 832981**

**Cllr Mazella Witts-Hewinson 01299 271258**

**Cllr Peter Bloomer 01299 271461**

**Clerk Gavin Hamilton 01299 271205**

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:**

None

1. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 18/11/2023**

Cllr Bloomer noted that the wording of the minutes suggested that he hadn’t been interested. Clerk to change accordingly before signing off by the Chair.

1. **Accounts:** Current account £11,659.59

Community Benefit £6,572.53

Election account £752.96

**Parish Assets**

Neen Sollars ~ £5,146.35

Milson ~ £2,765.65

Cllr D Jones asked whether the accounts were covered for scams. The Clerk replied that as far as he knew it would be no different to any other bank, but would check with Zurich Insurance. He also asked whether it may be better to earn some interest on the bulk of the money, and all agreed this would be sensible.

Unfortunately, the bank had still not sorted out online banking for the Clerk and a complaint had been raised, resulting in £75 deposit.

The Chairman, as the only person with access would look at transferring monies.

**Precept Proposals (attached)**

The Clerk provided copies of up-to-date proposals and this was compared to the previous years. Unfortunately it did look like there would be an increase in Insurance premiums for the AED’s and Telephone boxes, as well as regular payments for mowing Milson Green, provision of Grit boxes, increase in Lengthsman pay. The AED’s were discussed and it was felt that the monies for upkeep should come from the Council and not Community benefit.

**Proposer**: Cllr C Jones **Seconder:** Cllr Bloomer

**ACTION:** Clerk to send in Precept

1. **Highways, Drains and Lengthman’s return:**

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the ongoing roads issues. The Clerk reported that there had been more damage to cars, especially on the Cleobury road to Neen Sollars stretch. All Cllr’s had been made aware of Highways responses, either verbal or email.

Cllr Bloomer suggested that a different approach be tried. He suggested that a Method Statement be requested that the Council use with Contractors, and a sample audit of previous repairs carried out.

**ACTION: Clerk & Cllr Bloomer**

A discussion was held about Lengthsman pay, and this should be reviewed at the March meeting. Mr C Price would be invited to attend.

**ACTION: Clerk**

1. **Review Parish Plan**

* It was felt the key issues in the village could be classified as:
* Broadband issues (Neen’s Hill),
* Potholes and drainage,
* Flooding,
* Defibs

As the next meeting would be without Cllr D Jones, this topic would be reviewed at a later meeting

1. **Parish Questionnaire**

This was last sent out in 2014 and the Chair felt we should redo this in 2024

**ACTION: CLERK**

1. **Vandalism of Milson AED box**

Cllr C Jones has reinforced the broken glass with fablon but these broken glass panes will require replacement with Perspex. Cllr Bloomer felt that he could supply 5mm Perspex.

Recent vandalism included a break in at Phil Griffiths and the torching of a car below Dinthill which had been damaged by a pothole.

**ACTION: Cllr C Jones, Cllr Bloomer and Clerk**

1. **Planning Application Update:**

None recorded

1. **Moto X and Shooting Events**

DHJ had written to Shakenhurst to advise them that they are allowed 28 days of events, inclusive of shooting and Moto X, but if they require more than they would need planning permission. They are considering their options.

**ACTION:MONITOR**

1. **Flooding Risks:**

Bridge is clear of most debris, but there is 1 large blockage 200 yards upstream of the bridge and at least 1 above that.

Cllr D Jones has spoken to them and even lent them kit.

**ACTION: CONTINUOUS MONITORING**

1. **Severn Trent Water:** Ongoing situation **ACTION: CLERK to MONITOR**
2. **Broadband:**

Clerk had followed this up and passed on email from Ben Walker at Shropshire Council. According to Openreach Clows Top exchange is not due to be upgraded to fibre?

Cllr Painter has a contact who would be interested in helping (Hilltop Cottage)

**ACTION: SP**

1. **Noise/effluent pollution:**

* The situation previously discussed has now altered and just required monitoring.
* Dog Poo Bin: communication from a Parishioner had requested that the dog poo bin be moved from the iconic Fingerpost in Neen Sollars. It was felt that this was still the best location as it was being used and was emptied for free by the Council.

1. **Website:**

The Website had undergone some alterations as suggested by Cllr Bloomer. Cllr Bloomer and J Smith had volunteered for the Churches with J Knight taking it on for the Village Hall

**ACTION: Clerk**

1. **Public Participation**

None

1. **AOB and Community Benefit**

* A villager had asked if the Community benefit could be used to buy more trees to screen the Solar farm and pay the Lengthsman to maintain. This was felt by the majority of the Cllr’s to be not the purpose of the Community benefit.
* The Coronation was discussed and I believe the Village Hall was leading on this.
* Planting of Trees would need proper tree guards and good stock.
* £5 book tokens were to be ordered by Mrs B Jones for the children of the village **ACTION Clerk**
* Cllr Painter to get a definite price on flag pole. **ACTION SP**

1. Public Correspondence
2. Meeting Dates 2022/23:

**Monday 16/01/2023** Ordinary Meeting with Precept

**Monday 27/03/2023** Ordinary Meeting

1. Communications from SSC:

Clerk advised Council members that all communications were being forwarded to Council members as they came in via email. It was then admitted that not all these communications were being read, so it was felt that those of importance would have please read on them. **ACTION:ALL**

**MEETING CLOSED 12:02**

Signed as a true record of the meeting by Chair of Council Cllr C Jones: