

MEETING OF CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL

7.00 PM 25 JANUARY 2024

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Child; Councillors: Abraham, Attrill, Beer, Bicknell, A Broadhurst, H Broadhurst, Duguid, Jones, Selby and Scott.

In Attendance: Hilary Blaker (Parish Clerk / RFO).

Public Participation:

Two members of the public were in attendance. One member of the public represented the Hiltingbury Community Association who have applied to host a dog show at Hiltingbury Recreation Ground in April 2024. A copy of their draft management plan was provided to the Clerk.

Another member of the public raised concerns regarding a recent second round planning application that has received approval by Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC). The Clerk agreed to review current processes regarding planning application notifications between EBC and the Parish Council.

1147 APOLOGIES

These were received from Cllrs Baker, Davies, Evans, Irish, Kyrle, Pragnell and Cllr Johnson was not present.

1148 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None were declared.

1149 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Much of this month has been spent developing and refining the 2024-25 budget. Much more attention has been paid to the detail of the report and it is hoped that councillors will appreciate the improvement. Work continues in developing the work on Pennine Way Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, the bad weather has meant that work has had to be delayed or the necessary machinery would have caused enormous damage to the ground. It is now hoped with the improving of the weather work will be planned and commenced soon. Work continues on the Parish policies and the two major policies are discussed further in the meeting. The new web site has been launched and is live. Some issues have arisen and are being addressed. If you find any concerns with the new site, please contact the Clerk so that they can be addressed. We have now switched to the new Financial System and hopefully you agree that the reporting is now much clearer and better presented than previously. Also, the bank accounts have now been switched over to the Unity Bank and we are already benefitting from the interest rates being applied to the bank balances.

Finally, I would request that all councillors switch to using the Parish Council email addresses, this will mean that all correspondence will be held on the mail server enabling any requests for information to be provided. Certainly, any messages which need to be distributed to councillors should go through this system. If you are not yet using the system you may miss important communications.

1150 TO APPROVE / ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS;-

- a) to approve the minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 December 2023**
Following proposal, seconding and on show of hands the above minutes were approved.
- b) to approve the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 22 January 2024**
Due to the lack of attending Policy and Finance Committee members the approval of minutes was deferred until the next Policy and Finance Committee 4 March 2024.

1151 TO AGREE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM POLICY AND FINANCE TO ADOPT THE REVISED DOCUMENTS:-

a) Operational Risk Assessment – revised 2023-2024

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the above document as agreed and adopted.

b) Financial Regulations – updated 2023-2024

Recommended revisions were explained to members. Requests for clarification on other clauses were made and discussion took place regarding the addition of an optional clause relating to credit checks on members and staff who act as signatories. Following discussion it was agreed that further amendments were required and the Regulations would be re-presented to Policy and Finance Committee for review.

c) Standing Orders – revised 2023-2024

Recommended revisions made by the Working Group were explained to members. Due to the number of further revisions requested and suggestions made, it was agreed that the Standing Orders would be referred back to the Working Party.

1152 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE HILTINGBURY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S APPLICATION TO USE HILTINGBURY RECREATION GROUND FOR A PUBLIC EVENT.

Clarification was sought by members of the expected involvement of Parish Council Officers. Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands it was agreed to give consent to the Association using Hiltingbury Recreation Ground for their event. No partnership was agreed.

1153 TO RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR FRYERN FUNTASIA 2024

The Clerk provided an update on preparations, including sponsorship, stall holders, activities and arena events planned. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has been successful with a National Lottery Community Grant application. This will provide much needed funds for this year's event.

1154 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE SETTING OF THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2024-2025

a) Precept at RFO's minimum recommendation of £552,796.50, representing a Band D Council Tax of £60.59 at 3% increase, and

b) To set the overall budget for the coming financial year and an expenditure of £725,197.33 and income of £727,136.50 (3%)

Following discussion, it was proposed to increase the precept by 4% representing a Band D Council Tax of £61.18. It was agreed that this would support the Council in future provision of public services and projects. Consideration was requested regarding opportunities for cost savings. Energy contracts will be reviewed as they approach renewal date and focus will be placed upon maximising opportunities within existing Pavilions.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the precept was set at £558,179.40 with the budget for the coming financial year agreed with expenditure of £725,197.33. One member abstained from the vote.

1155 TO AGREE TO EXEMPT THE MEETING FROM PUBLIC ATTENDANCE UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ACCESS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 / C2 DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands this was agreed.

1156 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING : 7.00PM 25 MARCH 2024

That being the conclusion of business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman.....