

## **MEETING OF CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**7.00 PM 11 DECEMBER 2023**

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

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

### **Public Participation:**

There were three members of the public who attended. One member of the public spoke regarding the United Reformed Church. After explaining a little of his personal history with the Church he went on to explain how sadly only essential maintenance has been possible due to financial pressures. As a result, the halls and facilities are in a poor state of repair and requires considerable investment. He reported the diminishing use by community groups in recent times and called upon the Parish Council to consider what benefit would be gained by listing the building as historically significant.

Another member of the public responded by raising the architectural significance of the building.

Both members of the public were thanked for their contribution.

### **1135 APOLOGIES**

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

### **1136 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None were declared.

### **1137 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman read out his report which reported that the Parish Council are planning for the New Year. Next year sees the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and also the Fryern Funtasia on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Organising Funtasia next year is already taking officer's time. We have lost our main sponsor, and many local companies are cutting back on their sponsorships. So, we need to be finding new sponsors to bridge the gap between costs and income. Last year Funtasia cost around £10K with an income of £8K, which the Parish Council covered. It is of course part of our remit to provide facilities for the local community and Funtasia certainly falls into that category. We would like to break even though, so any ideas from councillors would be welcomed.

The D-Day "committee" are busy thinking about what will be needed for next year's celebration and have already put out a request for notice boards. Anyone who can help, please contact the Parish Office. Chandler's Ford is steeped in history around that time, so we are keen to put on a good show. Talking of Chandler's Ford heritage, we are also recognising the historical relevance of the United Reformed Church. It has now been put up for sale and we hope to influence its listing. This is on the agenda for later discussion.

Finally, we are in the process of developing next year's budget (2024/2025). It is intended to develop a budget which is much more transparent than in previous years; hopefully this will make the numbers more understandable. A discussion on where to set the precept will be later in this meeting.

The Chair finished by thanking everyone all for their hard work and support this year and wished everyone season's greetings and a joyful New Year.

**1138 TO APPROVE / ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS;-**

- a) to approve the minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 September 2023
- b) to approve the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 20 November 2023
- c) To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2023
- d) To approve the confidential minutes of the HR Committee held on 28 November 2023
- e) To approve the minutes of the Asset Management Committee held on 4 December 2023

Following proposal, seconding and a show of hands the above minutes were approved and accepted.

**1139 TO NOTE THE FIRST INTERIM REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2023/24**

A clear audit was noted.

**1140 TO AGREE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024**

With one amendment required for the January 2024 Full Council meeting due to availability of the Clerk, the meeting schedule was proposed, seconded and on a show of hands was ACCEPTED. It was agreed that the revised date for Full Council would follow.

*Post meeting note, the date has been confirmed as being Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm.*

**1141 TO AGREE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM HR COMMITTEE TO APPOINT WORKNEST FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

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

**1142 TO AGREE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM POLICY AND FINANCE TO ADOPT THE REVIEWED FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT.**

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

**1143 TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY IN JUNE 2024 AND TO RECEIVE A SHORT REPORT.**

The Working Party are proposing to host an historical display throughout the day within the Fryern Pavilion culminating in an evening reception with the lighting of the beacon at 9.15pm. Efforts to secure display boards are ongoing. A nominal budget will be required for the event to cover the reception and printing costs along with Otterbourne Brass Band who have been secured for the evening. It was requested that consideration be given to possible sponsorship for the event.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the Terms of Reference were approved.

**1144 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO PURSUE LOCALLY LISTED HISTORIC BUILDING STATUS FOR UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WITH RECOMMENDATION TO PLANNING AND LICENCING COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE STATUTORY LISTING.**

The United Reformed Church was designed by visionary architect Herbert Collins who was part of the Garden City movement. Only two religious buildings were designed by Herbert Collins. One being the United Reformed Church and the second being in Southampton which has already achieved listed status.

Clarification was provided regarding the implication of a statutory listing against a local listing. Discussion took place regarding community usage with concerns being raised regarding the number of community facilities within the parish that are already community funded and struggling for finance. Councillors were reminded that this agenda item was not related to the building use. This motion was to discuss and agree how the architectural significance of the building could be preserved.

During this discussion Councillor Scott left the meeting ( 7.32pm )

The involvement of the LAC ( Local Area Committee ) was requested by Councillors.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands this motion was agreed. Borough Councillors who are also members of the LAC abstained from voting.

**1145 TO DISCUSS INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SETTING OF PRECEPT FOR 2024-25.**

Discussion took place regarding the value of income forecasted for Hiltingbury Sportshall. The cautious approach was recognised however, further consideration was requested. Consideration was also requested for ear marked reserves for asset replacement across playgrounds and buildings.

Councillors were presented with implications of various percentage increases for precept. Decision to be passed to next Full Council.

**1146 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING : TBC**

*Post meeting note – next meeting Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm*

That being the conclusion of business the meeting closed at 7.54pm.

Chairman.....