**Minutes, Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council 23rd October 2023 at the Civic Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs K Dawson (Chairman), B Beeley (Vice Chairman)

E Adamson S Al-Hamdani

K Barton M Birchall

H Bishop R Blackmore

L Dawson J Garner

A Marland K Phillips

M Powell D Wall

P Walsh A Wrigley

Welcome by the Chairman Cllr K Dawson and prayers led by the Rev Ken McNally

**3488. To receive apologies for Absence:** M Bingley, G Sheldon, P Gaul,

**3489. To receive Public Questions**

None received

**3490. Chairman’s Urgent Business**

None to discuss

**3491. Correspondence**

None received

**3492. To receive Declarations of Interest**

Pecuniary interest was declared by Cllr Beeley on item 3498.

**3493. To approve and confirm as a correct record the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th September 2023**

Cllr Garner expressed concern, that if the minutes were in fact a correct record of the meeting, then the answers councillors had received from United Utilities at the last meeting didn’t fully address all councillors’ questions. Councillors agreed they were a true record and the minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

After some discussion it was agreed to refer the United Utilities’ concerns back to the Environment Committee. Proposed Cllr Garner, seconded Cllr Al-Hamdani, all in favour.

Cllr Garner also asked whether the Clerk had received details from United Utilities regarding the River Ranger. The Clerk advised she had not received anything so was tasked with finding the information out and then inviting them to the next Full Council meeting in November.

Cllr Wall asked the Clerk whether any response had been received from UU regarding his additional question. She confirmed she had chased them up on her return from holiday but had received nothing back, she would chase again.

**3494. To note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 21st September 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3495. To note the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held 28th September 2023**

Cllr Garner requested further information regarding the survey to be sent to residents regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Al-Hamdani explained in more detail. The minutes were then proposed, seconded and approved.

**3496. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 2nd October 2023**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.

**3497. To note the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held 4th October 2023**

Cllr L Dawson advised she had given her apologies to this meeting. The minutes were amended to reflect this, they were then proposed, seconded and approved. Cllr Al-Hamdani advised the meeting with reference to Pots & Pans, that repairs were being carried out on the memorial by OMBC.

**3498. Chairman’s Allowance (Finance Committee proposal)**

As this proposal would refer to next year May 24 when Cllr Beeley will be Chairman, she left the room while this was discussed.

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained the proposal, following on from a Task & Finish Group proposal in 2021 that was never ratified at Full Council. Of the £1750 annual allowance, the group had recommended that £1000 to be given to the Chair; with £750 held back to be used for mileage claims and towards any other out of pocket expenses on production of a receipt from the Deputy Chair and other Councillors standing in for the Chairman. If Council agreed, this would be put in place from May 24.

There was some discussion around this and two proposals were put forward:

1, an amended proposal that of the current £1750 allowance, £1000 be paid directly to the Chairman, with the other £750 held back to be used to pay expenses to Vice Chaiman/other Councillors on receipt when standing on for the Chairman. These expenses would be signed off by the Clerk and a report shared with the Finance Committee at every meeting. Proposed Cllr Al-Hamdani, seconded Cllr Marland, all in favour.

2, to refer to the Finance Committee to review the amount of the allowance for May 24 in light of current inflation. Proposed Cllr Phillips, seconded Cllr Blackmore, all in favour.

**3499. Accounts for Payment Income £ 4,135.00 Expenditure £23,940.04**

Cllr Beeley asked if all allotments rents had been paid. The Clerk replied that most of them had and the administrator was chasing up any that were outstanding.

Cllr Al-Hamdani queried cemetery payments, why were we paying monies out? The Clerk explained we were paying the groundsman and also we charge the family for the headstone, and then pay the stonemason directly.

Cllr Al-Hamdani questioned the Adobe trial cost of £20.The Clerk explained the trial was free, but it was £20 per month to continue using it. Cllr Al-Hamdani to send the Clerk details on how this service can be obtained cheaper.

Cllr Beeley queried the cost of cutting the grass at Dawson’ Field, believed it expensive. The Clerk advised it was actually at a discounted rate, it is a large field, and the invoice also included cutting the grass opposite the Three Crowns.

The accounts were then proposed, seconded and approved.

Cllr Garner asked whether he could speak about his concerns over Places for Everyone at the Fletcher’s Site. As it had not been listed as an agenda item, it was agreed that this would be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee.

**3500. Dates of the next meeting:- Monday 27th November 2023 at 19.30hrs**