**Minutes of the meeting of the Armitage with Handsacre**

**Parish Council held on Thursday 25th November 2021**

**at 7:00pm at the Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillor A Castle Councillor W Bennett

Councillor T Marshall Councillor J Yearsley

Councillor J Israel Councillor I Hodgson

Councillor A Kirkbride

**Apologies:** CCllr R Cox Councillor J McGill

**Parish Clerk:** Samantha LaPlanche **Administrator:** Charlotte Leach-La Planche

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Public Participation:**  None.

**To receive Declarations of Interest**: None.

**To receive requests for Dispensations under the Localism Act 2011** – None.

**Minutes:** Cllr Marshal proposed the approval of the minutes. Cllr Yearsley seconded the proposal. Majority vote. The minutes of the meeting held on the Thursday 28th October 2021 were declared to be a true and accurate record.

Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Castle for taking the meeting at such short notice as the vice Chair. Cllr Castle thanked Cllr Marshall for his kind words about his work on the War memorial project. All councillors joined in with their thanks for Cllr Castle’s hard work on achieving the best outcome on Remembrance Day.

**Matters Arising:**

**1. Planning Matters –** Application 21/00058/FUL 27 New Road, Charlotte said she had sent out the appeal notice to councillors to view. Application 21/01904/FUH 2 Pike Lane, erection of a detached garage, Charlotte asked for councillor comments by 9th December. Cllr Castle said Gareth Hare Principal Arboricultural Officer at LDC, has sent over the details of an old existing hedge removal request at 18 Running Hills. Cllr Castle said the hedge is over 40 years old and should not be approved for removal. All councillors are reminded to send their comments on the application to Charlotte by 17th December.

**2. To consider reports from District and County Councillors –** Cllr Marshall notified the councillors of the sad passing of fellow District Councillor Brian Bacon. The District Council has purchased its first electric pickup vehicle and hopes to continue these purchases for the future. Free parking is being offered in the town centre, certain times and days apply. A scheme is running where businesses can claim a free Christmas tree, they are 3ft high. The Garrick Theatre is running their Panto over the Christmas season, Peter Pan. Cllr Marshall asked all councillors and families to support this production during these difficult times. The District Council is running a partnership scheme with Staffordshire Police, to tackle knife crime in the area, honesty drop off boxes are available and all knives will be destroyed.

**3. Environmental Matters –** Samanthapresented the quote from Acme Tree Services Ltd for the trees to the rear of 34 Wordsworth Close. There is a quote for crowning and removal of the trees. All councillors agreed to the crown lift and not to consider removal.

**4. To review the progress on the War Memorial project –** Samantha will send out the designs for the notice boards via email to the councillors, for a decision on a design and colour. Cllr Castle suggested installing a height restriction bar at the entrance to the car park, as there was one installed originally until it was damaged. All councillors agreed to the new bar at a cost of £2,000 exc VAT. The councillors would like to review the use of the car park by local residents, on a 2 hour amenity availability for shoppers and a permit for over night parking. The Clerk will contact the District Council for some advice on these proposed terms and recommendations for the installation of signs. Cllr Castle said he will forward a letter for the nearby residents, informing them of the proposed changes, after the letter content has been approved by the Parish Council. The Clerk will ask our local contractor GHL Ltd to provide a quote for the wooden fencing around the car park, then bring to the Parish Council for spending approval.

**5. To review the play area inspection report from October 2021 –** Charlotte gave a short summarised talk on the report and will send this out to the councillors, to view. All councillors offered to help completing monthly visuals of the equipment and surrounding area and will attend in pairs. Charlotte will provide all councillors with lanyards and Hi-Viz jackets clearly stating their Parish Council title. Charlotte will seek an independent inspector to complete the “over 3m high” equipment and present the quote at the next meeting. Charlotte said the three gym pieces need signs displayed for usage, Cllr Hodgson suggested contacting Sue at Rugeley Town Council as they have some outdoor equipment signage. The quote for the signage in all 5 play area was approved by the councillors, Charlotte will place the order and ask GHL Ltd to install.

**6. To review in detail the requirements for the Jubilee Baton –** All councillors agreed the baton was not suitable for our Parish and more suitable for the larger councils like Lichfield and Burntwood.

**7. Meeting dates to be approved for 2022** – All councillors approved the dates and the Clerk will send these out accordingly.

**Financial Matters**

**8. To approve the cheque payments and bank balance for November 2021 –** Cllr Hodgson proposed the councillors accept the payments. Cllr Marshall seconded the proposal. All agreed.

**9. To review the amount of funds held in the Lloyds Bank under FSCS –** The Chairman asked the Clerk to view other High Street branch bank and online banking services for an alternative option.

**Dates of the next meetings –**

Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7.00pm

Thursday 24th February 2022 at 7.00pm

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed and approved on behalf of the Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council

Cllr Castle – Vice Chairman

27th January 2022