

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: - Chair, Wayne Fox. Cllrs: - Jeff Rowland Elaine Ford, Roger Preece, Julia Waters and Bob Dowsell

Also Present: - Mrs Mia Fox, Mr and Ms P Ward.

Apologies for absence: - Councillor Brian Cork – Illness

1. Matters arising.

Following contact with the Coop Bank we have 3 Accounts:-

- 1 with £12074 available - Current account
- 2 Poor Ground Whitson £593 -
- 3 Deposit £4490

- a. Future of Whitson Hall still needs to be decided – A suggestion, is that a trustee meeting be held in January 2024 in place of a Council meeting, to progress our intentions on this.
- b. Councillor Preece gave a very rough outline of the costs for refurbishing the Hall and this came to a very Conservative £42000. A verbal quote of £6000 for the Hole in the wall and as most of the windows are rotten about £1000 each to replace, being some of the highlighted costs.
- c. It seems the reinforcing stone being stored at the Pill is Compacting the Ground and a plan is in hand to address this. Councillor Rowland has been informed that at present there is no extra water coming through Monks ditch / the Pill from the new developments at Llanwern
- d. Signposts have been erected warning drivers that the road is unsuitable but with foreign drivers and domestic Satnavs it appears they are being ignored – the suggestion was to Contact Tesco's and Bookers and invite them to a meeting to discuss how to resolve the issue. Also, as Tesco and parts of our parish share the same postcode is there a way to change Tesco's postcode? Signposts have been moved from one side of the road to the other in an attempt to stop HGV using the road.
- e. Redecoration of the Schoolroom is expected to be complete by the next Council meeting.
- f. The main topic of Contention re Llanwern was the 6000 houses and drainage
- g. Trees are increasingly encroaching onto the roads in the whole area.
- h. Cost of Batteries for the Defibrillator at Mr Greg Waters home – Cost to be confirmed.
- i. Jamie Williams and Howard Dudley to be contacted in relation to payments for the use of the Hall field and poor ground respectively

Correspondence

All correspondence has been emailed to Councillors.

The Audit Office return has been delayed pending details behind our last return. Councillor W Fox to contact them to confirm we will submit the return based on the limited information we have. It was suggested that "Glynis" be contacted with a view to auditing our Council in the future.

Financial

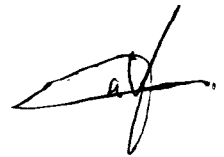
A return has been located for 2018/2019 but that is the latest we have. The period that we require is not available, although Anna had got Audits up to date.

Councillor Fox has got a spreadsheet set up with all the expenditure for the intervening years.

It was noted that in line with established practice that the Chair had not claimed any expenses since appointment and that the council usually made donations in lieu of this to local groups. In respect of the year ended March 23 the chair suggested the Christmas sleigh and the history group. Payments of £50 to both were agreed by all members.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next Full Council meeting will take place on December 14th 2023 7:30pm



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GCC

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: - Chair, Wayne Fox. Cllrs: - Jeff Rowland Elaine Ford, Roger Preece, Julia Waters and Bob Dowsell

Also Present: - Mrs Mia Fox, Ms Julia Evans and Ms M.Gilbert

Apologies for absence: - Councillor Brian Cork – Illness

1. Matters arising.

Following contact with the Coop Bank we have 3 Accounts:-

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- a. Future of Whitson Hall still needs to be decided – A trustee meeting be held in January 2024 in place of a Council meeting, to progress our intentions on this.
- b. Councillor Preece gave a very rough outline of the costs for refurbishing the Hall and this came to a very Conservative £42000. A verbal quote of £6000 for the Hole in the wall and as most of the windows are rotten about £1000 each to replace, being some of the highlighted costs.
- c. It seems the reinforcing stone being stored at the Pill is Compacting the Ground and a plan is in hand to address this. Councillor Rowland has been informed that at present there is no extra water coming through Monks ditch / the Pill from the new developments at Llanwern
- d. Signposts have been erected warning drivers that the road is unsuitable but with foreign drivers and domestic Satnavs it appears they are being ignored – the suggestion was to invite NCC to a meeting to discuss this issue.
- e. Redecoration of the Schoolroom is expected to be complete by the next Council meeting,. Didn't complete but has been started.
- f. Trees are increasingly encroaching onto the roads in the whole area. NCC to be contacted
- g. Cost of Batteries for the Defibrillator at Mr Greg Waters home – Cost to be confirmed at £210 and Mr Waters asked to buy with GCC to reimburse him.
- h. Jamie Williams and Howard Dudley contacted re the Hall field and Poor Ground respectively. And both have agreed to pay for rent once they receive invoices for such.
- i. The Precept proposal was discussed and a general agreement reached
- j. The Clerks role :- A large part of the meeting centred around the role of a clerk as far as GCC was concerned. Do we legally need one was one question! (Councillor Ford to ascertain our position). The role as it is seen, is :- as a Diarist, A minute Taker and dissemination of information on planning, Roadworks and Drainage to Local Councillors. Further discussion to be carried out

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Financial

Councillor Fox has got a spreadsheet set up with all the expenditure for the intervening years

AOB

Mr and Mrs David Waters have thanked the Council for their Generous donation to the local History group

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next Full Council meeting will take place on January 12th 2024 7:30pm

