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**GCC**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:30pm**

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

Also Present: - Mrs M Fox, Mr and Ms P Ward, Mrs L Macdonald, and Ms J Evans

Apologies for absence: - Councillor Brian Cork – Illness, Councillor J.Waters

**1. Matters arising.**

Coop Bank Accounts :-

1 with £12890 - Current account – outstanding cheques gross cutting £280 and rates (below) £800

2 Poor Ground Whitson £593

3 Deposit £2034

X £10k to be transferred to deposit

Charges have been raised by CoOp for historic statements, max £10 per account.

- a. Future of Whitson Hall still needs to be decided – Charity Commission contacted re ways we can be put back on the register but no reply as yet. Appears that Hall would not be eligible for registration based on current threshold requiring a minimum expected income of £5k p.a. Hall is still a charity, just not registered

Proposed clean-up be initiated along with getting quotes to repair damage. No Quotes are forthcoming now, but a tradesman is expected next Monday or Tuesday. It was also put forward that if a clean up was carried out along with repairs, that we need to have a purpose for the building so it can be brought into “use”. Although there is no “Council” meeting scheduled for August a meeting is to be held to discuss where we could go.

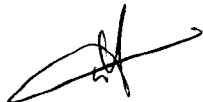
A Rates Demand of £1600 for the Hall has been received because:

- the Hall either needs to be controlled by a registered charity (irrespective of whether currently used) or be used to qualify for relief.
- Alternatively it needs to be taken outside the scope of business rates - An appeal has been lodged - Ongoing. Although following this route, if the hall is restored to a usable standard it is likely to fall back within the scope and therefore its future use as above is still relevant.

In the meantime, the Council has paid £800 for the first 6 months and the balance will be payable later in the year which is refundable if the appeal is successful.

We will have to pay charges until either the hall comes into “use” or the Valuation Office revises the rating of the building

“use” is not clear – may be something Martin can help convince the Council about in due course.

- b. NRW released a statement to Councillor Rowland, which stated that they do not monitor the flood plain, this is done by local agencies. We as a Council think this is shortsighted and Councillor Rowland is to produce a statement for Councillor Fox to send to the NRW.
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- c. Although some Road markings have been refurbished there is still concern about the state of the rest with a majority indistinct if not missing. Also, there is a marked deterioration in the state of the roads throughout the parishes. The Bridge is now in operation. although predictably the bridge has been damaged again due we presume from the fact that Satnavs send heavy vehicles via that route. We feel that some effort needs to be put in by NCC to signpost the route as unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles.
  - d. Councillor Martyn Kellaway to be approached to see why we are not receiving planning application information from NCC and hopefully he will find the opportunity to attend future meetings.

Mugs – 2 children still to be given their mug's and some more Children have been identified as living in the Parish. Details still to be collated of the Older members of the parishes and the age cut off will be determined by balancing the number of mugs remaining – with Clr Evans

The setting up of a Spring Flower Meadow, on the outskirts of Goldcliff Common in recognition of Charles III Coronation is being initiated and delivery of Sand and Seed are awaiting the growing season

Further discussion around a deep clean and redecoration of the Schoolroom was discussed. Councillor Preece obtained quotes :-

Of the three quotes discussed at the previous meeting the quote from Chris Arlett £4855 was confirmed as net of VAT and Clr Preece would seek confirmation that the painting of the front door would be included in the price (£5826 inc Vat included). Interest from a local contractor was not forthcoming and Clr Fox was following up interest from another contractor who has visited earlier that day. Final agreement will be sought via email to allow this to progress as soon as possible

Further discussion on creating an emergency exit at rear. The costs of £950 plus VAT were agreed.

### **Correspondence**

All correspondence has been emailed to Councillors.

The audit of the accounts of Community Councils has been delayed which is fortuitous in the context of having to recreate the accounts for earlier years

### **Financial**

Grass Cutting x £140 = £140



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6 Months Whitson Hall Rates £800

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> August<sup>t</sup> 2023 at 7:30pm To discuss Whitson Hall

**The next Full Council meeting will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Post meeting note – request for funding towards grass upkeep of Goldcliff church outstanding (Clr Preece) and Council needs to follow up on replacement battery pack for defibrillator.

