Stowford Parish Council



Minutes of Ordinary meetings held on 9th January 2024

These minutes are provisional until they are signed by the chair at the next meeting of the parish council.

Meeting No 723

Present:- Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Law (Vice chair), Govett, Lorna St Louis, Cllr Chris Edmonds (WDBC), Peter van Delft (clerk),

Meeting opened 7.32pm

- 1. The chair welcomed all those present.
- 2. Apologies Cllr Alexander
- 3. Members of the public open forum none present
- 4. Dispensations & declarations of interest none.
- 5. Minutes of previous meeting 722 were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Lorna St Loius, seconded by Cllr Judy Law, all in favour.
- 6. Finance -
 - 6.1 Computer replacement + software It was resolved to purchase a new Laptop from Amazon + Software, cost £319.99, proposed Cllr Govett, seconded Cllr Lorna St Louis, all in favour.
 - 6.2 Payments were approved Peter van Delft clerk salary (Nov-Dec) £ 435.72 HMRC – PAYE for clerk £ 34.40

Proposed by Cllr Law, seconded by Cllr Lorna St Louis, all in favour.

- 6.3 R.F.O. reported a credit balance as at 9th January of £4,978.70 (excluding the purchase of the replacement computer and software) proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Law, all in favour.
- 6.4 Draft budget & precept A review of the R.F.O. proposed budget showed a forecast of expenses amounting to £3336, a precept of £3265 would therefore be required. The motion to approve the precept of £3265 was proposed by Cllr Law, seconded Cllr Lorna St Louis, all in favour.
- 7. Bus shelter request The response from Lewdown Grouped Parish Council for the positioning of a bus shelter at the current location of the bus stop opposite the former Royal Exchange was supported by the council however L.G.P.C. could not provide any financial assistance and would note be able to provide any financial support or any other liability of its standing. The chair suggested that a public consultation should now take place to ascertain what level of support and use a bus shelter would have, the consultation would be promoted through the Newslink and the Parish Council website. Cllr Law also suggested that notices should be put up on the noticeboards.
- 8. Councillor vacancies two councillor seats no new interest yet.
- 9. Cllr Edmonds reported that WDBC had purchased 5 properties in the Okehampton area to help with homeless, Ukraine and Afgan families. It is also on target to purchase a further 3 properties to also help reduce homeless, Ukraine and Afgan families in the area. Funding has come from central government schemes and Devon County Council.
- 10. Reports from Councillors Cllr Leory St Louis reported that the Tamar Energy Community should be contacted again and asked to do a presentation on the services it provides, the chair to action. Cllr Lorna St Louis reported that she recorded on the WDBC website flooding in the Townleigh area also she recorded 'flytipping' in the same area.
- 11. Broadband Cllr Govett reported that he had written to Sir Geoffrey Cox MP requesting his help and intervention with the completion of the installation broadband network by Airband for our parish. Cllr Govett commented that G. Cox MP had helped nearby parish's of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy. Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that he had not had any responses from Airband yet to his letters. Cllr Lois Samual of D.C.C. to be invited to the next meeting to answer questions on the subject.

Mr Peter van Delft, Stowford Parish Clerk Portgate Chapel, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4PZ Tel:01566 783023 Email: stowfordclerk@gmail.com www. stowfordparishcouncil.org.co.uk

- 12. Original Parish Map The clerk reported that the storage and safekeeping of the Map and the Apportionment register was now at 'The Box Plymouth'
- 13. Clerk employment contract A review of the contract took place that now showed the approved amendments, proposed Cllr Leroy St Louis, seconded Cllr Govett, all in favour.
- 14. Items for next meeting Bus shelter, newslink support.

Meeting closed 8.46pm.

Date time and place of next meeting – 12th March 2024 – 7.30pm at Stowford Parish Hall