

GODMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.30 pm at Godmersham Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Taylor (in the Chair), Gee, Hilton, Macdonald & Farrah

In attendance: Mr. Eaton, Clerk to the Council, & ABC Cllr Meaden

Action by:

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

2 Declarations of Councillor's Interests

There were no declarations of Cllrs interests in items on the Agenda

3 Co-option onto the Council

After a discussion with Jack Farrah, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Jack onto the Council. Cllr Farrah thanked the Cllrs and joined the Meeting. Clerk to advise ABC

Clerk

4 ABC Cllr report

Cllr Meaden gave a brief report updating on local issues and discussed ABC's draft Local Plan to 2040 and the recent 'Call for Sites'

5 To approve the Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters arising

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th January 2024 were approved and signed

There were no matters arising of note

6 Matters of public concern

There were no members of the public present

7 Planning and Enforcement

New Planning applications

There were no new planning applications to consider

Decided planning applications

There were no decided planning applications to note

8 Annual Parishioners Meeting (APM)

After a discussion it was agreed that the APM would be held on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30 pm. A general invitation to attend to be sent to KCC Cllr Bell, ABC Cllr Meaden, Godmersham Relief in Need Charity, the Gardeners Society, Brownies, Women's Institute, Village Hall and the local Police Constable

Clerk

9 Highways matters and HIP update

Cllr Taylor reported that the Village Gates and news signs would be installed soon

10 Finance Matters & Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment –

	£
Godmersham & Crundale VH, room hire	19.50
GW Landscaping, grass cutting	222.00

The monthly Standing Order was noted and approved -

	£
G Eaton, Clerk's salary and expenses	256.84

Update of the Unity Trust Bank account

The Clerk reported that the new accounts were now open and fully operational and most of the funds in the HSBC accounts had been transferred over. In a month or two any final balances would also be transferred over to Unity Trust and the HSBC accounts would then be closed

Clerk

Annual Review of the Clerk's salary

After a discussion it was unanimously agreed to increase the Clerk's hourly rate of pay from £14.50 to £15.00, an increase of 4%. The additional cost to the Council would be c£130 pa

11 AOB

It was noted that the Clerk's annual appraisal had taken place prior to the Meeting and there were no matters of concern

There was a full discussion regarding the grass cutting contract as the current provider GW Landscaping was about to cease trading. A new contractor had quoted for the works but at a significantly higher cost. It was agreed to challenge the high cost but to accept it on a rolling two-month contract whilst other quotes were sought

Clerk

The proposed new bench and swings to be installed at the Village Hall in memory of Lyn Johnson (RIP) former member of the Council was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Dick Johnson for his thoughts on this

Clerk

12 Date of next Meetings

It was agreed that the next Meetings would take place on Tuesday 28th May 2024 – The Annual Parishioners Meeting at 7.30 pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at c8.00 pm, at Godmersham Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.25 pm