

**BOXWELL WITH LEIGHTERTON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
23rd MAY 2023
at
Leighterton Primary School at 7.30pm
MINUTES**

Councillors Present: Colin Alden, Chairman
 Duncan Hyde, Vice Chairman
 Simon Gale
 Jenny Ursell, Responsible Financial Officer
 Martin Weaver
 Felicity White, Clerk

1. The Chairman welcomed all the Councillors to the meeting and took the opportunity to minute his appreciation of the valuable contribution made by Tom Clarke over the past eight years. Further, he added that the Parish Council will be marking its thanks to him.
2. Apologies - none received
3. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th February 2023 were approved and signed by CA.
4. Update on Matters Arising and Actions:
 - 4.1 CA referred to the Midsummer Fete to be held on 25th June in the Park, which is being jointly organised by Helen Hyde and Jane Bullock. Funds raised will be divided between the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council, the former being put towards the Park/Play area.
 - 4.2 CA updated the meeting on the Parish Council's responsibility for damaged and fallen trees. Consequently CA and Tom Clarke (TC) had mapped out the boundaries to determine where BwL Parish Council's responsibilities lay and to ensure that the Parish Council could not be accused of a failure of a system for notification. It was recommended that residents in the village e.g walkers and dog walkers are advised via the monthly Newsletter to report any damaged or broken trees to the PC in order that appropriate action may be taken.
 - 4.3.1 In the Minutes of 23rd February, CA and DH had proposed the establishment of a village working group to help refresh the play equipment with paint and new fittings; this item was not discussed at the meeting but CA and DH are to explore further.
 - 4.3.2 CA referred to the costs in respect of the new dome in the Park/Play area to be supplied by Wicksteed, which will cost approximately £8,000. This will be funded via £4,500 from the Parish Council, £1,500 contributed by the Amenities Committee and a silent benefactor contributing the balance. JU

referred to trying to obtain extra funding from the National Lottery Fund, which could take approximately 12 weeks.

CA advised that he would be willing to install the dome and invoice the Parish Council at a reduced rate from that provided by Wicksteed. The PC agreed, provided all items are properly documented.

MW volunteered to help dismantle the old dome and take it to the recycling site.

4.4 CA reported that Clare Benson, Maxine Clout and Gina Ellis were able to provide Defibrillator training. This will be provided in St Andrew's Church on **27th June at 7.00pm.**

5 Financial Report:

5.1 JU provided some background on the financials to the new Councillors referring to funds spent on the Park, repairing walls, the Defibrillator (which is subject to separate oversight), the CIL and donations made, e.g. Frankie Gale and GCC for the repair of the walls.

JU advised the meeting that the status of the PC bank accounts are as follows:

The Treasurer's Account currently has a credit balance of £2,840.79. Expenditure since the last meeting has included £69.31 to GAPTC, £80.00 to the Parish Clerk and £87.98 for the Coronation Party. Funds received £1,144 Precept.

The Savings Account currently holds a balance of £6,932.37.

SG enquired whether there was a 'buffer' for as yet unforeseen expenditure.

5.2 CA advised that the AGAR Return is ready for submission to GCC.

6. Planning Applications

DH referred to recent planning applications:

6.1 Northfield House - change of land from agricultural to agricultural/equestrian. Further objections had been raised in respect of fencing. Approval has been granted provided changes are in compliance with conditions.

6.2 Glebe House has sought approval for the enlargement of an existing single storey extension which has been passed.

6.3 The Old Forge has sought approval to reduce by 2 metres an old sycamore tree outside the property.

No objections were raised by those present at the meeting.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 JU asked whether another member of the PC would be willing to take over her responsibilities for the reporting of potholes. She also referred, once again, to the road sign outside the pub, which is likely to collapse at any time and could cause injury. To date the Highways Department has not attended to this, despite her continued requests. DH offered to take over the reporting responsibilities.

7.2 CA referred to the insurance renewal. FW has obtained quotes from another firm, which are more reasonable than the current provider. However,

further enquiries are needed to establish whether the insurance for the mower can be included rather than as a separate insurance policy. **Action: FW**

7.3 MW and SG asked for further details about the mower. MW was particularly interested to learn whether frequent checks were undertaken to ensure the machine was safe and suggested a 'check list' in order to avoid compromising any insurance policy in place. **Action: CA.**

7.4 The Pond was discussed, notably the height of the fencing, which it was recommended was made slightly higher and also the wall. The wall surrounding the pond is Grade II listed and, as such, will require approval for any repairs that are required. It was also suggested that children should be discouraged from walking on the wall given it's current state. In the meantime, SG will approach CDC in order to obtain more information regarding the listing and responsibility for repairs. **Action: SG**

7.5 SG and MW both noted that the Newsletter which is circulated each month is very much church oriented and felt it would be helpful for residents in the village to know more about the activities of the Parish Council. Accordingly, some details will be provided in order that they can be included in future publications. **Action: FW to discuss with Jane Bullock**

8. Date of next Parish Council Meeting - 11th September at 7.30pm.