BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 11th January 2023 at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chairman), Ms Barnes, Mrs Greasley, Mr Jones, Mr Couchman, Ms Cox, Mr Chadwyck-Healey

Apologies: Councillor Law

The following members of the public attended the meeting: Dr Rock.

Minutes: Mr Greasley (clerk)

1 OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December having been circulated to members were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following new applications:

22/03062, Hawksbill Cottage, Newtown – New Garage

The Parish had no objections subject to the views of neighbours. The building should be ancillary to the main residence with no potential for a separate residential dwelling.

22/03027, 9 Beckfords - Extension

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

Confirmed Decisions:

22/02520, Land adjacent Knappswood Cottage, New house – PC Objection, WBC Refused

22/01855, 18 Teneplas, Extension(s) – PC No Objection, WBC Approved.

5 GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that a meeting had been held to discuss the proposed web site changes. The administrator (Mrs Jones) will talk directly to Vision ICT and continue to update the Parish Council on progress. The Clerk confirmed that £1500 had been allocated in the budget for any work.

Discussions were held around street lighting in the Parish. Councillor Chadwyck-Healey will continue to discuss charging arrangements with SSE and the Clerk will investigate the current circuits in place for lighting as requested.

In the absence of the Clerk, performance and pay for that role were led by the Chairman. The Council voted to increase the clerk’s salary to 8K per Anum (an increase of 8%) based on performance throughout the year and the limited increases of previous years. This will take effect from April 2023.

6 FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

No issues were reported with footpaths.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The district Councillor continues to work on local issues.

8 FINANCE

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque No** | **Payee** | **Purpose** | **Nett** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| 103544 | R Greasley | Salary | 368.83 | 0.00 | 368.83 |
| 103545 | HMRC | Tax on salary | 245.60 | 0.00 | 245.60 |
| 103545 | A Braclik | Hedge Cutting – War Memorial | 195.00 | 20.00 | 195.00 |
| 103546 | C Fielder | Christmas Lights | 53.00 | 0.00 | 53.00 |

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103544 – 103546. The Clerk asked for confirmation around Mr Lines role as litter picker and it was confirmed that this would run until March 2023.

Scofell have confirmed that outstanding cheques have now been received.

The Clerk proposed the draft budget for 2023/24 and gave a financial update to the meeting. The budget for 2022/23 was set at 31K and currently (March to January inclusive) the Parish Council have spent around 17.5K. It’s expected that spending against the budget will be around 25K by year end due to the following reasons:

* No contribution to the Village Hall is required and 3K had been set aside.
* Gritting costs were less than expected by 1K.
* Insurance and expenses were lower than planned (1K)
* A number of general items have not been required – eg additional teracycle engagement, power washing, general expenses (2K)

However, electricity costs have been significantly higher and countered a proportion of the above savings.

It was also noted that the Parish Council had spent 15K outside of budget this year on a new swing at Wakemans, work on the recreation ground outside gym and a donation of over £1100 to fund a second defibrillator in the Parish.

The Council reviewed the draft budget as presented and agreed to accept it at 32K for 2023/24. The Clerk will request a precept of 23K based on this. The Clerk also confirmed a current overall balance figure of 60K and committed to perform the VAT reclaim this year.

9 CORRESPONDENCES

Correspondence around fly tipping was received and the Chairman replied.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 8th February 2023.