**BONINGALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Tuesday 13th December 2022**

**Present**

Cllrs. D Slatcher (Chairman), C Keeton (Vice Chair), S Burgess,

A Gilson-Caldwell, K Vilton.

County Councillor, N Lumby.

Clerk to Boningale Parish Council, M Ward

1. **Apologies.**

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Members are asked to give their apologies direct to the clerk.

None.

1. **Declarations of interest.**

To consider declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Where a member indicates that they have a prejudicial interest but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting, they must do so under item 4 (D) of Public Participation.

None.

1. **Public Participation.**

**Members of the public**are invited to ask questions, make representations, or submit comments on any item on the agenda. This is **LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON –**at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

No members of the public were present.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting (enclosure).**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2022.

Cllr. Keeton proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Vilton and unanimously agreed by council.

1. **Matters arising.**

To consider any issues arising from the minutes that are not included on the agenda.

Cllr. Keeton informed the council that the refurbishment of the former public telephone box was now complete, and a separate local group now had to decide what facility it would accommodate. The Chairman informed members that the refurbished facility could feature in the 2024 calendar produced by the Albrighton Civic Society.

There had been two requests for minutes by members of the public via the council website. One of the meetings had been cancelled so minutes were not available, and the other meeting held on 10th November had not been quorate but notes of the discussion had been sent to the person making the request by the clerk.

1. **Correspondence.**

To review any outstanding correspondence that has been received since the last meeting.

The clerk presented a letter from the Cooperative Bank regarding fraud and on-line scams.

There had been two requests for minutes by members of the public via the council website. One of the meetings had been cancelled so minutes were not available and the other meeting held on 10th November 2022 had not been quorate but notes of the discussion had been sent to the person making the request by the clerk. There had been no response to the correspondence.

1. **To approve accounts for payment.**
* St. Chad’s church book launch - £100.00
* Staffing - £250.00.

The council accounts for payment were approved including a rental fee for the Old School Room of £100.00. Cllr. Keeton proposed that a grant request for help with churchyard maintenance be approved and a grant of £300.00 be made available. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Vilton and unanimously agreed by council. Members also agreed that a record of income and expenditure from St Chad’s church be requested and made available in May 2023 to aid discussion on possible future grant requests.

Councillors also noted that they did not have a formal policy on discretionary grants and felt that this was an omission. The clerk was asked to produce a draft policy and make it available at the council meeting on 1st March 2023 for discussion and amendment.

1. **Financial Statement – December 2022.**

The clerk went through the financial statement to December 2022 which showed a bank balance of £2832.35 (bank statement number 156) and resources available of £2582.35 (one unpresented cheque of £250.00 to be deducted). The clerk suggested that with limited expenditure to follow the council could anticipate a four figure balance at the end of the financial year.

1. **To consider a council draft budget and precept claim for 2023/24.**

The clerk went through a draft budget for 2023/24 which proposed a precept of £3,140 to cover future spending including a small addition to council reserves. Members noted that there would be income from Low Carbon resulting from the county approval of Pepperhill Solar Farm although it was not clear how much would be made available, when it would be paid or whether there would be restrictions regarding suitable funding projects. Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell proposed that the draft budget be agreed with a £3,140 precept which was seconded by Cllr. Burgess and unanimously agreed by members.

The clerk’s honorarium was also raised which had not been increased during the current clerk’s years of service. Accordingly, the clerk left the meeting while members discussed whether an increase was appropriate and affordable. On his return the clerk was informed that the honorarium would be increased to £300.00 per quarter beginning at the start of the new 2023/24 financial year. The clerk thanked members for their unexpected and generous increase which was much appreciated.

1. **Items for inclusion on the next agenda.**

Members agreed that the Pepperhill Solar Farm should be on the agenda for the meeting on 1st March, together with consideration of the proposed grants policy and road safety and policing. Councillors noted that there was an incident of flooding within the parish area which apparently contained sewage. The chairman agreed to contact the environmental health department to clarify what action is to be taken.

1. **Discussion on the Shropshire Council planning committee decision to grant permission to application 22/03068/FUL to build a solar farm south of the Holyhead Road.**

The council had not been officially informed regarding the planning committee decision and there had been no correspondence over the matter since the site visit and later discussion. The chairman thanked colleagues for all of their hard work regarding the Low Carbon application with particular thank to Cllr. Keeton for his help with key correspondence. Grants were to be paid to the council but it was unclear whether there would be restrictions regarding spending and Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell said that it was important that any project should be seen to benefit the whole community and not favour minority groups. Members agreed that the council should take the total grant payment rather than accept instalments if it had the option to avoid a loss of revenue if the parent company was sold. There were no obvious projects and the chairman asked members to consider and consult a range of possibilities which would be considered at the next council meeting on 1st March 2023.

1. **To consider an application for a grant to be paid to the Red House, Albrighton to assist with the costs of the Christmas lunch**

Cllr Slatcher left the meeting as he was a trustee of the Red House and had to declare an interest.

Councillors considered a request for a grant to help with the costs of the Christmas lunch for retired members of the community to be held at the Red House, Albrighton. There had been some difficulties with this event in the past and there was no evidence that members of the Boningale community had received an invitation to the lunch in the past. The unanimous view was that no grant should be offered on this occasion although if local residents became involved in the future some financial support could be forthcoming.

Cllr. Slatcher came back to the meeting for the remainder of the agenda.

1. **To consider an application by the Chairperson of Albrighton Parish Council for a grant to assist with the running costs of the local Citizens’ Advice Bureau.**

Councillor Vilton proposed that a grant of £250 should be made available in support of this much valued service and the motion was seconded by Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell and unanimously agreed by members. The clerk was asked to communicate this decision which would be reviewed annually.

1. **Any outstanding planning applications.**

Councillors considered planning application 22/05406/FUL for residential barn conversions at Boningale Manor. After discussion members agreed to support the application.

A preliminary study regarding possible division boundary changes in Shropshire which was available for consultation was considered and members agreed that the council would make no comment at this early stage but wait for further details to become available in 2023.

A salt bin had now been moved back to its correct location and there were still flooding issues to be resolved in the area.

Cllr. Keeton described a project for the planting of five metre wide hedges via the crown estate under a scheme for re-wilding which was supported by government money.

1. **Time and date of the nest meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of Boningale Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room, Church Lane, Boningale.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed……………………………………………………… Date………………………………………………

Chairman