

# LOUND PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4 March 2024 at 7pm at The Village Hall. **(Subject to amendment until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting)**

**Present:** Miles Thomas, Jill Day, Paul Strowlger, Gayle Welsh, Jenny Ozinel, Paul Ashdown (District Councillor), Jill Brown (clerk). There were five members of the public present who joined the meeting part-way through.

**1. Welcome and Apologies** – Apologies were received from Connor Moore, and Carly Jones. These were voted on and accepted unanimously by the Parish Council. Apologies were also received from Ed Back and Keith Robinson.

**2. Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation** – There were none.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Parish Council Meeting** – The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 were reviewed and agreed with the following exceptions: There had been one member of the public present. At Item 4 relating to The Mardle it should read Miles will contact the Community Payback Scheme.

#### 4. Updates –

- **Councillor Training** – This will take place online on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the VH. Delegates will bring laptops/tablets.
  - **Warm Rooms Project** – There has been an average of 11 people attending each week. There is 25% of the grant still to be received. It will finish on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024. There is funding scheduled for next year.
  - **Phone Kiosk Back Lane** – This project is progressing well. There is approx. £138 remaining in the funds.
  - **Village Hall Solar Panel Bid** – There has been a change of treasurer on the VH committee and a new bid will be submitted for funds.
  - **Lound Archive Project** – This project is progressing well. Furniture and equipment is being sourced by Miles. A discussion took place around purchasing legs for the table. It was decided that Miles will approach this with the VH committee. Payments to be approved in finance item.
  - **Mardle** – There will be a work party on Saturday to clear this area. There is a problem with excess food being left behind by people feeding the ducks. This may be exacerbating the rat problem.
  - **Speed Signs** – Purchase was approved for the speed sign. Proposed by Gayle, seconded by Jill D.
  - **Internet Banking** – Jill D and Connor are now set up to authorise payments online. Jill B to come off the mandate as a signatory but retain access to online banking to oversee and to be able to set up payments as RFO.
  - **Litter pick** – This will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024.
- Public Forum** – 5 members of the public who are residents of Lound spoke about some issues at the back of their property relating to fly tipping and a problem with rats. They reported that there is also an issue with overgrown trees, a live power cable,

Signed      Chairman, ..... Clerk, ..... Date.....

and unsafe buildings. There are poultry being kept in the area which is potentially an animal welfare concern.

Paul Ashdown has agreed to look into this and contact the enforcement team to see what can be done. Contact details were exchanged and the residents will supply photos.

## **5. Reports from District and County Councillors -**

**Paul Ashdown** – (District Councillor) Paul spoke about budgets and an increase in Council Tax.

**6. Correspondence** – Miles received an email from a resident who asked whether the dog waste bin could be moved as there have been issues with waste not being disposed of. This will go on the agenda for the next meeting. Paul S received a call from Power Networks asking for permission to remove trees on the Heath that were too close to the power networks. Peter L (warden) was contacted who agreed to the work. The necessary tree removal took place.

**7. Appoint RFO (Responsible Financial Officer)** – It was agreed that Jill B, clerk, would continue as RFO – proposed by Gayle, seconded by Jill D.

**8. Appoint Internal Auditors for the year 2023/24** – It was agreed that SALC would be appointed again as Internal Auditors for 2023/24. Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Paul S.

**9. Adopt Councillor Code of Conduct** – The Code of Conduct was discussed and re-adopted. Proposed by Paul S, seconded by Gayle. Councillors were asked to set up Parish Councillor email addresses that are separate to their own personal accounts (if they haven't already done so). This is for GDPR purposes. This could take the format of, for example, [firstname.secondname.pc@gmail.com](mailto:firstname.secondname.pc@gmail.com)

**10. Internal Control Document** – The Internal Control Document for 2023/24 was presented to the Parish Council by Paul S. This was approved. Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Gayle.

## **11. Accounts**

**a). Review of Income, Expenditure, and Balances to end of February 2024** – These were reviewed and agreed. Proposed by Paul S and seconded by Jenny.

**Review of Bank Reconciliation to end of February 2024** – These were reviewed and agreed. Proposed by Paul S and seconded by Jenny.

**Review of Actual and Forecast Income to end of February 2024.** These were reviewed and agreed. Paul S pointed out that forecast income for contingency and other could be formatted differently to give a clearer picture. Proposed by Paul S and seconded by Jenny.

### **b). Payments to authorise**

Clerk's Salary to end of March and April 2024. Proposed by Jill D, seconded by Paul A.

Warm Rooms £525. Proposed by Gayle, seconded by Jenny.

Further £175 to be spent. Proposed by Gayle, seconded by Jenny.

Materials for Lound Archive Project £291.27, Approved by Paul S, seconded by Jill D.

Signed      Chairman, ..... Clerk, ..... Date.....

Speed Device £3938.38 plus VAT. Proposed by Jill D, seconded by Jenny.

Village Hall Hire £80. Proposed by Jill D, seconded by Paul S.

Materials for Mardle – e/g. paint £20. Proposed by Jill D, seconded by Jenny.

**12. Dates of Future Meetings** – To be agreed.

**11. Councillors Forum** – Planning application ref DC/23/4787/CLP. An extraordinary meeting will be called to discuss this.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.