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| **The Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council**  |
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| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Thursday 11th January 2024**  |
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| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr P Trow (PT). |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllrs C Dermietzel (CD), D Trow (DT), Andrew Goodman (AG), Darren Danks (DD) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** F Chapman (FC), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), C Hamer (CH), and C.Cllr D Chambers (DC)  |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None. |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None. |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes for the meeting held on 09/11/23 were approved and signed. |
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| **5.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** D.Cllr P Cumming (PC)Nothing much to report. A new head of Planning is due to start in February. Members were not aware of the new Community Levy with 2 charges. The charge relating to us is at the lower rate although we seem to have had the most developments. Hence, this is going back into consideration. The Rural Rates were offered to Orchard Mill and The Bell. Finally, £1.5m savings need to be found over the next 5 years to avoid cuts in services.C.Cllr D Chambers (DC) Report attached to the end of these Minutes. |
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| **6.** | **Progress reports:**1. PT reported that the attendance of a pizza van on the village hall car park has been approved and they have been asked not to attend on a Thursday evening when the fish and chip van visits. The clerk reported the NALC pay award has now been confirmed. DT had looked at the calculations and agreed the figures to be included in the clerk’s January invoice. The figures are attached to the end of these Minutes.
2. AG reported that the broken door on the hut has been fixed, and it was agreed to ask Creative Gardening Solutions to carry out a tree survey for the Risk Assessment.
3. CJ sent in a report that all is good with the Lengthsman, Chris Bunn, who continues to do an outstanding job. All blocked drains and flooding water have been reported.
4. DT said that the draft plan was agreed at a recent committee meeting, and it is hoped to get it in to MHDC asap.
5. ***ACTION:*** The clerk will ask the War Memorial Trust to restore and maintain the memorial as the names listed on it are now hard to read.
6. ***ACTION:*** It was agreed that a new metal notice board will be ordered, in green, and to commemorate the King’s Coronation.
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| **7.** | **CALC: *ACTION:*** DD will update our policies and procedures as advised by CALC to ‘Ensure you take Reasonable Steps to defend your Council against claims for Discrimination’. |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** None received. |
| **9.** | **Finance:** 1. All invoices and remittances were circulated before the meeting and approved.
2. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed.
3. The budget comparison was circulated and a Precept request of £11,000 discussed and approved.
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| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** None. |
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| **11.** | **Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions made under delegation since the last meeting:** None. |
| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:*** CJ said that the new security lights at the now closed Abberley Hall School were very bright and not in line with our Dark Skies Policy. The clerk has pointed this out to Mr Abbott at Abberley Hall and will hand over to the Abberley Clerk for resolving. DD also pointed out that the Post Office’s security light is on all through the night and lights up bedroom windows to houses close by. ***ACTION:*** The clerk will ask if this could be changed to a sensor security light.
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| **13.** | **Date of next meeting:** It was agreed by a show of hands that the next meeting will be at Great Witley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st March 2024. |
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| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. |
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| The meeting closed at 8pm |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. |
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|  | Chairman |

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| **Notes of Public Question Time**  |
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| 3 Members of the public were in attendance. |
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**County Councillor Report, January 2024**

1. The County Council, like virtually all other local authorities, is experiencing increasing costs in general and in three expenditure areas in particular. Adult Social Care, Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport are seeing costs escalate, resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet are addressing as a priority.

The Council is determined to not only maintain key services but to continue to provide the enhanced services which it has committed to do. It doesn’t help when the government fail to maintain council grants in line with inflation and limit the increases that Council Tax can be increased by each year. For example, the Chancellor of the Exchequer can increase national taxes at will, to ensure “a balanced national budget”, but local authorities are limited to a 3% rise in Council Tax each year, at a time when inflation has been running at over 10%.

I will keep you updated as the Council prepares its Budget for 2024/25.

1. The County Council has secured £1.1million to help speed up hospital discharges, boost social care provision and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. Local Councils with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and identified by NHS England as experiencing challenges with urgent and emergency care, were invited to put forward proposals for access to a £40million government fund.

Worcestershire County Council were successful and will use the additional money to buy more services aimed at keeping people out of hospital as well as more packages for care at home.

1. A new bursary to aid young people with special education needs or disabilities is being made available by the County Council. The £1,000 Supported Internship Bursary will be for those partaking in the Supported Internship Programme. The fund will aid learners in acquiring work essentials such as PPE, uniforms, IT equipment and travel support.

The Supported Internship Bursary demonstrates the County Council’s determination to fostering the growth and development of the county’s future workforce and championing employment inclusion.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division

NALC Pay Award

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| **MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCREASE FROM 2011** |  |  |  |
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| **YEAR** | **MILES** | **INCREASE** | **TOTAL** |  | **OWING** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2016 | 538 | £0.14 | £75.32 |  |  |  |  |
| 2017 | 321.5 | £0.14 | £45.01 |  |  |  |  |
| 2018 | 239.8 | £0.14 | £33.57 |  |  |  |  |
| 2019 | 409.6 | £0.14 | £57.34 |  |  |  |  |
| 2020 | 61.2 | £0.14 | £8.57 |  |  |  |  |
| 2021 | 81.6 | £0.14 | £11.42 |  |  |  |  |
| 2022 | 185.4 | £0.14 | £25.96 |  |  |  |  |
| 2023 | 202.2 | £0.14 | £28.31 |  | **£285.50** |  |  |
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| *Error in recording audit mileage - only logged one journey & not return journey* |
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| 2022 | 19.5 | £0.65 | £12.68 |  |  |  |  |
| 2022 | 19.5 | £0.65 | £12.68 |  |  |  |  |
| 2023 | 19.5 | £0.65 | £12.68 |  |  |  |  |
| 2023 | 19.5 | £0.65 | £12.68 |  | **£50.70** |  |  |
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| **PAY AWARD BACKDATED - INCREASE OF £1 PER HOUR** |  |  |
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| **MONTH** | **HOURS** | **INCREASE** | **TOTAL** |  | **OWING** |  |  |
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| APR | 28 | £1.00 | £28.00 |  |  |  |  |
| MAY | 35 | £1.00 | £35.00 |  |  |  |  |
| mtg | 6 | £1.50 | £9.00 |  |  |  |  |
| JUN | 28 | £1.00 | £28.00 |  |  |  |  |
| JUL | 28 | £1.00 | £28.00 |  |  |  |  |
| mtg | 3 | £1.50 | £4.50 |  |  |  |  |
| AUG | 35 | £1.00 | £35.00 |  |  |  |  |
| SEPT | 28 | £1.00 | £28.00 |  |  |  |  |
| mtg | 2 | £1.50 | £3.00 |  |  |  |  |
| OCT | 21 | £1.00 | £21.00 |  |  |  |  |
| NOV | 35 | £1.00 | £35.00 |  |  |  |  |
| mtg | 5 | £1.50 | £7.50 |  |  |  |  |
| DEC | 28 | £1.00 | £28.00 |  |  |  |  |
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| *Error in recording timesheet - week commencing 16/10/23 missed off* |  |
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| Oct-16 | 7 | £14.95 | £104.65 |  | **£394.65** |  |  |
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