THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

THE SHOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2022.

Present: Councillor L Cox (Chair)
AW Bright, G Bright, I Cochrane, R Hardy, A Kelly, RB Lacey, H Mountain, MA Mountain, S Maitland, M Parker, KT Wood
County Councillor C Hood

Apologies: J Bright, M Cooper, LA Hill

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in recognition of the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS/ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Dixon Blakey, asked about progress regarding the proposed car park extension at the Community Park as the congestion on Station Road when football matches were being held was a major issue.

The Clerk explained that funding was the main factor as the cost estimates ranged from £250k to +£400k and unless external funding could be found or some partnership arrangement with DCC as the Highway Authority, little progress could be made.

It was suggested the school be approached to use their facilities as an overflow car park, it being noted that the car parking issues would be exacerbated when the new play area was completed.

A request was put forward on behalf of Tracey Bright for the footbridge to be cleaned. It was explained that maintenance requests such as this could be made through DCCs "Do It Online" portal.

A request on behalf of Barry Williams was put forward seeking volunteers to help with maintenance of St Saviour's Churchyard.

Arrangements for Remembrance Day were proceeding as usual. Councillor G Bright suggested the Council could provide wool so the community could crochet poppies to be displayed in the village it being noted that Councillor G Bright was happy to co-ordinate. It was agreed this was a good idea and that the Parish Council would contribute up to £50 towards the cost of materials. In addition, it was agreed following a suggestion of the Chairman, that the Council purchase 50 lamp post poppies to be displayed around the village.

1623. **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RESOLVED that the apologies for absence received on behalf of Councillors J Bright, M Cooper and L Hill be received and noted

1624. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

RESOLVED that, the information given be noted.

1625. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 25th JULY 2022**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on 25th July 2022, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1626. **PASSING OF HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND ACCESSION OF KING CHARLES III**

The Chairman thanked the Clerk, and everyone involved in the arrangements that had been put in place to deal with the detailed procedural arrangements following the passing of the Queen.

The Proclamation, books of condolence and Church Services had all been well received by the community and had it had been a historic, solemn and heart touching time for many residents.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted

1627 **GROUNDSMANS REPORT**

Apologies were offered on behalf of the Groundsman who was unable to attend. The Clerk confirmed that seasonal maintenance was proceeding well.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

1628. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS OF THEIR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor M Parker & L Cox provided a report following the site meeting on 16 August to view and ask questions of the proposed new woodland creation at Edderacres Farm that had been arranged through Cllr M Parker with Pryor & Rickett Silviculture.

A copy of the detailed report would be circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and further developments awaited.

1629. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Councillor C Hood had circulated a written report of his work since the last meeting, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members congratulated Councillor Hood on his recent appointment as DCC's portfolio holder for Adult & Health Services and for the progress being made regarding dropped kerb provision in the village.

County Councillor I Cochrane provided a report on the Shotton Colliery Closure Anniversary events, the Church services for the passing of Queen Elizabeth and ongoing works to St Saviours Churchyard.

He asked for the thanks of the Parish Council to be recorded for the many people involved and for all the work being done and in particular to Councillor S Maitland for all his hard work with regard to the Shotton Colliery closure anniversary.

RESOLVED that, the information given be noted and the report be received.

1630. **SHOTTON PARTNERSHIP AND AAP UPDATE**

Councillor R Hardy provided a progress report on recent matters and covered the following items:

AAP

- Board meeting update regarding Children & Young Persons engagement through Summer Fun and Food project

Partnership

- Undertaken excellent provision of events and services under the summer holiday provision project where +300 children had been engaged in Shotton. October fun and food programme details were awaited.
- Trips arranged to Bury Market and Sunderland lights
- Cree assessment had resulted in recognition for excellent services
- Works to the Community Hub Garden were proceeding well and the new Hub play area had been completed
- A community litter pick had been undertaken during the summer holidays and another one planned for October
- All other projects proceeding well.

RESOLVED that, the information given be noted and the report be received

1631. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

i. Schedule of Payments

RESOLVED that the cheques and payments read out and detailed by the Clerk for August & September 2022, be endorsed, and approved for payment.

ii. Electronic Banking Update

RESOLVED that arrangements be made for all authorised signatory Members to attend a session on a Thursday afternoon on a future date to be confirmed so this could be completed

iii. Bank Balances

RESOLVED that the Council's Co Op Bank Balances of £238,112.42 and £9,551.17 at 26th September 2022 be noted.

iv. Notice of Conclusion of Audit Year Ended 31 March 2022

RESOLVED that the Notice from Mazars Auditors, and documentation dated 20 September confirming the completion of the Councils Audit for year ended 31 March 2022 be received, it being noted that no significant matters were raised and no areas for minor scope for improvement identified.

The report had identified the fixed assets for year ended 31 March 2021 (box 9 of the annual return) had been restated to correct a calculation error in the 2021 return and the revaluation of the changing Rooms at the Community Park.

v. Budget Arrangements for 2023/24

RESOLVED that Members consider priorities and potential projects for 2023/24 financial year to bring back to the next meeting so the Clerk can prepare for a budget review workshop. It being noted that inflation was currently +10% the national pay award was pending

and huge increases in energy prices would all have a major impact on expenditure.

1632. **PLANNING MATTERS**

RESOLVED that the planning matters (applications, approvals, appeals and withdrawals) details of which had been circulated electronically when notified to all Members be received and noted.

.

1633. **COUNCILLOR WORKING GROUPS – PROGRESS REPORTS**

i. **Shotton Colliery Closure Anniversary- 1st September 2022**

Councillor S Maitland provided an update on the range of events that took place to recognise the 50th anniversary of the closure of Shotton Pit. Thanks to all the speakers, the Salvation Army Band, the Church, Beamish Museum, the Community Hub and everyone who helped was given. All in all an excellent day.

It was noted that the Coal Hutch Planter had been delayed but that arrangements were in place for it to be installed when delivered.

RESOLVED that the update be received and noted and that a donation of £100 be granted to the Salvation Army Band in recognition of their valued support.

ii. **Facebook Page for Shotton Parish Council**

Progressing well (currently+230 followers)

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

iii. **Play Equipment Community Park**

The Clerk provided an update on progress and confirmed that works were due to start on site in the next week with a contract completion date of 28th October.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

iv. **Community Consultation Group**

A further meeting of the working group was to be held on 27th September to finalise arrangements in readiness for the consultation and drop in sessions from 12.00pm to 4.00pm on 8th October at the Community Hub. Invitations had been sent out to community stakeholders and external agencies.

The Clerk offered his apologies for not being able to attend due to a conflicting appointment.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and further developments awaited

v. **Community Garden Group**

M Parker reported that the Group were finalising a bank account and were finalising arrangements with Believe Housing for a site licence.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and further developments awaited

vi. **Jubilee Poetry Competition Working Group**

Councillor L Cox reported that 40 entries had been received and 7 plaques were being supplied to represent 7winners to represent each decade of the Queens reign. Thanks were given to Ian Horn, a local poet from Shotton Colliery for assisting with the judging.

It was suggested that the plaques could be located around the village as a route finalising at the proposed Queens memorial tree

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and further developments awaited

1634. **SHOTTON ST SAVIOURS' CHURCHYARD**

Costings had been received from DCC to provide strimming to St Saviours churchyard at a cost of £1188.19 (7 cuts /annum) and £ 1018.44 (4 cuts /annum)

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and further developments be awaited.

1635. **PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The Clerk reported that all items had been previously dealt with on the agenda however he expected some overtime (approx. 20-25 hrs) would be required for both him and the Groundsman for overseeing the play equipment contract and installation.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

1636. **CORRESPONDENCE, BULLETINS & CIRCULARS**

- "Warm Spaces Initiative" – support for creating community warm spaces
- Great North Air Ambulance Service – Clerk to send application for Financial assistance
- 136th Durham Miners Gala Souvenir Brochure
- Appointment of new Area Police Inspector Phil Carter – Clerk to send letter of welcome

RESOLVED that the correspondence, bulletins and circulars, details of which had been provided to each Member be received, and the information contained therein, be noted.

1637. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held at the Community Hub on Monday 31st October 2022 to commence at 6.00pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD
CHAIRMAN .....
Date: 31st October 2022