**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 31 January 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Newton**

1. **Present** - Councillors Ian Davis (ID) Chair, Anne Davis (ADa), Frank Preston (FP), Vanessa Goulborn (VG) and Vice Chair Richard Crane (RC), Rugby Town Councillor Leah Hunt (LH) and Warwick County Councillor Adrian Warwick (AW), Clerk Allyson Downes (ADo) and one member of the public Ms June Ford.
2. There were no **apologies** received.
3. There were no **declarations of interest** expressed.
4. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 were agreed with no amendments and signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters arising** from the minutes:
   1. Financial Report including current position and invoices paid in the period - The Clerk described the current and likely year-end financial position.



* 1. To note and ratify the **PC Budget and Precept** 2019/20. The Council noted and ratified the budget discussed in detail and approved at the extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 17 January 2019. It was noted that this had been submitted to Rugby Borough Council as per their submission date and a precept of £16k is likely.
  2. Councillor Anne Davis reported that the **tree trimming issue on Newton Road** was now resolved. Warwickshire County Council (WCC) had accepted ownership and therefore responsibility for trimming the trees which were now included on the WCC schedule of works.

1. **Open session for the Public** - Ms June Ford raised a question of assets, in particular the issue of the Stag and Pheasant and its community asset status. The pub had previously designated as an ‘Asset of Community Value’ but this had been lifted to allow the sale to the current owner to proceed. The Chair was unsure as to whether it could be reintroduced but undertook to check and report back -**ID.** Ms Ford advised the PC that the pub land that had planning permission for 2 houses and had been sold.
2. **Memorial Hall Improvements Update** - The Chair reported on progress with phase one of the Memorial Hall Improvements, roof refurbishment/replacement. There was a wide ranging discussion on the roof structure, potential replacements, and advice and permissions required and gained to date. AW suggested Dekra roofing may be considered, an economic, lightweight, attractive alternative. It was agreed that the Chair would explore this option **ID** whilst new quotations for the work were sought by **FP**.
3. **Memorial Hall Refurbishment and Repair - Rugby Borough Council (RBC) Rural Development Fund** - It was noted that the Chair had met with WCAVA, collaborating with Rugby BC on the Rural Development Fund and the Chair and Clerk had attended training to prepare for a grant application from the fund.  This is for phase one improvements, the Memorial Hall roof which is considered essential work to prevent water ingress and will likely cost considerably more than is available in the budget.  Additional funding for other essential works, phase two, is being sought separately.

Phase two represents essential works to the kitchen, toilets, pointing, potential flooring and porch in the Memorial Hall.  A digital projector and improvements to the loft insulation were also agreed as items for separate grant support, phase three.

1. **Reserves** - It was estimated that the Council would have approximately £23k of reserves available at the end of the financial year. The 2019/20 budget includes an additional c£5k, £28k in total. Of this £10k needed to be retained as an unallocated reserve plus a further £5k for other projects thus leaving £13k for Memorial Hall Improvements. To this could be added £5k from the Village Hall Committee i.e. £18k in total.

The replacement roof was estimated to cost c£11k (plus VAT) and a bid would be made to the RBC Rural Development Fund.

**FP** would obtain costs for the internal improvements (kitchen and toilets). Other possible grant sources would be investigated. If necessary a programme of improvements could extend over a number of years.

1. **5 Arches Budget** - The Chair reported on expenditure thus far on the project and it was noted that there was an £1,800 underspend which is no longer available. However, it was agreed to make £500 available for the purchase of stone for wetland paths. The Clerk would make the financial transfer – **ADo.**
2. **Butterfly Conservation** - Whilst noting the planting of indigenous wild flowers to encourage butterflies, it was suggested by Mike Slater (Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire) that the scheme could become the subject of the Britain in Bloom competition. It was agreed that this would be pursued by the Chair, **ID.**

Ms Ford asked if there were plans to formally open the 5 Arches Development. The Chair agreed to pursue this with Mike Slater. **ID**

1. **Parish Council Policies for Approval and Adoption** - It was noted that to progress a grant from the RBC Rural Development Fund, it was necessary to have a number of policies in place. Parish Councillors had received draft policies and these had now been amended to reflect comments. The following three policies were approved and adopted. Councillors agreed to be named leads as follows. Resultant action and progress on implementation would form the basis of a future agenda item. The policies would be added to the new website – **ADo.**
   * 1. Safeguarding Policy - Councillor Anne Davis and Deputy Rick Crane;
     2. Health and Safety Policy - Councillor Vanessa Goulborn; and
     3. Equality Policy - Councillor Frank Preston.
2. **New WRCC Transport Service** update - The Chair gave an update on changes to the village bus service. It was noted that the Wednesday bus service clashed with other activities in the village and it was likely that this would affect the same people. It was agreed that **ID** would advise the operators of this clash, though it was also observed that it might be easier to re-schedule the activities rather than the bus service.
3. **Motorbikes on Great Central Way** - A wide ranging discussion on the increased number of motorbike nuisance on the Great Central Way took place. Councillor Hunt suggested the PC erect signs, whilst noting that this would not necessarily be a deterrent, it would form the basis for challenge. Councillor Warwick described that a potential increased police presence would be beneficial and this was currently under consideration.
4. **New Residents Information Pack** - It was agreed that the available material for new residents would be updated and uploaded on the PC Website. **FP and RC** agreed to meet and establish which material is suitable for uploading.
5. **Land East of Newton Lane (Lioncourt)** R17/0841 - The Chair described the treatment of property boundaries and an issue that had been brought to his attention regarding a

triangle of land which was un-adopted. It had been agreed that the triangle of land would become part of plot 1. FP enquired about access to the play area and it was noted that this is now from the area of land by the bus stop.

1. **Road drain outside of the Old Chapel**, Little London Lane – FP described the blocked drain next to the Old Chapel which was overflowing and causing flooding. Councillor Warwick agreed to address this through his offices. **AW**.
2. **Broken road sign at the Leys** – FP described a broken street sign at the Leys and Councillor Warwick agreed to address this through his offices. **AW**.
3. The **next meeting** is on Thursday 21 February 2019 in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**Ian Davis**

**Chair**

**Date: 02 February 2019**

**Allyson Downes**

**Parish Clerk**