

SALTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th January 2024 at 6.30 pm at Saltwood C/E Primary School

Present : Cllrs Boland (in the Chair), Matthews, Carter, Curran, Iacob & Williams

In attendance : Mr. G Eaton, Clerk to the Council, KCC Cllr Love, and FHDC Cllr Martin

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

2 Registering declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December 2023 were unanimously approved

4 Matters arising

The Parish Council expressed its gratitude to the Piper family for supplying the electricity for the lights for the Christmas tree on the village green.

It was agreed that a smaller Christmas tree be purchased in future years as it would be easier to decorate and dispose of.

5 KCC & FHDC Cllr reports

KCC Cllr Love spoke about Integrated Care Strategy - KCC in partnership with the NHS focusing on Public Health services to improve health outcomes. The budget overspend primarily due to the increasing cost of adult social care and special needs provision, was discussed. Cllr Love also reported that a £2m grant had been received for increasing smoking cessation uptake, and reported that he was looking at parking issues and concerns raised by residents in Highfield Close

FHDC Cllr Martin spoke about the 2024/2025 budget which would be presented to the full Council in February and he was pleased to report it should be a balanced budget. However, significant savings had to be made to achieve this, including a number of voluntary redundancies. Jim also updated on dealings with Southern Water regarding the recent sewerage discharges

6 Finance

a/ To receive bank balances

The Clerk reported the bank balances as at 31st December 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Community (current) account | £20096 |
| Business Manager (savings) account | £12686 |

b/ To approve invoices presented for payment

The following invoices were approved for payment –

| | £ |
|---|--------|
| G Eaton, Clerk's salary/expenses (Jan 2024) | 285.85 |
| Saltwood C/E School, hall hire | 25.00 |
| Palmstead Nurseries, trees for the Green | 177.60 |
| F Boland, reimbursement for cost of planting Christmas tree and purchase of tree stakes | 143.98 |

c/ Banking arrangements

Cllr Boland updated on the current account offered by Metro Bank, which had no bank charges as long as £6000 was retained in the account. He noted that each Cllr (up to a maximum of three designated as signatories) could register with the bank individually - it wasn't necessary for all Cllrs to attend the bank at the same time to do this.

It was unanimously agreed to open a Metro Bank current and savings account and once fully up and running to close the current HSBC accounts. It would subsequently be necessary for the Parish Council to amend its Financial Regulations to ensure transparency and appropriate safeguards in view of the new arrangements for payments to be made by bank transfer rather than, as now, by cheque.

7 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Inclusion

There were no members of the public present

8 Correspondence

Email from FHDC - moving to a committee system of governance rather than the existing cabinet system

News release - new Managing Director for Otterpool Park, Gary Ridgewell, replacing Andy Jarrett who had left the company

New release - Air Display not to go ahead in 2024 as the Red Arrows were unavailable

9 Planning & Enforcement

There were no new planning applications to consider

10 Update on Mill Leese

There was nil of note to report

11 Update on the management of trees

Cllr Boland reported that he would chase NJ Apps Tree Surgery to undertake the agreed works

12 Update on proposals for a 20mph speed limit in Sandling Road

Cllr Boland reported on the recent site meeting some Parish Cllrs had held with KCC Cllr Neil Baker, (the Highways portfolio holder) and Highway officers. A HIP (Highways Improvement Plan) would be produced focusing on the improvements that were required

Cllrs

13 Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss

14 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on 19th February 2024 at 6.30 pm at Saltwood C/E Primary School

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.50 pm