

**Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council, Yaxley Parish Council
held via Zoom on 8th December 2020.**

Present:- Councillor R Butcher - Chairman.

Councillors R Doncaster, E Gilchrist (item FC104 onwards), K Gulson, J Lusted (item FC104 onwards), G Needham, M Oliver, P Russell, S Sanderson and A Wood.

In attendance – Mrs H Taylor (Clerk) and a member of the public.

FC97. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received and accepted on behalf of Councillors S McMullon and D Paice (both personal).

FC98. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

FC99. MINUTES

Councillor B Doncaster proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 10th November 2020. This was seconded by Councillor M Oliver and unanimously **RESOLVED.**

FC100. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

District Councillor E R Butler reported that he had received a few complaints regarding the siting of the new zebra crossing between Mere View and Violet Way on Broadway. Councillor P Russell questioned whether the County Council would be erecting advance warning signs as part of the project. The Clerk agreed to raise this and the lack of half shrouds on the belisha beacons with the County Council Highways Project Team.

FC101. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FC101.1 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Property Committee held on 17th November 2020 were received and noted.

FC101.2 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members received and noted the draft Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 17th November 2020.

FC101.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Community Facilities Committee held on 24th November 2020 were received and noted.

FC102. SECTION 137 BUDGET – AWARD OF GRANT

Councillor K Gulson proposed that an award of £247.20 be made to Magpas Air Ambulance to purchase three boxes of protective safety glasses. This was seconded by Councillor A Wood and **RESOLVED.**

FC103. ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

Members noted that the Annual Return had been approved by the External Auditors without any cause for concern.

FC104. MAINTENANCE OF THE OPEN SPACE AREAS ON THE FERNDALE ESTATE

Following discussions at the previous meeting, Members considered a request from Persimmon Homes for the Parish Council to take on the maintenance of the open space areas on the Ferndale Estate. Mention was made of the S106 Agreement for the development, drawn up in 1998, which refers to a possible transfer of these areas to the

District Council (or Parish Council) for a commuted sum of £54,000. In the discussions that ensued, Members raised concerns that the one off sum would not cover the costs involved in maintaining these areas of open space which include a balancing pond, drainage ditches, a significant number of trees and hedgerow, some of which were becoming overgrown. As well as additional manpower and equipment, certain aspects of the maintenance would be beyond the capabilities of the grounds team and would need to be outsourced resulting in additional expense. Members were reminded that Huntingdonshire District Council, as the Local Planning Authority, had entered the Section 106 Agreement with Persimmon to ensure that certain legal obligations were carried out to make sure the development was acceptable in terms of planning and that the District Council would be best placed to ensure that these obligations continue to be executed.

Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor R Butcher that the Parish Council advise Persimmon Homes that they are not in a position to be able to take on the maintenance of the open space areas on Ferndale. This was seconded by Councillor P Russell and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

FC105. BUDGET SETTING AND PRECEPT 2021/22

With the aid of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) consideration was given to the projected spend for 2020/21, the Committees' budgetary requirements for 2021/22 and the level of precept for 2021/22. With regard to the latter, Members were advised that the Council tax base for the village was likely to go down by 2 properties due to a predicted increase in Council Tax Support which would result in a slight reduction in the level of precept.

Attention was drawn to future Capital Projects, and Members recognised the wisdom of building up a reserve for a new cemetery which will be a major expense in the future.

Having carefully considered the needs of the Council for 2021/22 and beyond and in thanking the Finance Officer and Clerk for their efforts in producing a comprehensive report, it was proposed by Councillor K Gulson that a sum of £40,000 be transferred to the Earmarked reserves for the new cemetery and the Budget for 2021/22 be approved along with a precept request of £379,802, being no change to the current band D property figure of £128.79. This was seconded by Councillor A Wood and **RESOLVED**.

FC106. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Councillors received and noted the contents of the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 30th November 2020 (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book).

FC107. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of payments made since the previous meeting, which included details of the purchase ledger cheques requiring payment, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was proposed by Councillor P Russell, seconded by Councillor B Doncaster and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to be paid.

FC108. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor K Gulson thanked all those involved in the Community Fridge on a Wednesday which was going from strength to strength supporting over 40 families a week. He explained that he was now collecting surplus food from the Co-op stores in Peterborough and was pleased to report that the Fridge had been successful in securing £500 for additional items of food in the run up to Christmas.

Councillor M Oliver thanked all Members of staff for their hard work over the year and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read 'R G Z' followed by some less legible characters.

Signed

Chairman.