

## NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2022 at 7.30PM

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Robert Bowditch; Cllr. Graham Hawkins; Cllr. Clare Handford; Cllr. Caroline Pearce; Cllr. Peter Bailey; Cllr. Bob Huxter; Cllr. Chris David and Cllr. Anthony Alford.

**ATTENDANCE:** Jessica Teasdale (Clerk). There were a number of members of the public present.

#### **1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Richard King; Cllr. Yvonne Dyke; Cllr. Kevin Goodfellow; Cllr. Mark Rogers and PSCO Alex Bishop. This was approved by the Council.

#### **2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

#### **3. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr. Alford gave his thanks and appreciation to all local services and volunteers who had helped the vulnerable over the past two years. Cllr. Alford had previously provided a report to Councillors and spoke to those present about: land searches; maintenance of highway verges; climate change; help for people who leave hospital; a beacon lighting event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; the Local Plan; a grant fund for voluntary and community groups and the return of face to face council meetings. Cllr. Bowditch thanked Cllr. Alford, on behalf of the parish council, for his support to the parish.

#### **4. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) REPORT**

PSCO Alex Bishop had previously provided a report which included information about a theft of cooking oil and that following the recent storm, some drivers had not adjusted their driving to the conditions on the road.

#### **5. MELPLASH VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Cllr. Rogers had previously provided a report to Councillors. Since Covid, the hall has not had the same amount of bookings and the condition of the hall has deteriorated. A meeting was held in 2021 to discuss the future of the hall and it was agreed that the hall would be disposed of. A report will be commissioned to outline the legal responsibilities of the committee. The parish council will be kept informed of developments.

#### **6. SALWAY ASH SCHOOL REPORT**

The Chair of Governors presented his report to councillors. The new head teacher has settled well. Grant funding has been obtained to refresh and expand the reading library. Installation of LED lighting throughout the school has been carried out along with the addition of solar panels. Current pupil numbers stand at 113. It is expected that the pupil admission number of 15 for children starting in Reception in September will be met.

#### **7. SALWAY ASH VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Mrs Brown, Committee Secretary, had previously provided a report. The hall received further financial help of £2,500 through a Covid government grant. Funding has also been received to install a hearing loop in the hall. Building maintenance is ongoing. Mrs Brown reported that there seems to be a renewed sense of community in Salway Ash and that the hall is a valuable resource for the local community.

#### **8. NETHERBURY VILLAGE HALL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

Mrs Bishop, Committee Treasurer, had previously provided a report and accounts for the hall. To encourage bookings following lockdowns, regular users of the hall were offered hire free of charge.

This has proved successful in securing ongoing bookings. The rise in prices for running the hall will need to be monitored. Electricity has seen an increase of approximately 50%.

#### **9. NETHERBURY PLAYING FIELDS REPORT**

Mr Brake, Committee Chairman, had attended the parish council meeting in January to update councillors on committee membership. A committee meeting is taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> March to try to secure new members, without which the committee will not be able to continue. Cllr. Handford will be attending the meeting as parish council representative.

#### **10. NETHERBURY CHARITIES AND ACCOUNTS**

Mrs Brown, Chair, had previously provided a report. The charity is able to give immediate support to those who come forward in need. Requests from the charity have been minimal. The charity is looking at how they can be more relevant to the community.

#### **11. CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.