



The Minutes of the Meeting of Miserden Parish Council

Held January 30, 2024 in Miserden Village Hall

Present: Chairman Cllr Martin Ractliffe, Vice-Chairman Cllr Kevin Allin, Cllr Gideon Duberley, Cllr Richard Dangerfield, Cllr Laura Cobb.

In attendance: Gwen Durland (Parish Clerk), Nick Mann (Cotswold Voluntary Warden), one member of the public.

Apologies: GCC Cllr Sue Williams, SDC Cllr Julie Job.

1.1.24 Chairman Ractliffe welcomed all to the meeting and relayed apologies.

1.2.24 *Declarations of Interest*

There were no declarations of interest made. The Council found this a source of **assurance**.

1.3.24 *Minutes of previous meeting*

The minutes from the EPM in January were **approved**.

1.4.24 *Matters arising since last regular meeting*

No matters since the last regular meeting not already on the agenda were noted. The Council found this a source of **assurance**.

1.5.24 *Chairman's report*

Chairman Ractliffe gave a brief report of his activities since the last full council meeting and expressed his eagerness to start the new year with the Council.

The warning road sign for side road near Sudgrove has been replaced. Cllr Williams is still chasing up the warning crossroads sign at Wishanger Hill and at the junction of B4070 at Saltbox.

Chairman Ractliffe also read the formal letter he wrote to the parishioner addressing the complaint mentioned below.

1.6.24 *Complaint from parish resident*

The Council discussed the complaint from the parish resident regarding inaccessibility of council documents on website. It was found that the website had been updated in October 2023, after the complaint had initially been written. Although the issue had been discussed and considered resolved in council and minuted, as complainant did not attend meeting, subsequently reported they were still unable to find documents. Cllr Allin created a how-to video on finding any council document and it was posted on the front page of the MPC website. It was **agreed** that the letter written to the complainant explaining various efforts of the council and clerk was sufficient and therefore believe the matter is now resolved. All members of the council considered the matter closed.

The Council found this a source of **assurance**.

1.7.24 *Questions from members of public*

No members of the public came forward.

1.8.24 *Clerk's report*

The clerk's written report with appendices as circulated with agenda was noted.

The Council found the report a source of **information** and **voted** to change web hosting providers to *Parish Online*.

Action: Clerk to advise Parish Online of vote outcome and to begin the migration process with them.



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1.9.24 *Approval budget 2024-2025*

The Parish Clerk presented the budget for 2024-25. Some options for reducing expenditure were considered and **approved**, including migration to new web host, discontinuing subscriptions to certain software providers and subscription to GRCC. It was further **agreed** to utilise earmarked reserves to support expenditure on projects in 2024-25. It was felt that community services such as traffic calming projects, tree planting and parish asset refurbishment should be the focus in the face of cuts elsewhere and that it was important to maintain the Council's General Reserve to provide flexibility in the future. It was therefore unanimously **agreed** to approve a budget of £17,594.

1.10.24 *Approval of precept request*

It was unanimously **agreed** to request a precept of £12,057 representing 6% on the previous year.

Action: Clerk to submit precept request form to SDC by 31 January.

1.11.24 *Approval of the following policies:*

The following policies were reviewed and unanimously **approved**:

- a. Social Media policy (Appendix D)
- b. Civility and Respect Pledge (Appendix E)
- c. Biodiversity pledge and action plan (Appendix F)

Action: Clerk to upload newly adopted policies to council website.

1.12.24 *Planning & Housing*

No planning applications were reviewed.

The Council was informed of Stroud District Council's decision to refurbish all District Council-owned 'Swedish timber houses' on Honeycombe Lane.

The Council found this a source of **information and assurance**.

1.13.24 No County or District Council reports submitted.

1.14.24 Cotswold Voluntary Warden report from Nick Mann was heard.

The footpath has now been completed leading to the top of Parson's Hill from Bullbanks.

The voluntary group also have repaired two stiles in Sudgrove.

The council thanked Voluntary Warden Mann and found this a source of **information** and a source of **assurance**.

Meeting adjourned at 21:40.

Next meeting scheduled for 26th February 2024 in Miserden Village Hall.

Minutes approved _____

Date _____