

**The minutes of the meeting of Miserden Parish Council**  
**Held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 held in Whiteway Colony Hall 7.30pm**

**Present:** Chairman Martin Ractliffe, Vice Chairman Kevin Allin, Councillors Gideon Duberly, Richard Dangerfield, Laura Cobb, District Councillor Julie Job.

**Apologies:** County Councillor Sue Williams, Clerk Gwen Durland, Countryside Warden Nick Mann.

**In attendance:** one member of the public.

In the absence of Clerk Gwen Durland, Laura Cobb was nominated and voted in by the other Councillors to take the minutes.

**Declarations of Interest:**

None

**Minutes from October:**

The Clerk is to be asked to amend the Clerk's Report to add that it was agreed, by the Councillors, for the Clerk to approach and seek assistance from the Cilca- qualified auditor Liz Dowie.

**Matters arising since October 2023 meeting:**

Locum RFO Liz Dowie, has been going through the accounts up to calendar year end 2022/2023. Once completed they can be handed back to the Clerk. Martin Ractliffe to contact Liz Dowie to secure an expected timeline of the completion of the accounts. If she cannot complete the work by mid-December, it was agreed that the Council would look to appoint a different RFO.

After much discussion, it was agreed for the Council to seek a Temporary/Interim Clerk to relieve the pressure on Clerk Gwen Durland. It was agreed by the Council that Cllr Martin Ractliffe would meet with Clerk Gwen Durland, and discuss her taking sick leave, due to her ongoing health issues. Cllr Julie Job recommended the Clerks at Painswick and at Pitchcombe as Interim Clerks. Cllr Martin Ractliffe and Cllr Kevin Allin to contact the Clerk at Painswick Parish Council to discuss his availability as Interim Clerk.

There is an outstanding complaint from a Parishioner regarding the Parish Accounts not being up to date on the website. It was agreed that as soon as the accounts were completed by the Locum RFO, the website would be updated. The Council would then reply to the complainant.

There was another outstanding complaint from the same Parishioner, that Cllr Martin Ractliffe replied to by email.

Cllr Martin Ractliffe has replaced all the defibrillator pads and checked the defibrillators.

**Clerk's Report** – see Appendix A

Clerk Gwen Durland provided a typed report that was read in her absence.

Current Account Balance: £14,001.50

Reserves Account balance: £5,137.04

**Swedish Timber Houses** – see appendix B

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the two houses in The Camp should be prioritised for refurbishment. Cllr Martin Ractliffe to write to SDC regarding this issue and decision.

**Highways:**

Cllr Sue Williams assisting Parish Council in acquiring trees to replace those lost through Ash Dieback disease.

Cllr Sue Williams chasing up Highways over missing signs on the B4070 and in Sudgrove.

There is a missing sign at the top of Wishanger Hill. To be reported by a Councillor.

The damaged and fallen road sign in The Camp has been re-erected.

There is a new reporting site called 'Fix My Street' launched by GCC to improve the ease of reporting issues on the roads.

**Draft of Social Media Policy:**

Due to the length of the document, it was agreed for the discussion to be postponed until the January meeting.

**Tree Planting Discussion:**

The Council is awaiting a decision from the landowner as to whether it can plant a tree, celebrating the Coronation of the King, on the Miserden Road/Bullbanks junction.

**District Councillor Julie Job Report:**

Cost of living: food bank vouchers being distributed, due to the ongoing cost of living crisis. However, there is a shortage of volunteers in the local food banks and hubs. Cllr Job asked if the Councillors could ask locally if anyone could volunteer.

Council Support Charter: Going well with over 40 councils signed up.

Stratford Park Leisure Centre: Schedule of works being drawn up.

SDC had sent out a survey, and online, for feedback regarding the Council Charter. Details available online.

**Cotswold Countryside Warden Report:**

The work party scheduled to further clear the path through the woods up to Parson's Hill had to be postponed. The work was rescheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**Any Other Business:**

Cllr Gideon Duberly provided the Council with his new address. He is moving at the beginning of December 2023, but will stay on as a Councillor until the complaint is resolved.

Three cheques were signed;

Miserden School Fireworks donation £275

Staff costs £676

Parish Post Editor David Harris £170.99

Time adjourned: 9.09pm

Next meeting January 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Miserden Village Hall 7.30pm