

Hethe Parish Council

Minutes From Hethe Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7.30pm In Hethe Village Hall

Councillors Present S Wallace (Chair) Mrs J Ramsey, Mrs J Elkington, Mrs S Hartwell
D Overton, P Ward, F Boon

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting 17th October 2023.** Members agreed the minutes and the Chairman signed the minutes.
4. **Matters Arising/ Welcome Guide For Hethe.** It was decided that a copy of the welcome guide should be put on the notice boards. A full printable version is available on the Council web site. **DJ**
5. **To Consider Building a Kick wall for the Children.** We have run a consultation on the web site but have not had much response. Members were discussing if it should be movable or static. We thought about placing it at the end of the field on the right. In front of the trees by the play park. We discussed if it should have a net ball hoop, be a solid structure or wooden?
Members and the Clerk are looking at what is on offer locally. The Clerk will try to obtain a brochure and some costings. Council would welcome ideas from local children. Please speak to one of the Councillors or come to the next meeting. **ALL**
6. **Community Defibrillator** The Parish Council has received some grant funding towards the defibrillator. We are in the process of arranging for it to be fitted in the Church porch. We will put some training videos on the web site for residents to access. The Parish Council have also agreed to fund a training session in the village hall later in the year. We are also considering running a first aid course for residents as we are quite far from medical services. The Parish Council agreed to sponsor part of the funding required. If you are interested in this, please email the Parish Clerk, or speak to one of the Councillors. There will probably be a small charge to attend this. The Clerk will update at the next meeting. We will also need a notice board at the front of the Church for church notices and a notice for the defibrillator. While the PCC and the Parish Council don't have any funding for this it was agreed to see if there was any central funding available. **ALL**
7. **Parish Precept 2024/2025 & Review The Clerks salary** The clerk went through the current expenditure and members discussed the budget plan. Quite a lot of cost is for the same things each year which generally go up with inflation. It was proposed by Cllr. Wallace and Seconded by Cllr. Boon to set the precept at £9,750 The Clerk salary was also reviewed,

and it was proposed by Cllr. Overton and Seconded by Cllr. Boon to increase the salary by 5%. The full council also agreed that the Clerk could be paid monthly from next year. **All**

- 8. Recreation Ground and General Maintenance** We have purchased two benches which will be installed shortly. The wooden sign on the corner of Bainton Road and Hardwick Road is being repaired. There is some grant funding available for a notice board to keep play areas smoke free. This is an initiative across the County members agreed with this and the Clerk was asked to apply for the funding. **DJ**
- 9. Open Forum – For Residents to raise issues** Councillors have been approached about providing water at the allotments in Hardwick Road. The allotments don't belong to the Parish Council, but the Clerk agreed to speak to the provider to see if anything could be done. **DJ**
- 10. Locked Land – To Consider acquiring this land.** We have been trying to contact the owner of this piece of land but have not received a response. The Clerk has asked our legal support for some guidance and has been sent some information. The Clerk suggested that the best way forward is to instruct a solicitor to help us with this so that the correct notices etc are served. Members agreed to fund this. Once the land is acquired, we should hopefully be able to obtain some funding to tidy the area up. **SW DJ**
- 11. Clerk's Report** After problems with Barclays we are now set up on internet banking. I will arrange for Cllr Overton and Cllr. Mrs Ramsey to have access to the bank account so that payments can be authorised. Financial payments were agreed for Navitas design £71.99, general administration £79.99, Clerk, £664.60, benches £888, De-fib £750, Village Hall £88, Play Park £335, and bank interest £6.59
- 12. Planning Applications** Vine Cottage (windows) and Green Farm (New Dwelling) Hethe Parish Council have no objections to these applications.
- 13. Climate Change**
- 14. Chairman's Closing Remarks** Cllr Wallace thanked everyone for coming and for the progress we have made on some of our agenda items
- 15. Date Of The Next Meeting** April 16th which is the AGM of the Parish. It's a non-business meeting where the village organisations give a report on the years events. All residents are welcome to come along starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.