**ERBISTOCK AND EYTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held Monday 28th June 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present; - Councillor John Evans (Chairman), Charles Barnett, Glenys Matthews, Robert Blakemore, The Clerk and also County Councillor John Pritchard.**

**Election of Chair 2020/21**

**Councillor Blakemore suggested that a new Chairman be elected for 20/21 and that the Chair should be from Erbistock as the last 3 Chairmen had been from Eyton. The Chairman pointed out that he considered the area as one and that in fact an Erbistock resident had held the post for the previous 20 years.**

**The Clerk advised the Council that according to the “standing orders” the Chairman was elected annually and as per The Minutes for the AGM in 2016 that a term of 3 years could be served. This being The Chairman’s 3rd year and in view of the pandemic it would be appropriate to serve his final 3rd term. A vote was taken and the majority voted to re-elect him. Councillor Blakemore abstained.**

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies; Councillors Cooke, Cooper and Thomas all sent their apologies.**
2. **A declaration of Interest – none**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2021 via zoom - These were agreed as a true and correct record, and were signed by the Chairman.**
4. **Matters arising – The missing “s” on the new notice board in Erbistock as pointed out by Councillor Thomas. Due to the high cost of getting the wording changed (£200), and as there had been no further complaints – it was agreed to leave as it is, especially as the Community Council had not had to fund the board and surrounds at all. The Council were grateful that Councillor Pritchard had been able to obtain funding for it.**

**Church Donations – Since the last meeting and the donations to both Churches had been made, it had come to light that such donations may not be permissible. The situation would remain under review until clarified.**

1. **Crime Figures from Police.uk – February 2021 – 1 x antisocial behaviour, 1 x criminal damage and arson. / March 2021 – 2 x theft. /April – 1 x theft, 1 x violence & sexual offence. The Clerk also reported that a local resident had informed her that speed checks had taken place at Eyton/Crabtree Green crossroads in May, and that 10 vehicles had been caught speeding, with the worst offender travelling at 62mph in a 30mph zone.**
2. **Planning Applications – Notifications had previously been circulated for Councillors to comment. Rose Hill Lodge P/2021/0245 and 0246 – PENDING. The Old Farmhouse, Coed Derwen, Erbistock P/2021/0250 – PENDING.**
3. **Council Accounts 2020/2021 – These were discussed. Income £1185 (precept) – Expenditure - £1522.18. The rise in audit fees had led largely to the increased spend, and the Precept had been raised to £1500. The accounts were accepted and the Cash Book signed by the Chairman.**
4. **The Annual Audit – The Clerk had completed the Annual Return and supplied all the necessary documentation for the Internal auditor who had reported that there were no issues of concern. The Clerk would need to complete the rest of the work for the external auditors (Wales Audit Office) and the additional documents required. The Chairman signed the Annual Return. The Clerk pointed out that Wales Audit had requested the Clerks contract and payment information as they were focusing on staff pay and conditions this year, and that there may be an issue as the Clerk did not have a contract or any payslips. Clerk to obtain contract.**
5. **Review of Clerks Pay. - The Clerk had requested that her pay be reviewed as the current rate of pay of £7.69 per hour was below the National minimum of £8.90. The minimum recommended by NALC ( The National Association of Local Councils) being £11.76 and on the pay scale recommended by One Voice Wales as being appropriate for the Clerk of a small Council. Councillor Blakemore proposed that the review be postponed until the next meeting but it was agreed that the matter needed to be dealt with at this meeting. There was considerable debate as to a suitable rate but eventually it was agreed by a unanimous vote to pay the Clerk at the rate of £11.76 per hour for 52 hours per year. It was also decided to arrange to make up the shortfall from the previous year at the next meeting, possibly with an honorarium. Clerk to keep a record of hours worked as One Voice Wales had expressed the opinion that 1 hour per week was “wholly inadequate” and that the Clerk’s workload was likely to increase even more in the future. It was also confirmed that The Clerk is not self- employed but employed by The Community Council.**
6. **Income and Expenditure**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bank balances as at 18/06/21** | **£** | **£** |
| **Current account** | **2155.93** |  |
| **Business Money account** | **217.35** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments already made since last meeting.** | **Zurich Insurance** | **163.52** |
|  | **One Voice Wales** | **76.00** |
|  |  |  |
| **Payments approved for payment****Cheques signed at meeting.** | **Hacker Young(audit)** | **168.00** |
| **Mrs E J Lewis****Annual payment** | **Clerks pay 2020/21****52 hours @£11.76****Website administration****Office expenses etc.** **TOTAL =** | **£611.52****£50.00****£49.62****£711.14** |

1. **County Councillor’s report – John Pritchard confirmed that the provision of a new Notice Board in Eyton was progressing well but may not include planters and that the wording would be in Welsh and English. He would keep us posted. The flooding issue at Eyton/Crabtree Green crossroads would be attended to during the school holidays for minimum disruption to the School. He had reported to Highways Councillor Thomas’s request for the verges to be cut on the A539. This was ongoing with the A roads taking priority – some already having been done. Councillor Barnett also confirmed that the flooding issue by The Cefnydd had been resolved and some pot holes filled. The flooding emanating from The Manley Hall area had been sorted, the broken pipe appeared to go nowhere but was unblocked and all seemed well. There was still work to be done at the bottom of the hill. Clerk to contact landowner.**
2. **Any Other Business -**
* **The Chairman highlighted the continuing problem of the blocked drain at the A528 end of Purcell’s Lane. The Clerk confirmed that it was totally blocked solid with mud and that the general condition of the lane was of concern due to eroding verges. It was agreed that Councillor Pritchard, Highways and the Clerk would soon make an inspection of the area including Eyton Hall lane.**
* **Vehicle Activated Signs (VARS) were discussed. The Clerk suggested that a definite location should be decided on before getting any quotes. John Pritchard provided a good local contact for advice. The Clerk advised that the cost of VARS seemed to range from approx... £3,000 - £5,000 each. Funds had been earmarked for this purpose.**
* **The Clerk circulated a brochure received from The Royal British Legion regarding the potential purchase of an “Unknown Tommy” (the black metal soldiers) to display in a suitable location, (cost approx..£200). Councillor Matthews suggested that as Eyton Church would be closing soon it may be a fitting tribute to honour it’s existence and demise and of course those from Eyton who had made the ultimate sacrifice, with an “Unknown Tommy”. The Chairman suggested a possible location close to the bench and the new noticeboard. The money normally donated to the Church could be used for this purpose. It was decided to discuss this more fully at a later date.**

 **Date and Time of Next Meeting – Monday 13th September 2021**

**Format and venue to be decided nearer the time, pending Covid-19 situation**

**Signed as a true and correct record………………………………………………………………………..**

**Chairman**

**Date…………………………………………………..**