

The PARISH of ODD RODE

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Newfield House, on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs Connolly (Chair), Lawton, Shaw, Griffiths, Brammer, Reynolds, Ford, Howard and Whitehead.
Mr J. Loughran and Mr G. Roberts (Clerk) also in attendance.

Item No. Detail

1844. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Harwood, Cope & Frost and PCSO Watson.

1845. **Public Forum**

Mr Loughran was running a defibrillator familiarisation training session at St Luke's Church and offered to run other sessions if the Council could arrange the venues. It was agreed that this was a good idea and the Council will help set up such sessions (possible venues are the Greenmoss Medical Centre, Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club, village halls, etc). Sessions need to be out of working hours to attract people who work.

1846. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1847. **Minutes of the Meeting of 15th February 2023**

Cllr Griffiths proposed, Cllr Howard seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED to agree the minutes as true and correct.

1848. **Matters Arising from the minutes**

The following matters were considered:

- a) Goal posts for Scholar Green Paying Field – Cllr Shaw and the Clerk will erect these on Friday.
- b) Canal Towpath at Thurlwood – the Canal & River Trust had revised the costs of the work (between £3,732 and £4,500 depending on cost of slate). This is due to price increases and an unforeseen need to use more expensive machinery. Cll Ford proposed, Cllr Shaw seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED to authorise the works at the new costings.
- c) Mow Cop Lane – members received a message from CEC Cllr Wardlaw regarding possible improvements to this road to protect pedestrians. It was generally felt to be a good thing but more detail, including plans, were needed.

1849. **Annual review of risk assessments & internal control**

The Council reviewed the risk assessments & internal controls. Cllr Whitehead proposed, Cllr Brammer seconded and it unanimously RESOLVED that they are fit for purpose.

1850. **Accounts & Expenses**

Cllr Griffiths proposed, Cllr Whitehead seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

HMRC PAYE + NIC	£3,084.56
March payment*	

<i>Mr G Roberts</i>	£3,866.66
<i>March salary*</i>	
<i>Superannuation</i>	£1,602.05
<i>March payment*</i>	
<i>08 Direct</i>	£11.99
<i>Freephone number 1 month (Rode Runner booking line)</i>	
<i>Giff Gaff</i>	£6.00
<i>1 mobile monthly at £6.00 for Rode Runner booking line</i>	
<i>Adobe</i>	£19.97
<i>Monthly fee for Adobe Pro for editing/producing accessible documents.</i>	
<i>Mr G Roberts</i>	£378.00
<i>Clerk's expenses mileage 17/03/22 to 15/03/23</i>	
<i>840 miles @ 45ppm</i>	
<i>One.com</i>	£135.16
<i>NDP website: hosting, lock & backup</i>	
<i>BT</i>	£264.14
<i>Office phone and internet</i>	
<i>Atos (Fuel Genie)</i>	£75.02
<i>Fuel for minibus</i>	
<i>Cartridge Save</i>	£157.08
<i>Toner cartridges for printer</i>	
<i>Mark Harrod</i>	£132.00
<i>5 a side goal for Scholar Green Playing Field</i>	

* Based on acceptance of recommendations in Chairman's report including backpay to 01/04/2022.

1851.

Reports & Updates

Cheshire East matters – no CEC member present.

Committees & Working Groups – brief reports were given from the committees and working groups: Planning (including a retrospective application refusal & an application at Wood Farm); Community Transport (three months of trips agreed); NDP (website needs repairing); Grants – Cllr Griffiths proposed, Cllr Brammer seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the following recommendations from the Grants Working Group:

Mount Pleasant Village Hall (new tables and doors) £1,500.00
Rode Heath Village Hall (re-roofing bar area) £1,500.00
Scholar Green Village Hall (door for kitchen/outside) £1,460.00
Rode Heath Scouts (climbing ropes, helmets, harnesses & slings) £1,500.00
Rode Heath Bowling Club (new fascia and veranda) £500.00
St Luke's Community Group (various items for food bank, choir & football club) £1,500.00*
Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club (new nets surfacing) £1,500.00
Mow Cop Runners (road closure traffic management & toilets) £1,000.00
TOTAL £10,460.00

* This is a pump priming grant for a new group and any future grant applications must provide detailed costings, accounts, etc.

Mount Pleasant Village Hall Play Area: a grant of £500 be made from the Play Area Fund and that ORPC will apply for planning permission for the play area.

King's Coronation: a grant of £250 towards the Coronation celebrations be made to Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club.

Cllr Griffiths proposed, Cllr Shaw seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED that each of the three village halls be invited to apply for a one-off grant of up to £10,000 each to be used to improve the energy performance of the halls. The criteria for the awards are as follows:

- a) All proposals must demonstrate energy reductions/savings proportionate to the costs of the project
- b) All proposals must demonstrate that measures have been taken to ensure best value for money
- c) The priorities for proposals are, in order of highest priority first:
 - i. measures to reduce energy loss, i.e. insulation
 - ii. measures to improve efficiency of energy using devices, e.g. improved boilers, heating equipment, etc
 - iii. measures to use renewable energy

If proposals are for a priority lower than the first, applicants will be expected to explain why it is appropriate to address a lower priority.

The above to be funded by the Grants Reserves and, if needed, General Reserves (up to £15,000).

PCSO report – a brief report had been received.

Village Halls – brief reports were given.

1852. **Correspondence**

None received.

1853. **Staff matter - confidential**

The Clerk left the room for this item. The Chairman's report on the annual staff review was received. Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr Whitehouse seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED that, in line with the Clerk's contract & the national agreement between NALC & SLCC (and National Joint Council for Local Government Services terms), that the new pay scales be agreed and that, in recognition of the Clerk's work, the Clerk's salary increases 1 increment from new SC30 to new SC31, i.e. from £34,373 to £37,261 p.a. inclusive of cost of living increase, effective from 1st April 2022.

1854. **Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

Signed by the Chairperson _____

Dated _____