

At a meeting of the Dene Valley Parish Council held at the Dene Valley Community Partnership One Stop Shop, High Street, Eldon Lane on **Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 6.40 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor K Beal** in the Chair

Councillors I Bourne, T Bird, J Clark, R Coleman, J Moore and J Nicholson.

Clerk Ian Croft

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Oliver.

**2. Public Participation**

There were no Members of the Public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that precept for 2024/25 had been received into the Council's account.

Councillor Moore reported that nothing further had been heard about the establishment of a Facebook page for the Parish Council.

The Clerk provided Members with an update on the HSBC account. He has visited HSBC and had been informed that nothing could be actioned until the mandate on the account had been changed. Councillor Clerk informed the meeting that she recollected that the signatories to the account were herself and Cec Gibson. The Clerk undertook to contact the former Clerk to the Council to gain more clarity if possible.

The Clerk reported that he had instructed Kate regarding the purchase of a second CCTV camera. There was a need for Kate to confirm that the Council purchasing the camera would end its financial contribution to the Towns and Villages project. Members were also keen to know

whether the new CCTV camera would pick up the Randolph Street Play Area. The Clerk agreed to email Kate to clarify these matter.

## **5. Police Update**

Councillor Bird reported that an individual had been caught in Wesley Street selling ear pods. However, generally incidents of anti-social behaviour had dropped.

Councillor Nicholson reported that there had been 11 incidents in the area during March, one of which was classified as sexual/violent.

## **6. Play Areas**

Councillor Beal reported that he was having trouble tracing a contact for the Community Work Team which carried out work at Auckland Park. Councillor Beal was provided with a contact number for the Team.

Councillor Nicholson reported that the play equipment at Auckland Park was in need of some sort of wood treatment/varnish and suggested that Councillor Oliver's company could be approached for this to be a possible community project.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Inspection report for the play areas had been requested from Wicksteed.

Councillor Nicholson reported that she had emailed James at DCC regarding the extension of the Coronation Play Area and also seeking feedback on the quote from Wicksteed for Randolph Street Park. Councillor Nicholson had also contacted Charlotte at Wicksteed regarding the removal of some roofs and sensory panels. It had been confirmed that there was no gap on the roundabout.

Referring to the Family Fun Day on 27 June 2024 Councillor Nicholson reported that she could possibly source a free bouncy castle.

Referring to the security of play areas Councillor Nicholson was planning with Kate to engage with older youths in the area o set up a youth club hub. Councillor Nicholson was still awaiting a date from DCC to inspect the former Surestart building.

## **7. Planning Issues**

Councillor Clark circulated details of planning applications which had been received or determined in the Dene Valley Parish and surrounding areas since the last meeting (for copy see file of Minutes)

## **8. Footpaths**

Councillor Moore reported that the footpath at Shepherds Bridge was still closed. Shepherds Pond had now been dug out and a hole created for the SUDS.

Councillor Nicholson reported that there was to be an increased number of social housing units at the Auckland Park development.

## **9. Allotments**

Councillor Bourne reported that there was to be one and a half plots taken on by a new tenant in September. The very top allotment site had no topsoil. Councillor Beal informed Councillor Bourne that as these lots were overgrown and in poor condition then the new tenant could be given the plots rent free for the rest of 2024/25.

Councillor Beal reported that a rough piece of land at the bottom of the Association allotment site was to be taken over but this would be rent free for 2024/25.

## **10. Finance Update**

The Clerk reported that the Council's current auditor had retired and there was therefore need to appoint a new auditor. Jennifer Linsley, Clerk to Eldon Parish Council had contacted the Clerk to inform that she would be able and willing to undertake the audit for 2023/24.

The Clerk referred to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24 and informed the Council that the gross income for 2023/24 was £21,697 and the gross expenditure £13,406. As such the Council was able to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review.

The Clerk provided the meeting with details of income and expenditure for the since the last meeting. The Chairman agreed the balances and signed the accounts and bank statements.

### **Resolved:**

- a) That Jennifer Linsley be appointed as the Council's Auditor for the 2023/24 financial year;
- b) That the Council declare itself as being exempt from a limited assurance review due to both income and expenditure being below the £25,000 threshold.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Councillor Bourne referred to property at Close House where the fence had been cut and the new tenants were accessing into the woods from their back yard. The woods were DCC owned land.

Councillor Nicholson referred to target hardening in the area and as far as she was aware the Parish Council had never been consulted. Councillor Bird replied that this came out of issues raised at PACT meetings.

Councillor Nicholson referred to a target hardening survey carried out by the Clean and Green Team on 10 April – Kate had been informed of three vulnerable areas on the boundary of the TSOA.

Councillor Beal provided the meeting with details of the proposed column for the siting of the second CCTV camera for the area.

Councillor Beal referred to an area of grass on the entrance to Close House which was both overgrown and untidy. The Clerk undertook to visit the site, take photographs and report this to DCC.

The meeting finished at 7.50 p.m. Next meeting – 10 June 2024.

**Signed .....**  
**Chairman of the meeting held on 10 June 2024**