

Scaldwell Parish Council

Chairman: Mr Eugene O'Leary Parish Clerk: Gillian Greaves

**Minutes of the Meeting of Scaldwell Parish Council held on Wednesday
15 November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, School Lane, Scaldwell**

Councillors in attendance: Mr E O'Leary (Chair), Mr D Cross,
Mr P Purcell, Mrs S Thorne

Public in attendance: Three residents attended.

Minutes taken by the Parish Clerk, Gillian Greaves

- 17/121 Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Pam Long, Cllr Margaret Vinton and Cllr Matt Wharton. The Council **Resolved** to accept the apologies. District Cllr Cecile Irvine-Swift also sent apologies to the meeting which were noted.
- 17/122 Introduction to new Clerk –** the Chairman introduced Gillian Greaves, the newly appointed Clerk, to the Parish Council. The Chairman reported that as part of the recruitment of the new Clerk it had become evident that there was a need to appointment payroll services to deal with the Clerks salary, payslip and PAYE etc. The Chairman proposed that the services of DM Payroll Services Ltd. were appointed to undertake payroll services for the Council at an annual cost of £81, with the amount of £33.75 as the apportioned amount for the remainder of the financial year 2017/18. This was seconded by Cllr Purcell and the Council **Resolved** to appoint DM Payroll Services and agreed a budget of £81 for 2018/19 and £33.75 for 2017/18.
- 17/123 To receive any declarations of interest for items on the agenda - None.**
- 17/124 Approval and signing of the minutes –** The draft minutes from the meetings of 11 October 2017 and 23 October 2017 were circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman proposed the Council accept the minutes, Cllr Purcell seconded the proposal. The Council **Resolved** to approve the minutes dated 11 October 2017 and 23 October 2017 and they were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
- 17/125 Public address: to receive comment and take questions from the public –** 3 residents attended the meeting and raised issues relating to noise and disturbance by local dogs. The residents were extremely concerned that the dogs were dangerous and had referred the matter to the PCSO but wanted to know what action the parish council could take. The Chairman advised that he had been made aware of the situation by the owner of the dogs, who is willing to work to try and find a remedy. The Chairman suggested that in the first instance every effort should be made to try and resolve the situation by mutual negotiation. Should this not prove successful then residents would need to contact the Dog Warden Services and Environmental Health Services at Daventry District Council.
- 17/126 To report on actions or matters arising from the minutes (for information only).**
No matters arising.
- 17/127 Planning:** The Chairman reported that the only updates concerned the planning application in respect of the Barn at Holcot Lane which had been withdrawn. However, a new application for the same barn had subsequently been resubmitted under permitted development and that the parish council had restated their objections to Bob Ham and Katherine Daniels at DDC within the guidelines allowed for under Permitted Development applications. No further comment will be submitted by the Council. Cllr

Purcell reported that he was aware of two new applications but as this was after the Agenda had been published they could not be discussed at this meeting. These applications concerned proposed works to trees in the village and that a further meeting of the parish council would be arranged to allow the Council to comment before the closing date of 21 December 2017.

17/128 Playing field:

- a) **To receive update report from the 'Friends of Scaldwell Playing Field', and agree any actions.** The Chairman reported that badgers are still causing problems in the playing field as they continue to use the area.
- b) **To consider the Risk Assessment inspection reports received since the last meeting, and agree any actions.** The Chairman presented the monthly safety inspection report and noted that the rope pull climber had an exposed area. Cllr Purcell said that he would look into it.

17/129 Correspondence: to consider and agree any actions on correspondence received. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Daventry District Council inviting representatives of the Council to attend a District Forum on 14 December 2017. The Chairman agreed to attend to represent the Council.

17/130 Asset Register: Cllr Purcell reported on the updating and amendments made to the Asset Register. Cllr Purcell proposed that the Council accept the revised Asset Register, seconded by Cllr Cross and the Council **Resolved** to approve the amendments to the Asset Register. Cllr Purcell reported that he had recently held a meeting with the Highways department when he was advised that the posts on the village green would no longer be maintained by the County Council. Cllr Purcell suggested that the posts should be added to the Asset Register at the next review.

17/131 Kiosk/Defibrillator: Cllr Cross reported that he was still awaiting costs to be circulated and was expecting this information in the next week or so. There is a shortfall in the region of £1,000. Cllr Thorne reported that the Parish Trust had agreed at its recent meeting to make a significant donation towards the costs of the Kiosk/Defibrillator. The Parish Council thanked the Parish Trust for its offer of a donation.

17/132 Finance:

- a) Income since the last meeting: 0.53 in interest. The reconciliation to the bank statements dated 1 November 2017 is £30,494.20 (£30501.20). A letter has been sent to RBS to investigate the £7 difference reported at the last meeting, and to ask for all Councillors to become signatories on the accounts however no response to date.
- b) Cllr Purcell reconciled and signed the accounts.
- c) Cllr Purcell gave an update on the current budget against spend position.
- d) Draft budget papers had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman and Cllr Purcell went through the detail of the proposed budget. Further information is needed on the new audit arrangements and the Clerk will update on the situation once known. The costs of street lighting were discussed and the increase in electricity prices. It was noted that improved street lighting could make a significant reduction to future maintenance costs and Cllr Purcell will be bringing back a report to a future meeting of the Council.

Cllr Purcell advised the Council that this was a draft budget and precept proposal for 2018/19 which recommends that the precept is held at the 2017/18 figure. The final budget and precept figures would be brought back to the January meeting of the

Council when a final decision would be made and Daventry District Council notified of the outcome.

- e) The Council agreed to make the payments below:

Chq N988o	Payment to	Description	Total incl. VAT
988	R&G	Grass Mowing	£232.23
989	NCALC	Training	£73.50
990	Lisa Callan	Clerk	£341.24
991	SSE	Electricity	£116.01
992	ICO	Data Protection Registration Fee	£35.00
993	G Greaves	Stationary & Stamps	£9.22
994	DM Payroll Services Ltd	Payroll Services	£33.75
		Total	£840.95

17/133 Standing Orders: Cllr Purcell reported to the Council that changes had been made to the Council's Standing Orders as discussed at the previous meeting. The revised Standing Orders had been circulated prior to the meeting for adoption at the meeting. Cllr Purcell proposed that the Council adopt the amended Standing Orders, seconded by the Chairman and the Council **Resolved** to adopt the amended Standing Orders.

17/134 Regular reports: to receive reports and agree on any actions (to include but not limited to):

- a) **Website** – Nothing to report.
- b) **Highways** – Cllr Purcell reported on a recent meeting held with the Highways Team concerning replacement street lighting in the village. Cllr Purcell further reported that he has been in touch with Mercedes to ascertain if there would be funding available for a possible "fitpath" between Scaldwell and Brixworth. The County Council would not be in a position to provide funding but possibly could help with the specification and further funding may be possible from Sports England and Lottery Funding. Cllr Thorne did raise concerns to ensure that Scaldwell did not become "urbanised" with the installation of a footpath.
- c) **Grass cutting (R&G)** – The Chairman reported that the additional requirements for extra grass cutting between now and the end of the Grass Mowing Contract had been agreed with the contractor. Cllr Thorne reported concerns about weed management.
- d) **Gigaclear** – The Chairman reported that work to resolve the unsatisfactory condition in which the highway was left following the installation of the fibre optic cable is still ongoing but has been agreed by Highways and Gigaclear that it is unacceptable.
- e) **Tree management** - Nothing to report.
- f) **NHW/Police** – Nothing to report.
- g) **Parish Councillors** - Cllr Long reported a pile of bricks on the pavement on the High Street and that the footpath is covered in leaves. The Chairman agreed to investigate. Cllr Thorn reported that there had been a very successful planting exercise of over 200 bulbs around the village and she thanked all involved in the planting. The bulbs were supplied by Daventry District Council's "Buddy Communities".

Cllr Cross reported suspicious people and unmarked vans in around the village – it was suggested that residents are urged to keep gates and doors locked and to be vigilant.

The Chairman proposed that the funds for a new laptop up to £350, secured via the Transparency Code Grant, would be used to purchase a laptop and software for the new Clerk – seconded by Cllr Cross and the Council Resolved to approve the purchase of a laptop and software up to the cost of £350.

The Chairman reported that he would work with the Clerk to compose a letter from the Council to “Smiths of Derby” concerning the invoice for unauthorised servicing the church clock.

17/135 **Newsletter:** The Chairman reported that he will include an article on awareness of dog Nuisance and also report on the bulb planting scheme.

17/136 **Meeting dates for 2017:**
Wednesday 17 January 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

DRAFT