

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Ibberton Parish Council on 4th December 2023

A meeting of Ibberton Parish Council was held in the village hall on Monday 4th December at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors: Clive Carsley (CC), Rob Simpson (RS), Andy Old (AO), and Michael Fraser (MF);
Parish Clerk: S Hopkins (SH)
Public: 1; and Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone (PB), and Georgina (Gina)
Chamberlain (GC)

449. To note any apologies for absence: None

450. To note any declarations of interest: None declared

451. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on 4th September 2023: The minutes of the Meeting were approved.

452. Matters arising/action points from previous minutes: None

453. To consider possible candidates and agree a new councillor for co-option to the parish:

The application by GC was received. The application was put to the vote by the Chairman (CC), and accepted with 100% of votes (4/4 councillors). The offer of office was confirmed by the Chairman. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed by GC and witnessed by SH before the next parish council meeting.

454. 2024 Elections: SH provided information about the upcoming 2024 council elections. The elections budget was discussed.

455. Finance matters:

i) payments for approval: The following payments were approved:

Approved Payment method	Payee	Purpose	Amount
Cheque 188	Community First Insurance	Insurance - yearly	£174.64
Direct Debit	Chess website	Dark web monitor – Jun-Nov incl	£59.95
Direct Debit	Chess website	Hosting – Jun-May incl.	£89.95
BACS	DAPTC	Clerks' conference 2023	£45.00
BACS	I,B &W village hall	Hire	£12.00

ii) to approve BACS payments in the future: The use of BACS payments performed by clerk/RFO were approved. Payments to be approved by the parish council as per standard practice.

iii) Budget and precept for 2024/25 – initial thoughts: A draft budget for 2024/25 was reviewed. Final version to be brought by clerk/RFO to the next meeting for approval.

456. Planning – to consider any applications received: None

457. Highways and rights-of-way – to consider any issues: CC gave an update to the council following the meeting with Dorset Highways on 2 November 2023 discussing Back Hollow in particular. The discussion included the drainage grates, the drainage grips, and the surface of the road. SH to follow up with Highways on actions from the meeting, as no improvement has yet been forthcoming.

It was noted that overhanging trees, and hedges, had been cut back either side of the halterpath leading up to the church.

458. Report from Dorset Council councillor Pauline Batstone: PB informed the Parish Council about an upcoming by-election in Dorset Council in January 2024.

459. Correspondence:

i) Letter from St Eustace, Ibberton Parochial Church Council, received 13th September 2023 – A letter updating the Parish Council on the structure of the church, and the Parochial Church Council's continued work to find a solution to the issues. SH to send a letter of thanks. A request was also put forward to strengthen the support structure of the Parish Notice Board – AO has agreed to attend to the board.

ii) Letter from Artsreach, received 12th October 2023 – A letter updating the Ibberton Parish Council on the work of the Artsreach charity, and requesting financial support. The budget was reviewed and it was agreed that the Parish Council does not have the budget to offer support. SH to send a letter in response.

iii) Letter from Dorset Council received 10th October 2023 – A letter informing the council about an application from Openreach to close Allotment Hill, from outside Woolland View to outside Holmwood in both directions to replace a telegraph pole. The works are planned to commence on the 6th of December. No action.

460. Future meetings: TBC

461. Close of meeting: With no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.