**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 13th November 2023**

**at 7.00 p.m. in the Trinity Methodist Church**

**Present:** Cllr. M Cherrett. (Chairman)

Cllrs. Miss M. Galloway, Mrs. Y. Swales and J. E. Taylor.

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. Hill.

**585 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**586 Minutes**

The Minutes of the last regular Meeting held on Monday, 9th October 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

**587 Matters Arising**

1. Thirteen Group property

Cllr. Miss Galloway reported that there were still issues with the property but would maintain her observations for the time being.

1. Garages on Oak Road

Cllr. Mrs. Swales reported that the company seemed to be respecting their promises so far.

1. Moss on paths

The Clerk reported that he had asked the grounds contractor for advice regarding moss on footpaths on streets and in the cemetery.

1. Bus Shelter Graffiti

The Clerk reported that the graffiti appeared to have been cleaned although the polycarbonate material appears to be permanently stained. Cllr. Taylor reported that several shelters were without internal lights. It was agreed to investigate the matter.

1. Preston Park upgrade

Cllr Taylor was thanked for his efforts. Concern was expressed at the relapse by the park managership from including the Council in consultations. The Clerk was asked to enquire about this.

**588 Accounts**

1. The following accounts were approved, and payment authorised: -

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BACS | P. R. Joiner | Clerk’s salary & expenses (Oct) | £ 163.57 |
| D/D | WAVE | Cemetery metered water | £ 61.74 |
| D/D | Stockton Borough Council | Cemetery Waste Bin (Nov) | £ 26.57 |
| BACS | TEEC Ltd. | Web site annual fees | £ 151.19 |

1. Following the presentation of a draft budget by the Clerk it was agreed that the precept for the forthcoming financial year should be set at £6250.

**589 Pending Matters**

1. Co-option of Members

Members continued to explore the possibilities of co-opting Members with mention of the vacancies in the Newsletter and on the web site.

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**590 Executive Action**

1. Cemetery

The Clerk reported that he had forwarded the deeds of burial as approved previously.

**591 Correspondence**

1. Correspondence was noted as listed.
2. Mayor’s Carol Service

Cllr. Miss Galloway said that she would have liked to attend but would be unable to do so without transport both ways. No other Member was available to attend.

**592 Any Other Business**

1. Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary

Cllr. Taylor presented a draft plan for improvements to Victoria Park marking the original route of the railway. Members were encouraged at the level of support Cllr. Taylor has raised to date and fully supported his suggestions.

1. Cleveland Police

Cllr. Taylor reported that the police had a new inspector responsible for community matters who seemed responsive to issues. It was agreed that police presence should be invited to a meeting in the New Year.

1. Street Lighting

Cllr. Mrs. Swales offered to survey lighting columns within the parish.

1. Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Clerk reported that the promised sign had been installed at the entrance to the cemetery.

Dated this 11th day of December 2023

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Chairman

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