**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 8th January 2024**

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

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

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

**Statement.** Cllr. Miss Galloway stated that she wished to stand down from the Chairmanship as she felt that she could not properly maintain the position to the standard she wished. Cllr. Cherrett accepted the role and Cllr. Mrs. Swales expressed the thanks of the Members for her long years of service to the Council and people of the parish.

**600 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**601 Minutes**

The Minutes of the last regular Meeting held on Monday, 11th December 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record with one minor amendment.

**602 Matters Arising**

1. Moss on paths

The Clerk reported on a price he had received for clearing the cemetery moss and was asked to seek further prices.

1. Bus Shelters and Street Lamps

The Clerk reported that the faulty streetlamps should have been rectified and was presented with details of a further faulty light.

1. Preston Park upgrade

Cllr Taylor stated that he was awaiting further evidence about the Stockton BC bid and hoped that he would have firm details for the next meeting,

The Clerk stated that he would repeat the unanswered request for a meeting with the park staff.

1. Cemetery Seats

Cllr. Taylor reported that his contact had been away on holiday.

1. Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary

Cllr. Taylor was hopeful of progress being made and hoped to arrange a site meeting with a representative of Stockton BC.

1. Police Visit

The clerk reported that the local Chief Inspector was keen to visit Members although it appeared that events had conspired to prevent his attendance tonight.

1. Footpath Diversion

Cllr. Cherrett asked that the Clerk contact Stockton BC to get them to clear the length of the footpath from Tees Bank Avenue to the river side.

1. Cemetery problem

Members approved the draft letter provided by the Clerk for the enquirer.

**603 Accounts**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BACS | P. R. Joiner | Clerk’s salary & expenses (Nov) | £ 149.87 |
| BACS | HM Revenue & Customs | Clerk’s PAYE | £100.20 |
| D/D | Stockton Borough Council | Cemetery Waste Bin (jan) | £ 26.59 |
|  | Dickon Harding | Cemetery grounds maintenance | £ 1860.00 |

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**604 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.Cllr. Taylor said Mrs. Sadler would be contacting the clerk.

**605 Correspondence**

1. Correspondence was noted as listed.

**605 Any Other Business**

1. Postal Services

Cllr. Miss Galloway reported receiving many complaints about the poor level of service of late from the Post Office where deliveries seemed to be missed over many days and such mail as received appeared to be very late.

1. Pot Hole

Cllr. Miss Galloway passed on complaints about a large pothole on Myrtle Road where debris had been scattered on to the footpath.

1. Cyclists

The Clerk was asked to mention the current practice of young cyclists showing off along the paths and roads on unlit cycles after dark.

1. Garage

Cllr. Mrs. Swales raised a query about the appearance of rubbish around the garage premises and its possible inducement to fly-tipping.

Dated this 12th day of February 2024

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Chairman

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