**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th September 2024**

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

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

Cllrs. Mrs. K. Iveson, Mrs. J. Sadler, and J. Taylor

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Miss M. Galloway, N. Hill and Mrs. Y. Swales.

**648 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**649 Minutes**

The Minutes of the last regular Meeting, held on Monday, 8th July 2024, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed as a true record with a minor addition.

**650 Matters Arising**

1. Moss on paths

Cllr. Taylor reported that the moss had been cleared as complained of with the addition of two adjacent streets which were similarly afflicted.

1. Preston Park Upgrade

Members noted the meeting planned for 18th September. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Park to express the Council’s dis-satisfaction at the change in the submitted plans from the promised designs for the toilets and café buildings.

1. Cemetery Seats

Cllr. Taylor reported that the seats had been repaired and painted and that the fence had been painted as he had a surplus of paint.

1. Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentenary
2. Cleaning of War Memorial

Members agreed to look further into the costs involved in the cleaning and lettering of the Memorial.

1. Other works

It was agreed to leave consideration of these aspects until after Remembrance Day.

1. Allotments

Cllr. Taylor reported on the continuing problems being faced by the allotment gardens.

1. Footpath Safety

Cllr. Mrs. Iveson reported that the missing drain cover had been replaced but mentioned that there were still some holes just off the surface of the path.

1. Drugs

Members were pleased to note the recently reported major seizure of drugs in the area. It was mentioned that several bus shelters were now sporting graffiti which was thought might relate to drug supplies.

**651 Accounts**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BACS | P. R. Joiner | Clerk’s salary & expenses (Jul/Aug)) | £ 331.47 |
| D/D | WAVE | Cemetery water supply | £ 73.55 |
| D/D | Stockton Borough Council | Cemetery waste bin (Aug/Sep) | £ 63.76 |

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**652 Executive Decisions**

1. Cemetery

The Clerk reported that he had approved a re-inscription request.

**653 Cemetery**

1. Following a mix up over maintenance work in the cemetery it was agreed that the Council should continue with the current maintenance plan in place and start with the community payback input in the New Year.
2. Cllr. Taylor reported that there was a loose gate post caused by the drag of the open gate. He agreed to look into the bracing of the post.
3. Cllr. Taylor reported that the provision of waste bins had been regularised.

**654 Correspondence**

1. Correspondence received was noted as listed.
2. HM Revenue & Customs

A letter re checking on National Minimum Wage was noted. The Clerk stated that he believed that the matter did not apply in his case.

1. Preston Lane development

Cllr. Taylor stated that he would investigate the matter.

**655 Any Other Business**

1. Cllr. Mrs. Sadler reported a large pothole in the road near her house.

Dated this 14th day of October 2024

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Chairman

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