

MOTTRAM ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING HELD 28th OCTOBER 2019

Present Cllr R. Hughes (Chairman), Cllr Levis, Cllr Hatton, Cllr Dodd, Cllr Davies, Cllr Walker, R. Taylor (Clerk) ,Borough Cllr Findlow, and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence : Cllr Morgan (Holiday), Councillors approved the absence unanimously.
2. Declaration of interests from Councillors : None
3. Requests for dispensations : None.
4. Minutes of meeting held on 16th September 2019 : **Approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
5. Matters Arising : None
6. Public Participation : None
7. Planning : Alstonfield 19/4540M After discussion regarding the proposed materials, Council wished to encourage the use of Eco friendly materials in future construction projects. St. Andrews cottage 19/4688M no observations. Mill Hall enforcement 19/0080E Cllr Levis reported on steps having been taken to rectify previous planning breaches, matter to be kept under observation. Northfields 19/2862M Appeal against refusal, matter fully debated **Resolved 4 votes to 2** oppose the appeal on the basis of inappropriate development in the Green Belt and unsafe access to the Highway. Tree Tops 19/4914M after animated discussion Council **Resolved Unanimously** to make observations that no pull off area included for the safety of road users, Restriction of visibility caused to drivers exiting the proposed drive and restriction of view caused to neighbours when exiting their drives. The adverse effect on the streetscape of the design and proposed attachments. Proposal considered to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Council deplored the use of plastic hedging in a rural community. Former Hardy Plant Nursery/ Purely Perenials, Lees Lane, Newton. Borough Cllr Findlow was invited by the Chair to report on the Planning breaches occurring at this site, Enforcement officer already involved of his own volition and after contact from Cllr Findlow and the Clerk. Clerk reported on his visit to the site, that a letter of complaint had been sent to enforcement and setting out the Council remedies available. **Resolved unanimously** that all steps had been taken at present and the Clerk should continue liaison with enforcement.
8. Finance : Clerk reported bank balance at 4th October £18,388.64 including Mercury profit YE2018 £379.61, paid since last meeting Clerks salary, Tax and expenses of £2,480.18, ChALC subscription £189.36, reconcilled account 28th October £15,719.10. Draft Budget for 2020/21 produced having been previously

circulated. Debate adjourned till later in the agenda to resolve issues likely to affect the budget figures. Allotment rents reviewed, after debate, taking into account no increase applied last year proposed Chair seconded Cllr Levis **Resolved unanimously** rents to be increased two and half percent. Old Recreation ground rent reviewed proposed Chair seconded Cllr Levis **Resolved unanimously** No increase.

9. Mercury Magazine : Chairman reported on the proposals agreed at a Meeting on 27th September that the Magazine continue to be produced jointly by the Parish Council and the Village Hall with profits and losses shared equally, An Editorial committee be formed, that accounts produced by the Village Hall be accepted and that no charges be made for Community based advertising. Proposed Chair seconded Cllr Levis **Resolved unanimously**. Editorial Committee to comprise three members as resolved on 14th January 2019 now to be Chairman, Cllr Hatton and the Clerk. Clerk directed to make the balancing figure of previous losses incurred £79.68 to the Village Hall. Small loss predicted for 2019 to be budgeted for.
10. Web Site/ App project : Cllr Levis reported on the proposed improvements to the web site facilities and the introduction of a Village App. Quotations from the App Store and Knutsford IT were produced and perused. A detailed debate ensued, proposed Chair seconded Cllr Levis that the website hosting be transferred to the App Store and that the web site be made Mobile device responsive with the integration of a Parish Council EMail address **Resolved unanimously**. Additional cost to be met from reserves. Debate regarding the Provision of the App facility to be carried forward until the web site hosting has been changed successfully. Media sub committee to review the required services for the Community from a Village App.
11. Tree Planting Project : The Clerk reported fully on his research, his contact with the local farmers, The Woodland Trust and private landowners. After discussion Council **Resolved unanimously** to promote the planting of trees throughout the Parish, taking a lead in the encouragement of local organisations to become involved. Should expense become appropriate this will be considered from reserves.
12. Village Maintenance : Clerk reported on work necessary including Village Green bench refurbishment, cobbles algae removal, Diamond wood husbandry, road sign cleaning, allotment improvements, finger post sign and Village Pump painting, Litter picking. Suggested that the budget be increased to £1000 for maintenance work and £450 for the allotment improvement work, carried forward for consideration under budget items later.
13. Highways : Cllr Levis reported that plans still awaited for the Mill Lane/ Lees Lane Junction improvements, he will continue to chase Cheshire East and further that progress on the improvement of visibility at the Bulls Head junction is still being pursued.
14. Finance Budget and Precept 20/21 : Circulated draft budgets debated and amended to include increase in handyman costs, removal of Mercury profit budget,

proposed Chairman seconded Cllr Dodd that the amended budget for 2020/21 be adopted **Resolved Unanimously**. Debate followed regarding the appropriate level of precept to be requested for 20/21 proposed Chairman seconded Cllr Dodd that the precept be fixed at £8,035, an increase of £350, Clerk directed to request payment.

15. Village Hall Report : Cllr Hatton reported on financial reserves held by the Village Hall and further improvements contemplated to the field area.
16. ChALC Meeting Report : Chairman informed the Meeting of the issues dealt with at the recent Meeting he attended.
17. Police Report : Circulated.
18. Other Business : Cllr Hatton requested that problems with the parking at the Crescent be included on the next agenda. Chairman requested the provision of AED training sessions be included.