**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 11th May 2021 in the Main Hall of Reynoldston Village Hall**

**This meeting was held in accordance with social distancing rules. Equipment was cleaned after the meeting, the outside doors were kept open and a register kept of attendees.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Deb Vine (chair), Dan Dyson, Margie Bond, Sue Ashelby, the Internal Auditor Paul Sizer and the Clerk Andrew Berry. There was one member of the public present.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Jennie Clements

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR:** Cllr. Vine was proposed by Cllr. Ashelby and seconded by Cllr. Dyson. Cllr. Vine then suggested that the order of items on the agenda be changed to allow Paul Sizer Internal Auditor to go home early. This was agreed.
2. **CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR:** Charles Twitchett was proposed by Cllr. Vine and seconded by Cllr. Bond. The Clerk said he would inform Democratic Services in Swansea and arrange for the acceptance form to be signed before the next meeting. Charles Twitchett was present at the meeting.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 2021.** The Internal Auditor gave his report to the Council. He explained that the surplus compared to the budget was due to the bus shelter not being completed due to the problems with Covid earlier in the year and it had been delayed to 2021/2022. There was £14,000 plus in the accounts at the end of the year. One query was that the Clerk was very unusually paid on just three occasions during the year, this was because the council meets on only six occassions. He made three suggestions regarding the accounts. Please see the attached report. The Annual Return was approved by the Council. The Chair thanked the Internal Auditor for his work. Paul Sizer left the meeting.
4. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR:** The current vice-chair Dan Dyson is resigning from the Council. Margie Bond was proposed by Cllr. Vine and seconded by Cllr. Ashelby
5. **ELECTION OF CLERK:** Andrew Berry was proposed by Cllr. Vine and seconded by Cllr. Bond.
6. **ELECTION OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Andrew Berry was proposed by Cllr. Vine and seconded by Cllr. Ashelby.
7. **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR:** Paul Sizer was proposed by Cllr. Vine and seconded by Cllr. Ashelby.
8. **ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** Cllr. Bond and Cllr. Twitchett from next meeting were elected in to this role.
9. **ELECTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR AS DELEGATE TO ONE VOICE WALES:** Cllr. Clements was elected in her absence. She had already agreed to this.
10. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTEREST:** The Chair suggested that these would be taken during the meeting if and when they arose.
11. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the March meeting and the extraordinary April meeting of the council were approved and signed by the chair.
12. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Vine said that the quote for the work on the Hgher Green from Neil Pritchard was much lower than the previous quote. Cllr. Vine has asked Mike Scott from the AONB for a grant of £1,500 toward the work. There were no new grants to be made by the council at this time.
13. **REVIEW OF THE CLERK’S REMUNERATION.** This was approved and will remain the same.
14. **GRANTS:** There were no new grants made at this time.
15. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF 15 MINUTES)** There were none.
16. **VILLAGE GREENS AND HIGHWAYS.** See item 21 AOB
17. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** There had been none causing concern.
18. **VILLAGE MAGAZINE** Cllr. Ashelby will include thanks to Cllr. Dyson and welcome Cllr. Twitchett.
19. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Council had received a letter from Hugh Jones regarding the First Response vehicle in Reynoldston Fire Station and its lack of use. It appears that the vehicle and its crew are rarely called to incidents. There had been many occasions in the past where the vehicle had proved invaluable in relieving suffering and indeed saving lives as it takes at least half an hour for an ambulance to get here from Swansea. There was considerable discussion of this and support for Hugh’s letter. The Clerk will write to the AM Rebecca Evans and forward both the letters form Hugh Jones and one from Paul Sizer.

The Applegrove signs were being looked at by a member of the Highways department this week after the Clerk contacted them to point out the difficulty of reading the signs. Thanks to the resident who had inked them in by hand!

The Clerk had been asked to display a sign encouraging EU nationals to make sure they are registered before the end of June this year in order that they don’t fall foul of laws governing residency in the UK. This was agreed.

1. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT.** The Clerk asked for a cheque for £120 to be signed for advertising planning permission for the village signs. The insurance for the motor mower is due at a cost of £282.78. The Clerk has paid for SLCC membership himself and asked for reimbursement of £80.00 for this. This was agreed. The OVW payment is also due soon.
2. **AOB:** Cllr. Vine asked whether there would be a request for another interpretive sign. As yet the Clerk had not had a request for a grant for the next sign.

Cllr. Ashelby asked who had paid for the stone plinths / tables on the Greens. Dan Morris will be asked if he knows.

Cllr. Dyson asked about the tree outside the King Arthur. Kim had asked that it be removed but it was thought it was alive. There is the possibility that it be cut down with approval and perhaps replaced by a new tree. Cllr. Vine suggested that a few trees be planted on the Higher Green (with permission.) The Clerk said that they would need strong protection against grazing animals. The Clerk will contact the Somerset Trust about this.

Cllr. Bond asked about the track outside Treffoss on the Lower Green. The Clerk thought it belonged to The Penrice Estate although it was shown as a public right of way on an OS map. The Clerk suggested that the owners should contact Penrice in the first instance. There followed a discussion about access and registration of land.

There was a discussion about potential councillors who might be available to be co-opted if they so wished.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm 0n Tuesday 13th July hopefully in the Minor Hall if the rules allow!