



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at Messing Village Hall commencing 7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
Councillors	Councillor A Harding	Yes
	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor J Longman	No
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	2 VACANT SEATS	

IN ATTENDANCE Two members of the public

- 1 203/23 **APOLOGIES** were received from Councillor J Longman. It was agreed by all to **APPROVE** this absence.
- 2 204/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Nil
- 3 205/23 **MINUTES**
 - a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 October 2023 as an accurate record, proposed by Councillor A Harding, seconded by Councillor R Strudwick and agreed.
 - b) Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 09 November - **DEFERRED**
- 4 206/23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) Reports from City and County Councillors: Nil
 - b) Public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: (1) receipts not published in October minutes, Councillor R Suckling reported continuing issues with Barclays bank, receipts will be published when available; (2) query whether allotments will have a third grass cut this year; (3) most recent minutes on website are June 2023 - Cllr Harding to follow up; (4) Orchard accounts.
- 5 207/23 **CLERK'S REPORT:** Nil
- 6 208/23 **FINANCE**
 - a) Invoice received from Copford with Easthorpe PC for outstanding liabilities relating to clerk secondment services provided to MCI PC - **DEFERRED** pending further investigation and audit of records.
 - b) Insurance policy to be reviewed to ensure all Council assets and activities are covered - Cllr Harding.
 - c) Bank balances @ 21 November 2023: Community account £32,330.41, Reserve account £12,370.85.
 - d) Payments received were **NOTED**

02.10.23	Allotment Plot 2 & 7a	£75.00
02.10.23	Allotment Plot 11	£50.00
02.10.23	Allotment Plot 7b Community	£25.00
06.10.23	Allotment Plot 1	50.00
09.10.23	Allotment Plot 9	50.00
13.10.23	Allotment Plot 6	50.00
13.10.23	Allotment TB	50.00
16.10.23	Allotment CA	50.00
19.20.23	Reserve account Interest	21.10
26.10.23	Staff Salary (Sept)	787.19
26.10.23	returned CHQ 200104	-787.19
31.10.23	Reserve account Interest	5.69
Total		426.79
 - e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments presented, proposed by Cllr Strudwick, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Hughes and agreed:

EE Limited	Mobile phone	6.24
Friends of Messing Church	Grant funding	125.00
 - 7 209/23 **PLANNING** - No information has been received regarding the letter sent about Osborne House.
 - 8 210/23 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) It was agreed to amend Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to cover all instances where a Clerk is not present - Cllr Suckling to update.
 - 9 211/23 **A12/A120** - Cllr Harding to provide an update further to a Special Access Request for information.



- 10** 212/23 **BUDGET** - working party to review budget, 25.01.24 deadline to submit precept requirement to CCC.
- 11** 213/23 **ORCHARD**
- a) Cllr Strudwick reported various Orchard purchases £1,200/£1,300 to date, invoices to be submitted for s.106 claim from City Council. Further items on the wish list include a picnic table and tree signs.
 - b) Risk assessment completed for Santa in the Orchard event, trained first aider will be on site. 24 tickets have been purchased, a further 8 to pay.
 - c) Wildflower seed to be planted over gas pipe strip, cost £255 from Kings seeds through the Allotment Association. Sand also required to mix with the seed. Council considered how the height of the bank could be managed and sponsorship options.
- 12** 214/23 **20'S PLENTY** - it was agreed Council should pursue this, Cllr Strudwick to take the lead.
- 13** 215/23 **ALLOTMENTS** - it was **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation to cut back scrub and dead tree branches on the western side of the allotments, proposed by Cllr Strudwick, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hughes and agreed. Cllr Suckling to inform the contractor and arrange third and final grass cut.
- 14** 216/23 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**
- a) Dead tree on village green has been removed, cost of replacement chainsaw blades to be considered at December meeting. A replacement tree is not required.
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** to order replacement porthole on the climbing frame and arrange repair, proposed by Cllr Strudwick, seconded by Cllr Harding and agreed.
- Members of the public left the meeting.*
- 15** 217/23 It was **RESOLVED** pursuant to s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for the public and press to leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of business to be transacted, on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded by Cllr Harding and agreed.
- a) **GARDENING STRATEGY** - it was agreed to explore use of the Probation Service Community team in the Orchard and elsewhere in the Parish, particularly with potential Sensory Garden project. Cllr Strudwick to be initial contact.
 - b) **STAFF MATTERS** - to draft advert for new Clerk, Cllr Suckling to make enquiries regarding locum cover.
- 16** 218/23 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA** - s. 106 wish list, Sensory Garden project, Orchard Terms of Reference, cost of chainsaw blades, village spring clean & litter pick.
- 17** 219/23 **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
Tuesday 19 December 2023 commencing 7.30pm, Cllr Harding offered advance apologies for absence.