**WETTENHALL & CHOLMONDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2020 in St David’s Church, Wettenhall, Cheshire. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

**Present**

Councillor Helen Moss (Chairman)

Councillor Pat Brunt

Councillor Keith Gilby

Councillor Philip Hollinshead

Councillor John Woodward

**Apologies**

There were no apologies received

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of members interests

**Approval of the previous minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2019 were circulated prior to the meeting.

***It was resolved that the minutes be approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.***

**Matters Arising**

Members reported that a meeting had taken place with the Developer and a number of minor amendments to the plan were agreed.

Members noted that the Parish Laptop was now over six year old and was no longer fit for purpose. The agreed to make provision in the budget for its replacement.

It was noted that there had been little progress made on changing the bank signatories but given the current situation whereby the council is without a permanent clerk it was agreed that it would be prudent to halt the progress on this matter for the time being.

**Acting Clerk’s Report**

Mrs Jackie Weaver (Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils – ChALC) had agreed to act as clerk for the meeting and to assist the Council in the process of recruitment.

Members discussed their requirements for the post and considered the budget implications of employment in general. There were a number of key areas that they felt needed to be part of the job description which included support in the areas of planning; website maintenance and governance. Members felt that they would benefit from the support of an experienced clerk who could advise and support them in meeting the duties and obligations of a parish council.

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***It was resolved that:***

***Jackie will assist with the drafting of an advertisement for 3 hours per week at SCP15 - 17;***

***and***

***Secure the services of a locum clerk to assist the council in the interim; and***

***Ensure that the employers obligations to the past clerk are met by initially writing to the clerk to check on what is outstanding.***

**Budget 2020-21 and Precept Request**

Member discussed the paper previously circulated and considered the requirements for the Council and the community for the forthcoming year.

***It was resolved the Cheshire East Council be advised that the Council Precept Request for the period be £5000.***

**Members Items for Discussion**

Councillor Brunt advised members that he had met with officers from the highways team and drew their attention to the unacceptable level of pot holes in the parish and the conditions of the roads in general. He further advised that highways were dispatching a team to review the potholes in the area.

Councillor Brunt also reported that he had attended the Police Cluster Meeting where he had learned that the results of speed gun usage was not usually being reported and that fines and tickets were not being issues due to Cheshire East Council not having officially classified the affected roads. Councillor Gilby stated that he had submitted a Freedom of Information Request to Cheshire East Council for further information on the issue.

Members noted that the Council still had a casual vacancy to fill and members were encouraged to think of persons who might be interested in the vacancy and get them to come forward.

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