

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2022
AT MANSEL LACY COMMUNITY HALL

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm

Present: C.Edwards (Chairman), A.Davies, S.Hallett, M.Mangan, D.Gwynne, A.Powell,
A.Apps

In Attendance: R.Hallett (Clerk), M.Jones (Ward Councillor)

In reference to agenda item 3c (Grants 22/23) C.Edwards declared an interest as editor of Foxley News, as did S.Hallett as a member of Mansel Lacy PCC

- 1) Draft Minutes the General Meeting held on 21st Spetember 2022 were accepted and signed by C.Edwards as a true record.
- 2) Matters Arising
 - a) Following his co-option, A.Apps was welcomed as councillor for Mansel Lacy
 - b) No residents had expressed interest in the We Don't Buy Crime initiative.
Considering the pressure on financial resources and that it would cost in the region of £1,200, it was decided not to further pursue this.
 - c) C.Edwards to confirm there is an anonymous donor willing to fund the replacement pads and batteries for the defibrillator.
- 3) Finance
 - a) The regular report was presented (see Agenda). Whilst the account has a healthy balance of £7,522.78 we are about to start the drainage grant work for this year and this will all be needed to provide the necessary cash flow.
 - b) The precept was set at £3,750 for 2023/24, proposed by M.Mangan and seconded by A.Powell. This accounts for the exceptional costs of an election, mitigated by use of reserve.
 - c) Grants were agreed for Foxley News, Brinsop PCC and Mansel Lacy PCC at half the requested amount, £200 each, proposed by D.Gwynne and seconded by A.Apps. This reflects the financial constraints in play due to one off election costs next year and higher than normal inflation. The council will however, consider further applications at any point in the year, subject to funds availability.
 - d) The budget for 2023/24 was set as below:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| <u>Expenses</u> | Insurance | 230 |
| | Website | 230 |
| | Lengthsman | 1950 |
| | Hall Hire | 80 |
| | Grants | 900 |
| | Elections | 1840 |
| | Sub-total | 5230 |

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| <u>Income</u> | Precept | 3750 |
| | Comm Assoc | 95 |
| | Reserve | 1385 |
| | Sub-total | 5230 |

- 4) Highways
 - a) A.Apps brought a commercial roadside sign within Brinsop & Wormsley parish to the council's attention. Both councillors from this ward had had the appropriateness of

the sign, and it's position, raised with them. C.Edwards undertook to speak to the owner regarding removal. R.Hallett to involve Balfour Beatty if needed..

- b) After speaking to BB, R.Hallett confirmed that culverts are jetted, occasionally unsuccessfully. However, this does not take place in drains that are collapsed.
- 5) Planning
 - a) A.Apps and S.Hallett will get an update on the Rural Spatial Strategy via a Teams meeting on 15th November and will report back at the next council meeting.
 - 6) Any Other Business
 - a) M.Jones presented his report (copy attached).
 - i) S.Hallett requested that the Rural Spatial Strategy process and documentation be made simpler to follow. Possibly through a flowchart or similar means that gave an overview of the exercise and signposted where data, information and decision points fit in. M.Jones to raise this with the Director of Planning.
 - 7) Meeting dates for 2023 fixed for:
 - Wednesday 1st February
 - Wednesday 3rd May
 - Wednesday 2nd August
 - Wednesday 1st NovemberAll at 6.30pm in the Community Hall

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Col Edwards
Chairman
1 Feb 2023

November 2022 Ward Councillor Report

The council current planning five year land supply figures have been reported at a healthy 6.19 years. But this figure has been challenged in a recent appeal by a house builder who have had their application turned down on the grounds of the current five year land supply figures. The council have submitted all the necessary data to government and are confident that the current building land supply figures are correct given the amount of housing completions in 2021-2022. The outcome of this data collection figures will be released in February 2023.

The first phosphate stripping wetland at Luston is still not ready for use. This is running some 4 months behind schedule and currently holding up many building projects affected by the phosphates contaminating the river Lugg. A second site at Titley has now been purchased by the council to form the next settlement pond of which there are eight planned. These sites are not easy to find as they have to be located near a water treatment plant. The main sources of Phosphate pollution come from the following sources.

72% Agriculture diffuse pollution run off

23% Sewage Treatment works

5% Highways run off

A cabinet commission has been set up to undertake a more strategic led review of river quality working closely with Powys and Monmouthshire Council.

The council has secured government funding for £22.4 million for the stronger Towns Fund. £3.5 million of this is for moving the Library to Maylord Orchard and redeveloping this area and £18 million for the development of the world class Museum visitor attraction. There will also be funding coming from the council to top up the funds for these exciting projects.

There are currently 499 Ukrainian people living in sponsored accommodation in Herefordshire. They are housed in 185 properties across the county. Central government pays Hereford Council £10,500 on their arrival in the county. £200 of this is given to each person and the rest is used to cover the costs of housing and associated costs.

The council has currently £106.1 million pounds in reserves, £96.5 million is earmarked reserves and £9.6 million is used as a general fund balancer. The council have released some money from reserves to move some projects further forward. £1.2 million for 20mph speed limits outside all schools, £0.6 million to push through the T.R.O back log and £1 million to the feasibility of the Eastern River crossing Bridge.

Free school meal vouchers have been made available to some 4,600 children across the county for the October half term; £15.00 meal vouchers are allocated to low income families. These are claimed through their schools which the pupils attend. This small amount has been questioned as to whether £3.00 per day is adequate given the current rate of inflation. The allocation for this school holiday period was decided some six months ago before the current cost of living crisis and inflationary pressures.

Councillor Michael Jones