

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Grimley Parish Council

Monday 26th Sept 2022, 7.30pm
Peace Hall, Sinton Green

98/22	<p>Present: Parish Cllrs D Stanley (Chair), A Bretherton (Deputy), P Ayers, G Probert.</p> <p>Attending: DCllr Dean Clarke, Parish Clerk Lisa Stevens, 1 visitor from outside the parish.</p> <p>Apologies: Parish Cllrs A Atkinson, J Izamis, G Moore, S Wilson, CCllr S Richardson Brown to arrive mid meeting.</p>	
99/22	<p>1 minute pause for reflection upon the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.</p> <p>Welcome and information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting.</p>	
100/22	<p>Public open forum. Open forum does not form a legal part of the meeting. Nil</p>	
101/22	<p>Declarations of interest. Cllr Izamis as resident, item Monkwood Green request for pollarding of willows.</p>	
102/22	<p>Minutes of previous meetings – Motion to approve previous minutes. 18th July 2022. Prps: PA. Scnd: AB. Duly approved</p>	
103/22	<p>To receive the report of the County Councillor – Scott Richardson Brown. <i>CCllr Richardson Brown arrived later in the evening. His report is recorded here for consistency.</i> Issues of overgrown verges at Monk Wood and overgrown hedge on Grimley village approach road are being chased by himself. The Clerk was instructed to resend information and evidence photos to CCllr. The road from Sinton to Wichenford is going to be resurfaced over the next few months. A grant towards wifi at the Peace Hall (£600 divisional funding) is proceeding. Debate on potential impact that focus on food production will have on wildlife. Parish cllrs received information on the ELMs initiative (environmental land management schemes). CCllr noted a 60% loss of biodiversity (decline in population) since 1970 in the UK and worldwide.</p>	Clerk
104/22	<p>To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke. Congratulations to Cllr Stanley for the reading of the declaration of the accession of King Charles III at the church. Film night at the Peace Hall went well. SWDP going to be published for comment imminently. Boundary review published results were pleasing and cllrs felt that the results were of benefit to the parish.</p>	
105/22	<p>Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications.</p>	
a.	<p>M/22/00476/FUL Simberton Bungalow, Monkwood Green, WR2 6NX, Replacement dwelling and garaging. Mr & Mrs J Pritchard. Cllrs considered that this application would improve the property and the look of the local area. Motion to support this application subject to absent cllrs being given the opportunity to view. Prps: GP. Scnd: PA. Duly approved.</p>	Clerk

106/22	<p>Infrastructure, highway matters, drainage and flooding To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
<p>a. i. ii. b. c. d.</p>	<p>Dangerous driving. Request of static signs/vehicle activated signs from Highways. The Clerk reported that Highways are not minded to install additional signage as there is insufficient statistics of accidents to justify at this stage. The Clerk was instructed to write to Highways and report the overgrown hedges along that section, which may reduce the problem. Option for speed tubes was debated but rejected since these can only be effectively used in 30mph zones.</p> <p>Initiating community speed watch within the three villages. Clerk has submitted information to WCC and is awaiting a response.</p> <p>Noticeboard at Peace Hall. Cllr Bretherton to chase Committee input on preferred choice and request of them a deadline of 3 months for options to be presented to the council.</p> <p>Flooding in road outside Church Farm, Grimley. T.Crake at WCC reports that the proposed solution is to put a soakaway in the corner of the field on the Top Barn land along with new roadside drains. Highways are in talks with the landowners. No timescales.</p> <p>Eroded grass verge Oak Hall Green (Oak Hall Farm Barn). CCllr Richardson Brown to receive information on this issue if no satisfactory response received by Highways by next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Bretherton</p> <p>Clerk</p>
107/22	<p>Commons and Village Greens To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
<p>a. b. i</p>	<p><u>Sinton Green.</u> Update as required. No recent mowing invoice due to hot weather.</p> <p><u>Monkwood Green.</u> Management update. Pond maintenance. Strimming round petty whin. To note additional petty whin plants identified. This now takes the total protected plants to 47 (15 in 2015). Parish Cllrs asked that their thanks be passed to residents for all the volunteer work recently and for the work to assist in commissioning local contractors, including around the pond. This work has saved the parish council and the community hundreds of pounds and has really made a difference to future ease of maintenance, particularly around the pond. Cllrs considered the option of a five year/ten year plan. A five year plan was considered in theory an excellent and cost effective idea, once outstanding key management actions had been dealt with, including those roads that have not yet had potholes filled (the worst have now been attended to, with resident assistance) and key sections of ditches alongside residential properties. The Clerk offered to come up with a list of critical actions on the common that require attention first and then address this in the next budget. The Clerk noted that Cllr Wilson and herself had inspected the willow in the pond (beyond the Fox) and noted probable need for pollarding, maybe next year. The resident Commoners Association should be involved in any future plans. Dates for future meeting with residents were not discussed. Local Monkwood newsletter seems to be received positively and can be used to keep all informed – thanks to Cllr Wilson for this work.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

ii.	<p>Request from resident regarding pollarding of willows adjacent to farm buildings. The Clerk and Cllr Wilson had been to inspect and found nothing too alarming, beyond a general non-urgent need for pollarding. Volunteers had already worked to remove the worst of the branches. Cllrs agreed that the parish council did not have the funds to undertake this work in this financial year. Prps: AB. Scnd: PA. The resident is welcome to provide additional information.</p>	
iii.	<p>Motion to approve release of reserved divisional funds (in reserve since 2005) for pond maintenance up to £800. Prps: PA. Scnd: AB. Duly approved.</p>	
iv.	<p>Motion to retrospectively approve strimming round anthills £14.50 per hour (inclusive of £1 per hour for petrol) Sinton contractors, within annual budget. Prps: PA. Scnd: AB. Duly approved.</p>	
v.	<p>Motion to issue <u>replacement</u> cheques to B.Prosser as per appendix 1 due to water damage and mice damage to originals in the possession of the recipient. Clerk confirmed that she now has the original cheques in her possession. Prps: PA. Scnd: AB. Cheques were signed and passed to Cllr Ayers for passing to B.Prosser.</p>	
vi.	<p>Request from Butterfly Conservation Trust to display educational notices in Monkwood Green Bus shelter. Prps: DS. Scnd: AB. Duly Approved</p>	
vii.	<p>Rosedene/Severn Trent connection to water supplies. It was noted with satisfaction that this work has now been completed.</p>	
108/22	<p>Reports from other Projects and Representatives To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Climate emergency. Cllr volunteers to review parish council declaration of a climate emergency. Comments had been received from Cllr Izamis. Plastics scheme received some interest from Cllrs. Cllr Stanley continues to hold talks with the primary school.</p>	All Cllrs Clerk
b.	<p>Two oak saplings in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II. Decision for future care. Peace Hall has agreed to take one oak. Cllrs approved the idea of a commemorative plaque and a tree guard. Cllr Bretherton to take these options to the Peace Hall and ask what plaque they would like. Locations for other oaks included Sinton Green village green near Allan Bretherton's house, one on Monkwood Green (Cllr Wilson could ask the residents) and Cllr Stanley to ask the church. No immediate rush as the oaks will need maturing first.</p>	Clerk Cllr Wilson Cllr Bretherton
c.	<p>Broadband projects update Grimley, Monkwood Green and Sinton Green. All projects finished with thanks to all. Clerk to include list of specific named persons to thank in the next parish newsletter.</p>	
d.	<p>Defibrillators (Monkwood Green phone box, Grimley village phone box, Peace Hall side of building).</p>	
i.	<p>Peace Hall defib to be installed 4th October 2022.</p>	

ii	Grimley phone box overhead light fixture replacement update and Motion to accept invoice for £84.00 backdated for new unit and full testing. Defib not affected. Prps: AB. Scnd: PA. Duly approved .	
iii.	Training dates. Likely end of November/ beginning of December. Clerk to continue to try to book trainer.	Clerk
e.	Peace Hall Management Committee update. Invoice for annual hall hire due shortly for £350. The new committee booking clerk was welcomed to the role.	
f.	Lengthsman. Clerk to continue to chase for outstanding quarterly jobs, including gutters in Grimley village and hedge around noticeboard.	Clerk
g.	Churchyard volunteers. Cllrs gave thanks to all volunteers. The churchyard continues to see great improvement thanks to all their hard work. £215 remains of the County Council divisional fund held in reserve by the parish council.	
h.	Grimley Smaller Charities. No update.	
i.	Police. No update.	
<i>CCLlr Scott Richardson Brown arrived at this point. His comments are reported above.</i>		
109/22	Finance and Administration To formulate Motions not requiring written notice	
a.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Appendix1. Carried. Prps: AB. Scnd: GP.	
b.	To consider and retrospectively approve payment of urgent accounts, as per emergency Clerk procedures (Delegation to Clerk policy). Appendix 2. Carried. Prps: GP. Scnd: PA.	
c.	To receive and motion to accept August Bank Reconciliation 2022 and quarterly report. Prps: PA. Scnd: GP.	
d.	To note likely cost of May 2023 parish cllr scheduled election, if contested, has been quoted as £397.80 and so current budget of £500 is adequate. Duly noted.	
e.	To note that external auditors will raise an 'except for' matter on the 2021/2022 audit. Clerk inputted the insurance/replacement value of parish council assets rather than the purchase value. Duly noted.	Clerk
f.	Approval for purchase of wreath from Royal legion (£20) or source eco-friendly option. Prps: GP. Scnd: PA. Duly carried.	
110/22	Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda. Saved items pending an update: a. 'No Parking' sign at Grimley lower triangle in order to preserve reserving space for buses. Clerk continues to chase.	Clerk

111/22	<p>Date of next scheduled meeting Monday 24th October at the Peace Hall, Sinton Green, 7.30pm. The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting, which will be the annual meeting of Grimley Parish Council. <i>This meeting was subsequently rearranged to the 31st October 2022.</i></p>
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Appendix 1 – Invoices/payments to be made (or date paid if contracted payment)

Mr W.Prosser	Invoice number 1 emergency ditch work. Replacement cheque 001341	£420.00	VAT nil.
Mr W.Prosser	Invoice number 3 ditch work. Replacement cheque 001340.	£2450.00	VAT nil.
Mr R. Poole	Invoice 0030. Mowing and care of MWGreen Common	£2000.40	VAT £333.40
Mr R. Poole	Invoice 0031. Mowing of verges and clearing of visibility splay.	£120.00	VAT £20.00
Mr S.Skeys	Lengthsman worksheet received 09 Sept 2022. Claimed from WCC 13/09/2022	£187.00	VAT nil.
Water Plus	Trough MWGreen water bill quarterly. 7001926124 14 Sept 2022	£36.95	VAT nil.
Nest pensions	September payment for August 2022 wage.	£40.35	VAT nil.
Mrs L.Stevens	Clerk wages June 2022. As per contract of 12 hours per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil.
Mrs L.Stevens	Expenses August and Sept 2022	£40.98	VAT £8.99

Appendix 2 - Invoices/payments previously made under delegation to clerk policy.

22/07/2022	Information Commissioners	Annual subscription for data protection insurance.	£40.00
22/07/2022	Mr. W Prosser	Test to verify bank details. Payment failed and was reimbursed to PC. Cheques issued instead. Cheques subsequently receive water damage with recipient. Replacement cheque issued Appendix 1.	£5.00
10/08/2022	Parochial church council ('PCC of Grimley')	Divisional Grant from WCC transferred from care of PC.	£350.00
25/08/2022	SMB Electrical Solutions Ltd	Invoice received via email 11 Aug 2022. Phone box light repairs.	£84.00
25/08/2022	Mr S.Skeys	Mowing invoice dated 31st July, received 21st Aug.	£80.00
25/08/2022	Mr S.Skeys	Lengthsman worksheets received 21st Aug 2022. Claimed from WCC 25/08/2022	£170.00
Cheque issued and confirmed receipt.	Mrs S.Wilson	To be distributed to residents as reimbursement for individual hire of contractor ref pothole filling.	£345.00
25/08/2022	Mrs L.Stevens	Monthly Expenses Aug 2022	£39.45
11/08/2022	Nest Pensions	August payment for July 2022 wage.	£40.35
25/08/2022	Mrs L.Stevens	Monthly wage July 2022.	£553.42

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