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### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 09 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM IN MARKFIELD LIBRARY

Councillors Present: M Bowler  
S Browning  
M Burrows  
K Crook  
B Gannon  
C Harris  
L Norris  
K Senkpiehl  
D Sprason  
S Taylor

Officers Present: Locum Clerk

Members of the Public: 1 - Borough Councillor Chris Lambert

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#### **118. Apologies**

Councillor Norris anticipated being late but sent her apologies for absence should her other commitment overrun. Councillor Norris's apologies were not required.

#### **119. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Burrows, Harris, Senkpiehl and Taylor declared non-pecuniary interests for agenda item 10, minute 127. The Councillors reserved the right to speak to the agenda item but would not vote.

#### **120. Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting from 05 December 2023 with a minor amendment. The minutes were signed by the Chairman

#### **121. Public Participation**

Members of the public present made no representations

#### **122. County and Borough Councillors**

Borough Councillor Chris Lambert time has been taken up with planning matters and he voiced his support for the Launde Road dog park path extension.

County Councillor Peter Bedford was unable to attend the meeting.

Borough Councillor Claire Harris raised the recent successful action by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council parking enforcement in deterring people from parking their cars on the verges around the Croft Way area. The Police have also been active over parking in the library during school hours.

**123. Committee Minutes**

- a) Councillor Sprason spoke to the Planning and Highways minutes from 12 December 2023. The minutes were **NOTED**.
- b) Councillor Bowler spoke to the Policy and Resources minutes from 21 December 2023. An amendment to a voting abstention was raised and would be amended before the next meeting. The minutes were **NOTED**.

**124. Precept for the year ending 31 March 2025**

Council **NOTED** the Council Tax band D household figure of £101.50.

**125. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Councillor Bowler provided an update on the way forward for the group following the release of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) before Christmas. Neighbourhood Plans would stand on their own merit rather than being weakened because for example the borough council cannot demonstrate a 5 year land supply. Their strength would also be extended to 5 years from 2 years provided housing sites were included.

A meeting with Hinckley & Bosworth Planning Policy Team had been requested as clarity is required on the position of taking Leicester City Councils overspill, the progress of the Local Plan and when the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) will be released. The Steering Group is pressing ahead with the refresh of the Neighbourhood Plan because it also has concerns over Charnwood Borough Council's planning applications that border Markfield and which impact the Markfield community. Councillor Bowler and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's Planning Consultant will attend the meeting with the Policy Team.

**126. Rural Prosperity Fund**

Council **NOTED** the grant award of £14,565 from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Rural Prosperity Fund toward the completion of the path extension at the Launde Road Dog Park. Councillors Burrows and Harris were thanked for their work.

**127. Launde Road Dog Park**

Council discussed the merits of the quotations as all three contractors were known and had supplied services to the Council. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with quote 3. Councillors Burrows, Harris, Senkpiehl and Taylor did not vote.

**128. JPF Playing Fields**

Council **NOTED** Sporting Markfield Club Ltd grant application to Howden's for a new kitchen at the Pavilion.

**129. Community Centre Lease**

Council **NOTED** the completion of the lease. Operational meetings and reporting to the Policy & Resources committee and Council are being put in place.

**130. Clerk Vacancy**

Council **NOTED** the updated advertisement and job description. It acknowledged that it needed to secure the services of a new clerk rather than extend the tenure of its locum clerk service and the responsible financial officer had indicated that they will be retiring at the end of the financial year.

**131. LCC Budget Proposal Consultation**

Council **NOTED** the consultation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 2A (as amended by the Local Government Act (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 1992, Paragraphs 1. 2 and 6.

**132. Insurance Claim**

Council **RESOLVED** to act upon the advice received from its insurance company

Councillor Norris joined the meeting

The Locum Clerk left the meeting

**133. Staffing**

Council **RESOLVED** that the same employer pension contribution be made for the staff member backdated to their start date.

The meeting finished at 8:50pm

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_