**Minutes of Hathern Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th December, 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in**

**The Village Hall;**

**Present**: Councillors: Murdoch. Bennett, Clayton, Fuller, Farmer, Smith, Mrs. Spencer – clerk

 County Councillor B. Newton, P.C. J. Parker and Beat Officer Mick, and 8 members of the

 Public.

**Apologies:**

 These were received from Borough Councillor J. Kedchen.

**Declarations of Interest**:

 None were declared.

**Police Matters:**

 Since the last meeting there has ben 8 incidents – 3 criminal damage, 3 thefts, 1

 vehicle crime, and 1 burglary.

**To receive reports from Borough or County Councillors:**

 Betty Newton reported that the blocked gulley has still not been repaired.

 There was a Beat Surgery held recently with the Police but no members of the

 public turned up.

**Public Participation**;

 No issues were raised.

 The Minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record.

**HPC Property/ Assets**;

 ***Grounds Maintenance Schedule April 2024 to March 2028/Verges Schedule;***

 The tender has now been drawn up and is ready to go out to interested

 parties. It will be advertised on Facebook and the website.

**Hathern Woodland**;

 ***Signage:***

 We have got a quote for £66.00 + VAT for a sign. This quote was accepted.

**Policy reviews:**

 ***Data Protection***:

 This policy has been reviewed and with a few amendments the new one has been

 adopted.

 ***Coe of Conduct***:

 This policy has not been amended since 2012. However after reading through it

 it is still fit for purpose. This will be adopted and put on the website.

**Laurie’s Lane**:

 ***Street Lighting:***

 We are still waiting for a quote from LCC before we can move forward with this

 project.

**Daisy Bank**:

 ***Jubilee/Memorial seat:***

 We have got one quote and we are waiting for two more before moving forward

 with this project.

**Planning Matters:**

 ***P/23/2180/2;***

 The Parish Council need to respond to this consultation before Christmas.

 ***P/23/ 0379/2***

 We need to respond to this consultation with materialistic issues only.

**Financial Matters**:

 ***Banking Mandate:***

 At long last the new bank mandate is in place for Barclays Bank.

 ***Allotment Rents***:

 After discussion it was agreed that we would not raise the allotment rents

 for 2024.

 ***2024/25 Budget***:

 This was discussed in great detail at the F. & GP meeting and it was proposed

 that we increase the precept by 3%, this means that the precept would be £50,000.

 This proposal was voted on unanimously.

 ***2022/23 Audit:***

 This has now been completed.

 ***Accounts for payment:***

 The following invoices were approved and cheques drawn:

 M. & BG GM Contract 797.50

 M.& BG. GM Contract 797.50

 MRA Daisy Bank work 889.44

 Hathern Library Delivering Hathern Herald 150.00

 Moore Auditors Audit work 378.00

 Water Plus Water rates 23.19

 Hathern Rec. Assoc. Hire of hall 144.00

 Hathern W.I. Small grant claim 63.99

 Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath 50.00

 M. Spencer Clerks expenses 195.64

 K. Lawson Gardening work 550.00

 Hathern Library Donation 1500.00

**Correspondence:**

 We have received 2 applications for additional inscriptions – these were approved.

 An application was received from the Sunday Junior Football Team to hire out

 the pitch, this was approved and they would be charged £12.50 per match.

 The Wildlife Group but in an application for a small grant of £350 to help towards

 costs in purchasing small items I.e. bird boxes etc . The Group are in the process

 of applying for s Shire Grant towards theses costs. This grant was approved and a

 cheque will be paid at the next meeting.

 Ben Hardy has submitted a hiring agreement form to hire out one of our gazebos

 For the winter months for outside cover in the courtyard. This was approved once

 all the correct insurance cover is in place and the proposed charges are agreed.

 The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.