Minutes of Hathern Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26th February at 7.30 p.m. In the Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors Murdoch, Clayton, Smith and Fuller, Mrs. Spencer – clerk. 5 members of the Public and County Councillor B. Newton.

Apologies:

These were received from Parish Councillors Bennett and Farmer and Borough Councillors Monk and Jadejda.

Declarations of Interest:

None were declared.

Police Matters:

Since the last meeting there was a theft from a property in Gladstone Street and a vehicle crime on Matthew Trigge Close.

To receive and reports/comments from District and County Councillors:

Councillor Newton had recently attended a Beat Surgery but no one came along. The on-going flooding problems on the A6 are still being investigated but little progress is being made. Also mentioned loneliness amongst residents (this was picked up below)

Public Participation:

There is a problem of loneliness in the village and a local resident mentioned the Church Coffee Morning held every Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. as a possible help to lonely residents. It was agreed that the flooding problem is getting worse. Persimmon are supposed to be arranging a site meeting regarding the balancing ponds because when we get heavy rain they appear to always be dry.

Highways and Footpaths:

The bridge over the ditch at The Stints has been damaged and this needs reporting to LCC. A padlock need putting on a gate from the Stint’s to the natural burial ground and some fence need repairing at the natural burial ground.

Tip Closure:

It has been agreed by LCC that Shepshed Tip will remain open for two days per week.

PC Property/Assets:

GM Tenders;

We had 8 enquiries for the tender contract and 3 were submitted for consideration. The contract is for four years commencing on 1st April, 2024;

The quotes were from Roma Landscapes, MRA and M&BG Ltd. Roma Landscapes:- GM Contract £7,000, Grass verges £1,100 Daisy Bank £3,300.

MRA:- GM Contract £10,173.96 Grass verges £4,426.80 Daisy Bank £6,881.40

M&BG Ltd:- GM Contract £7,695 Grass verges £1,075.00 Daisy Bank £6,500.00

These figures are all plus VAT. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that we offer MRA the contract for Daisy Bank and M&BG Ltd the contract for Grounds Maintenance and LCC Grass verges. This decision was proposed by Councillor Clayton, seconded by Councillor Fuller and voted on unanimously.

Gardening Contract:

Kim’s Gardening Contract is up for renewal. We have suggested that the contract is in line with GM Contracts (4 yearly). Kim has informed us that her charges will rise to £15.00 per hour from £10.00.

Councillor Clayton proposed that we accept these new changes, this was seconded by Councillor Fuller and voted on unanimously.

Tree Inspections:

This work has been carried out by LCC and we have got a report on the work that needs to be done. We are to ask LCC to carry out the tree work and Chris Betts to remove all the stakes and ties.

Poppies for the Village:

It was agreed that we would purchase 150 poppies to put up around the village for Remembrance Weekend. These will be ordered when stock is available. Councillor Clayton will monitor the stock availability.

Laurie’s Lane Fence:

Councillor Murdoch had a meeting with the residents of the property on 3rd February, the post that is leaning is stable at the moment so we will monitor the situation.

Hathern Woodland Signage:

The sign is now in place.

Policy Reviews:

Standing Orders:

This has been reviewed and there were no amendments necessary so this will now be adopted.

Freedom of Information:

This has been reviewed and councillor Farmer has made some amendments these amendments were approved so this will now be adopted.

Daisy Bank:

Jubilee/Memorial seat:

MRA’s quote for this work was accepted. The donated seat has been paid for and will be delivered on 18th March. It was a greed that a Rowan tree to be planted in this area, This tree was one of the 10 tree the council obtained for free from LCC, kindly collected and housed for the time by the wildlife group. Councillor Murdoch thanked them for this.

Daisy Bank Orchard:

The Wildlife Group would like to create a small orchard just off of the entrance to Daisy Bank from Rowan Av. Councillors have no problem with this

Planning Matters:

P/23/2256/2 – Change of use of outbuilding (gym/office) to hairdressing salon.

We have no objections to this application.

P/24/0108/2 – Dismantle and like for like rebuild chimney stack and associated roof repairs:

We have no objections to this application.

Financial Matters;

Accounts for payment:

The following invoices were approved and cheques drawn:

B. Hardy Hathern Herald £750.00

MRA Group Contract work Daisy Bank £551.68

M&BG Ltd Contract work £797.50

Sign Shop Woodland Sign £79.20

M. Spencer Clerks expenses £304.27

C. Betts 5 invoices £1026.50

LCC Tree survey £2382.00

Clerks salary:

The clerks annual salary in line with NALC guidelines will be increased by £624.32 per year backdated to 1 st April, 2023.

Correspondence:

Our website hosted by 2 Commune has been taken over by Cuttlefish. Councillor Clayton will sign all the necessary paperwork. We will have to look out for the renewal premium in October to check and change in costs.

Meting closed at 8.15 p.m.