

**Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council, Yaxley Parish Council  
held via Zoom on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

Present:- Councillor R Butcher - Chairman.

Councillors E Gilchrist, K Gulson, J Lusted, S McMullon, G Needham, M Oliver, D Porteous, P Russell, S Sanderson and A Wood.

In attendance – Mrs H Taylor (Clerk), District Councillor Eric Butler and Reg Bingham.

**FC109. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence from the meeting was received and accepted on behalf of Councillor D Paice (work).

**FC110. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor K Gulson declared a pecuniary interest in item FC116 by virtue of being a partner of a named payee in the orders for payment and did not speak or vote on the item.

**FC111. MINUTES**

Councillor P Russell proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This was seconded by Councillor S Sanderson and unanimously **RESOLVED.**

**FC112. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Bingham sought clarification over the Parish Council's tree policy particularly relating to the replanting of trees as he was concerned over the health and loss of trees in the village. He felt that there had been a number of mature trees lost, particularly in the Recreation Ground and that trees were viewed upon as liabilities rather than assets and were not recognised for their health benefit. The Clerk assured the meeting that this was not the case and referred to the Parish Council's tree policy and the work carried out every year to maintain the Council's tree stock as well as the expenditure thereon. Mention also was made of the creation of the orchard in the Recreation Ground including the planting of 80 fruit trees and the recommendations of the latest tree report from the Arboriculturist which had highlighted a small number of trees for felling and replacement. The Clerk explained that these trees were young trees that had bark wounds and that they had not been felled yet as replacement trees had not been sought and until such time these trees would remain. In response to which Mr Bingham suggested that the replanting of these trees should not be left to volunteers to do and that the grounds team should be the ones to replace them as this would commit them to the trees, however he added that he would like to be involved in the process. In the discussions that ensued Members outlined the Council's approach to tree maintenance and the standards adopted by the Council including regularly reviewing the tree policy and annual tree inspections. Mention also was made of the good relationship between the Parish Council and the Yaxley Countryside Volunteers and the various initiatives both parties were working on together.

District Councillor E R Butler reported that since the last meeting he has been concentrating on the flooding issues effecting the village down in the fens under the railway arch. He explained that most of the flooding had been due to mechanical problems with one pump not being able to pump out the drains. He also referred to the continued presence of Anglian Water at the pumping station on the junction of Main Street and Windsor Road. Councillor K Gulson reported that the local flooding on the streets was down to the drains being blocked and that he would be reporting this to Cambridgeshire County Council.

**FC113. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Members received details of a resident wishing to be considered for co-option to the Parish Council. The applicant had been asked a series of questions to determine their suitability as a Parish Councillor and had confirmed their eligibility as detailed in S79 of the Local Government Act 1972. Councillor K Gulson backed the application adding that the applicant had become interested in joining the Parish Council whilst volunteering with the Community Fridge. Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor K Gulson and seconded by Councillor S Sanderson that Mr Alan Minns be co-opted to the Parish Council and this was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

**FC114. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE**

The Clerk reported that meetings would continue to be held via zoom. Members' attention was then drawn to the requirement for attendance at meetings and the special circumstances that may lead to the revoking of the six consecutive months rule, as set out in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was reported that Councillor D Paice had not been able to attend meetings during the past six months due to being a key worker but that she still wished to remain on the Parish Council. Under the circumstances, it was proposed by Councillor A Wood that a special dispensation be given to Councillor Paice of an extension of 6 months with a review in June 2021. This was seconded by Councillor K Gulson and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

**FC115. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

Councillors received and noted the contents of the Bank Reconciliation Statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book).

**FC116. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

The schedule of payments made since the previous meeting, which included details of the purchase ledger cheques requiring payment, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was proposed by Councillor D Porteous, seconded by Councillor P Russell and **RESOLVED** by a vote to be paid.

**FC117. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chairman reported that his enquiries to Cambridgeshire Constabulary regarding a reduction in police presence in the village were still ongoing.

Councillor K Gulson thanked all those involved in the Community Fridge which had distributed 2 tonnes of food over the Christmas period. With an increase in the amounts of food being collected it had been decided to increase the opening times of the fridge which would now be Wednesdays and Fridays 10.30 to 11.30am.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed .....

Chairman.