**PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2017**

**Present:** Councillors’: Cllr. Jowett (Chairman), Cllr. Hacketpain, Cllr. Fletcher, Cllr. Amsden, Cllr. Brooks, District Cllr Amsden.

Clerk: Lynn Watkinson and one member of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

None

1. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 15/02/2017**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1. **To declare Councillors’ interests in items on the agenda**

None

1. **Clerk’s Report, matters arising and follow up since the last meeting**

The clerk’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read. Points discussed further included:

**Electronic Planning**

Councillors felt that viewing of plans on a laptop screen would not be adequate and would affect their ability to consider the planning applications. The Clerk was asked to send an email to Peter Featherstone expressing their concerns.

The Clerk was asked to invite Peter Featherstone to attend either a meeting either prior to a Parish Council meeting or as a separate meeting with representatives from other parishes.

**Section 137**

Cllrs asked for clarification of section137.

This was defined as an expenditure, capped by National Government, that allows the Parish Council to incur exceptional expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of all or some of the community but the benefit must be proportionate to the expenditure.

**Barclays Bank**

Staff at the Leyburn Branch have contacted the correct people to progress Cllr Brooks PinSentry access to the account.

The Clerk confirmed the address for the account had been changed however statements were not being received and would be required to complete the year end accounts. Cllr Brooks could access statements and would forward these to the clerk.

**Precept**

Council Tax bills were being issued showing the precept percentage increase as 5%. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification of the precept figure.

1. **To consider dates for the annual village maintenance day.**

As only one member of the public has offered assistance it was agreed to defer a decision and raise the issue again at the village meeting.

1. **To approve the following for inclusion in our Financial Regulations with immediate effect:**

“The Council hereby delegates full authority to the Chairman to agree to requests from the Clerk for approval of work in excess of 15 hours in a month, subject to the Chair being satisfied that the requests are fully justified and that the Council has the funds to pay for those additional hours

***RESOLVED: to include the above passage in the Financial Regulations with immediate effect.***

1. **Cashbook and Quarterly Review**

Cllrs were happy with the layout of the cashbook.

***RESOLVED: to include a comments column to explain material variances in the figures.***

1. **Finance**

Opening Balances: 01/03/2017

Current Account Balance: £3,213.84

Savings Account Balance: £2,226.19

***RESOLVED: the following items were approved for payment and the cheques were signed:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payee | Item | Reference Number | Cheque No | Amount |
| Lynn Watkinson | Salary Feb | 6 | 100472 | 15 hours |
| Jan Jowett | Batteries | 7 | 100473 | £4.99 |
| Lynn Watkinson | Book 12 2nd Class Stamps | 8 | 100474 | £6.60 |

1. **Planning**

The following planning had been received since circulation of the agenda, with a deadline of 27thMarch.

**17/00058/FULL**

Full Planning Permission for Single Storey Rear Extension at Preston Mill Cottage, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire.

***RESOLVED: Clerk to request an extension to allow for proper consideration of the plans.***

**An update on previous planning applications is as follows:**

None

1. **Discuss items for the April agenda**

Consider David Ashforth continuing as Internal Auditor.

Consider approving updated financial regulations

Set date for village meeting.

**Date and time of the next meeting: *7.00pm Wednesday 19th April 2017***

**Meeting closed 7:50**

**Signed …………………………………………… Date ……………………….**