

Minutes of the Meeting of The Calbourne Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016  
at Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall

Present, C Weeks, H Blackwood, P Pike, R Mathrick, Ward Councillor S Hutchinson, S Caws (Interim Clerk) and H Flaherty Clerk.

**1/16 The resignation of Mr VJ Thompson and appointment of Mrs Helen Flaherty**

Mr Thompson's resignation was resolved and Mrs Helen Flaherty was formally appointed Clerk to Calbourne Parish Council and Responsible Financial Officer. The terms of the Clerks Contract were discussed and it was resolved that expenses will continue to be paid at the same rate as with the former Clerk. The Clerk will investigate whether mileage to monthly meetings can be claimed. It was also announced that the Chairman Mr Peter Turner had resigned from the Council, it was resolved that Councillor Pike will stand in as Chairman until the Annual Meeting proposed by Councillor Weeks and seconded by Councillor Blackwood.

**2/16: Apologies and declarations of interest**

There were no apologies. Councillor Weeks declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding the bus survey as she works for Southern Vectis.

**3/16: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**4/16: Ward Councillor report**

It was reported that budget cuts are still a burning issue, some 17.5 million needs to be cut from discretionary services in order for the obliged statutory services to be provided. Central Government are allowing a 3.9% increase in council tax which will raise 3 million, however it is anticipated that money will need to be taken from reserves. Whilst it will be possible to set a legal budget this year there is some concern that this will not be able to happen next year as there could be no discretionary services left to cut. A letter has been written to Marcus Jones the Minister for Communities highlighting the unique situation of the Isle of Wight. The Isle of Wight is the lowest performing economy in the South East, being an Island means it costs more to do business, it's too small to really be classified as a county. In affect it is more akin to being a District Council but is saddled with the extra powers of a County Council. County Hall are awaiting a response from this letter detailing the points mentioned but cannot wait too long, as their budget needs to be prepared from 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**5/16 Matters arising not requiring a resolution and Clerks report**

Pension for the new Clerk was discussed and it was agreed that contributions shall continue at the same rate, the Clerk will choose a plan to be formally resolved at the next meeting.

A letter was read requesting a donation from the Parish to the Armed Forces Day, the Clerk will look up the donation from the previous year and the matter will be resolved at the next meeting.

A letter was read out from the National Association of Local Councils encouraging Town and Parish Councils to light a Beacon in celebration of the Queen's Birthday, it was agreed that if residents wanted to do something to mark this occasion they will most likely arrange it themselves.

A letter was read out informing the Parish Council that the Tree Carving will no longer be taking place and the donation of £50 will be returned. Councillor Pike suggested this be added to the Armed Forces Day donation, the Clerk will investigate how the donation was paid request any monies if paid are returned.

Councillor Weeks reported she had been approached for a donation to restore the roof and tower at All Saints, a rough estimate of repairs was stated to be £30,000 -£45,000. Councillor Weeks will get the figures, the Clerk will check through the previous minutes to see if Newton Church was given a donation and the matter will be resolved at the next meeting.

#### **6/16 Matters arising requiring a resolution**

It was resolved to keep the precept at its current figure of £13,500. It was resolved to appoint Val Taylor as the Internal Auditor. It was resolved that the Clerk will ascertain the feasibility of a pop up Post Office. It was resolved that Island Roads be contacted regarding potholes regarding traffic in School Lane, Councillor Weeks will report bad driving directly to Tesco. It was resolved that Beacon Property services will be instructed by the Clerk to undertake works to the roof at Porchfield Village Hall. The responses from the Bus Survey have not yet been analysed this matter will be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **7/16 To Consider Accounts for Payment**

Payments for December and January totalling £1906.92 were resolved to be paid.

#### **8/16 Financial information**

Councillors approved Statements of receipts and payment up to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 on statement number 76 showing a balance of £14,828.13 with a cash book balance of £12717.48

#### **9/16 To receive the Councillors written reports**

None received

#### **10/16 Planning**

Application No: LBC/32524 - P/01407/15

Location: Frogwell, Westover, Calbourne, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO304JL

Proposal: To make structurally safe the later extension to the main house, known as the Dairy. To make this a usable space compliant with current Regulations.

There were no objections to this application.

**11/16 Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

It was resolved that the next meeting will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at Calbourne Recreation Ground.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm