

**Minutes of the Meeting of Caldecott Parish Council held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present 2023/01** Cllr McCole (Acting Chair), Bennett, Hook, Kendrick, Parker and Wood, Mrs Medwell (Clerk), County Cllr Andrew Brown and 1 member of the public.

**Apologies 2023/02** Cllr MacDermott - Approved

**Declarations 2023/03** Cllr McCole declared an interest in item 2023/09 (b)  
There were no changes to the Member's Register of Interests.

**Open Forum and Exchange of Information 2023/04** There was nothing raised under this item

Meeting closed to the public.

**Minutes 2023/05** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Bennett      Seconded Cllr Kendrick

**Matters Arising 2023/06** The signs advertising the funding for the playpark and the names of those holding the code for the key safe have been received. Cllr Parker will arrange to have them put up and will test the bollards to make sure they are working properly following a report of a fault from a member of the public.

AP

**Council Vacancies 2023/07** **Co-option of New Councillor** - The Council **agreed** to co-opt Mr Bob Hook to fill the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of John Richmond.

Proposed Cllr McCole      Seconded Cllr Parker      All in favour

Cllr Hook duly completed and signed the Members Register of Interest and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the clerk.

**Highways 2023/08** **Footpath** – The Council noted the response from Leicestershire Highways following the request for a footpath along the A6003. This stated that whilst it valued the idea, regrettably, the County Council does not have the financial level of resource required to look at such a project in isolation at present but will consider it when exploring opportunities to deliver walking infrastructure improvements in the future.

**Village Speed Deterrent Options** – The Council was pleased to note that it had been selected for the RCC 2023 Community Speed Watch Scheme. Cllr McCole volunteered to lead on this. The Council **agreed** to advertise for volunteers, ideally 10, to be trained to take part in the scheme. Cllrs Wood and Parker will pursue this. The Clerk will request to take part during the session in June.

SW/AP  
JM

**Crossings** – Cllr Parker had circulated information on government legislation on the suitability of roads for zebra crossings prior to the meeting. This appeared to show that each case was evaluated on its own merit via a site assessment. The Council **agreed** to look at the proposed sites in Caldecott again and to go back to RCC requesting that it specify which legislation it was referring to when suggesting that the sites were not suitable. County Cllr Brown will submit this as a member's query.

AB

**Children's Play  
Park  
2023/09**

**Annual Inspection** – The annual inspection of the play park had taken place at the beginning of December. This raised again the continuing problem of dog fouling with the action recommended to remove the mess from site and monitor. The Council discussed again the possibility of restricting access to dogs or locking the gate at night but in the first instance would use the marker paint to highlight the dog mess in the hope that this will raise awareness of the issue. It was suggested that increasing the mowing could help with the problem. Cllr Bennett will contact RCC for additional marker paint. The annual report also highlighted the zip wire, recommending that the supplier is consulted regarding regular inspection and maintenance of the equipment. Cllr MacDermott to pursue.

**MB  
AM**

**Invitation to Tender for Mowing Contract** – The Council **agreed** to look at increasing the frequency of cutting the play area and to invite tenders for the mowing contract. The Clerk will contact local contractors.

**JM**

**Specific Items  
2022/53**

**(a) Damage to Parish Assets** – The Council was pleased to note that the damaged bench and bin on the Green had been replaced. The Council discussed whether to put in a sleeper at the back of the concrete base to prevent subsidence. Cllr Brown volunteered to have a look at what might be required. The possibility of planting around the bench was discussed subject to Village Hall approval and budget constraints. Cllr MacDermott had volunteered to put the plaque back on.

Cllr Brown advised that RCC were proposing a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, the consultation for this will run until 3<sup>rd</sup> February. He advised that there are hardship funds available for those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

**(b) To Approve the 2023/24 Budget and to set Precept** – The Council considered the budget in detail. Apart from the usual inflationary increases, the budget included an increase in the allocation for grass cutting and community lighting cost and included an additional item for part of the May 2023 election costs. It was expected that the forthcoming fundraising events would cover the identified necessary repair to the zipwire equipment.

The Council **Resolved to Agree** the Caldecott Parish Council budget for 2023/24

Proposed by Cllr Wood      Seconded by Cllr McCole      All in favour

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the level of precept set at £7,016.00 for the financial year 2023-24. This equates to an increase on last year's figures of 12.49%.

Proposed by Cllr Wood      Seconded by Cllr McCole      All in favour

The Clerk will submit the Precept Demand to RCC.

**JM**

**Planning  
2022/54**

**022/1290/FUL Land North of Uppingham Road Conversion of Redundant Building to 1 new Dwelling (for information)**

The Council had previously considered this application and had no objection. It was noted that this application had since been refused by RCC.

**Finance  
2022/55**

**a) The following payments were presented for approval and unanimously agreed.**

BIFFA – Bin emptying - £39.00  
Printed.com – Signage - £25.06  
RCC – Lighting Recharge - £380.55  
RCC – Lighting Recharge - £39.66  
ICO – Information Commissioner - £40.00  
ABC Gardens – Mowing - £694.21  
Post Office – Stamps - £9.96  
BCH Property – New Bench - £1,240.00  
Seagrave – Playpark Annual Inspection - £156.00

**b) Bank Reconciliation**

Lloyds Account	£4,954.87
Total Balance of Reserves	£4,954.87

The Bank Reconciliation was unanimously approved and then duly signed by the Chair.

All matters pertaining to finance are displayed on the website on [www.caldecott-pc.gov.uk](http://www.caldecott-pc.gov.uk)

**Correspondence  
2022/56**

There was no further correspondence discussed.

County Cllr Brown advised that he is to attend a meeting on the availability of grants available for households through Gigabit for the installation of superfast broadband. He will report back at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting  
2022/57**

The next meeting of Caldecott Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 9.10 pm**