**BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30pm AT ST PHILIP’S CHURCH, HASSALL GREEN**

PRESENT

Councillors A Curwen, A Malbon, J Batchelor, J Ramsey, R Moss, B Colcough

Councillor J Wray, Cheshire East Council

Councillors R Holt, J Adams, Hassall Parish Council

Eight members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

47. MINUTES

 The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024.

48. MATTERS ARISING

 After discussion it was agreed that Betchton Parish Council should remain a member of ChALC.

 It was noted that two of the planters in Hassall Green had been relocated: one to Malkins Bank; one to near St Philip’s. JR agreed to find out who was looking after the planters on Charles Square.

 Mr John Bradley from Malkins Bank had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. His co-option was proposed by AC and seconded by JB. All agreed. John joined the meeting by telephone and was warmly welcomed by the Chair.

49. PUBLIC FORUM

 A small piece of land in Malkins Bank was in need of attention. A volunteer has agreed to look after it if tools could be provided. As the Council already paid for the upkeep of a lawnmower it was agreed it could be used and that a mini skip could be rented to remove debris.

 Proposed by JR, seconded by AM. All agreed.

 Issues were raised which fell to Cheshire East Council. JW agreed to

 investigate: grass cutting of verges; footpath under the M6 bridge in

 Hassall Green; briars growing rampant under the M6 bridge; 30mph signs in Roughwood Lane.

 Concern was raised about Hassall Green being taken off the gritting

 schedule. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase the grit and have it deliver to RM’s farm for distribution. Volunteers would be

 sort to fill the grit boxes in the parish.

50. FINANCE

 The chair reported she had investigated the process of changing to on- line banking and that it would prove to be beneficial to the Council. She

 proposed this change. Seconded by JR. All agreed.

 Given the change to on-line banking it was agreed to remove JB from the list of authorised signatories as she didn’t have access to the internet. It was also agreed to remove Ralph Bason, previous clerk to the council, and also William Brown, a previous chair. It was further agreed that AM should be added as a second signatory to the chair. All

 agreed to these changes.

 Invoices agreed: ThenMedia £288; ChALC £210.90; Elizabeth Ayers

 £12; John Hassall £16 ( the latter two for plants).

 It was agreed that the remainder of the capital grant from Cheshire East

 Council (some £2,400) should be discussed at the next meeting.

51. PLANNING

 Application 24/2990C related to a property in Hassall not Betchton.

 The chair reported that Cheshire East Enforcement team were considering prosecution in relation to the scaffolding yard on New Inn Lane.

 It was agreed that JB would look at all planning applications and report to the Parish Council.

52. FUTURE OF PARISH COUNCIL

 After a discussion with Hassall Parish Council and hearing advice from Cheshire East Council it was agreed that the clerk’s job would be re- advertised with an increased salary and the offer of the purchase of a laptop and printer. Proposed by AM, seconded by BC. All agreed.

 RH agreed to discuss with Hassall Parish Council the idea of joint meetings.

53. LOCATION OF MEETINGS

 After a discussion it was agreed to trial alternate venues for meetings to give all parishioners an opportunity to attend. It was proposed by AC that the next meeting be held at Malkins Bank Golf Club who had offered the room free of charge. Seconded by by AM. All agreed.

54. NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

 Having co-opted JR and JB there were now three vacancies on the Council. All agreed to promote the positions.

55. AOB

 None.