

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Minutes of a Meeting of the Marown Parish Commissioners held in their Boardroom on Wednesday January 5th 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

In Attendance: Mr T Miles Chairman
Mr C Forbes
Mr J Lovelady
Mrs A Lynch
Mr I Maule Clerk

1. **Apologies** – None.
2. **Conflicts of Interest** – The Chairman read the agreed text. No member present declared an interest in any matter discussed.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – Discussed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** – None.
5. **Financial Matters**
 - 5.1. **Contracts for Services**
 - 5.1.1. **Grass Cutting** – Mr Lovelady reported on a meeting with the present contractor and that he has agreed to extend the contract for a further three years at the same price. Also discussed was the bi-ennial trimming of hedges and shrubs which are to be done in May and October each year and additional work such as sweeping and clearing footpaths. For this and other ad hoc work, a rate of £25 per hour was agreed. Following a discussion, these proposals were approved unanimously. It was noted that a budget of £500 is provided for footpaths and signs. Mr Lovelady was given authority to use this sum for ad hoc work and he would be the point of contact with the contractor for this work.
 - 5.1.2. **Gulley Cleaning** – A proposal of £55 per hour had been submitted by Jones services Limited. This represents a significant increase on the current hourly rate. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Mr Lovelady would seek alternative quotes for discussion at the next meeting.
 - 5.1.3. **Hedge-Trimming** – A proposal of £36 per hour had been received from Jones Services Limited. Following a discussion, it was resolved to accept this proposal for one year.
 - 5.1.4. **Road-Sweeping** – A proposal of £54 per hour had been received from Jones services Limited. It was noted that the amount of road-sweeping required is not great and, following a discussion, it was resolved to accept this proposal for one year.
 - 5.1.5. **Grass-cuttings Collection Service** – It was noted that there is no indication of disposal costs for next year. A discussion took place as to whether to continue with the proximity of the WCAS being noted. The cost for 2021 was £180.00 per week for 9 weeks and provision for this is made in estimates for next year. A decision on whether to continue can be deferred
 - 5.2. **Estimates for 2022/23** – With the above figures in contemplation and other assumptions made The estimate showed a projected deficit of roundly £13500 requiring a 4.5% increase in rate to produce balance. It was noted that November CPI is 4.6% and RPI 5%. It was noted that reserves on deposit at the lowest point of current year (June) stood at £65000 and that the extra payment for WCAS in respect of the outstanding debt is £13228.58. discussion took place and, with all of the above in mind, it was considered reasonable to draw the extra payment to WCAS from reserves.

The Chairman then asked the Clerk to leave the meeting whilst his salary was discussed. On his return, the Clerk was informed that the Board had agreed a salary uplift of 4.6%. The Clerk thanked the Board.

With the inclusion of the increased salary and pension contributions, this produced a deficit after transfer of £13228.58 from reserves of £988 with no change to the rate. Following further discussion, it was resolved unanimously that the Rate for 2022/23 shall be unchanged at £1.64 in the Pound.

5.3. **Letter of Representation** – Discussed and Approved.

5.4. **Accounts for 2020/21** – Audited accounts have been received. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign as required.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Mr Lovelady drew attention to Social Media gossip accusing him of failing to pick-up after his dog. Mr Lovelady acknowledged that he had been distracted on one occasion and had not observed his dog in action but returned and frequently picks-up after other dogs as well as his own. Members agreed that it would have been helpful for the anonymous keyboard warrior to draw Mr Lovelady's attention to the event at the time.

6.2. The Clerk reported that Peel Town Commissioners had approved only a return of £10000 odd as their contribution to the aged debt of the WCAS. Mrs Lynch reported that a meeting involving Peel TC and DoI was scheduled for January 25th. The consequences of Peel's failure to meet what is seen as their obligation could have serious consequences for the future operation of the Site. The Clerk advised that the constituent members of the WCAS Board are listed in the Board Order

6.3. Mr Forbes raised the continuing absence of a street-light opposite the gateway to the Playing Fields. The Clerk reported a communication received the afternoon of this meeting stating that a new 6m column could not be installed on site and presenting two options at much greater cost. Neither option was considered suitable as neither would illuminate the exit. It was resolved to seek a replacement 5m column which (presumably) can be placed where the previous one was and would represent a like for like replacement anyway.

6.4. Mrs Lynch raised the failure of either MHK elected in September to attend any meeting of the Board thus far and expressed disappointment. The Clerk reported that he had invited Mr Peters at the Chairman's request and that he was intending to come to the next meeting. It was resolved to contact Mrs Poole-Wilson after the next meeting with a view to her attending the February meeting if no contact is received in the meantime.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday January 19th 2022 immediately following the Public Session.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2010

Signed:
Chairman

Date: