

Residents of Wistow and Newton Harcourt – A Zoom meeting was held as it a legal requirement for the Parish Treasurer to share with residents the details of the financial accounts before submitting them. If you have any comments please email clerk@wistowcumnewtonharcourt.org.uk.

A Zoom meeting invitation was sent out to all residents prior to the meeting. The meeting was successfully held on 27 August 2020 at 7pm.

Present:

Julie Guiver (Chair Parish Meeting)

Graham Handsley (Treasurer Parish Meeting)

Bal Bahia (Clerk Parish Meeting)

Gina Handsley

Peter Thornton

Mary Thornton

Margaret Jones

Roger Jones

Rachel Kellett

Discussions:

1 Introduction

GH led the meeting and started off by informing all that it was a formal requirement for him as the Parish Meeting Treasurer to share the Parish Meeting financial accounts for 2019/20. He explained that failure to share these details would lead to a possible fine. Prior to the meeting the financial accounts had been circulated to all residents to digest the information.

2 Accounts

GH went on to go through the accounts with the key points/discussions as follows:

- GH shared his screen so everyone could see the information being discussed.
- The 2019/20 balance started at £3678.31 with the end balance at £5788.51. This is higher than previous years as normally a payment of £2,000 towards the Reading Rooms would be made which did not happen this year as a request had not been made.
- GH went through each of the official forms that had to be approved and signed, namely:
 - The Annual Internal Audit Report
 - The Annual Governance Statement

- The Accounting Statements
- The Certificate of Exemption
- GH asked if all in attendance approved the reports – all agreed.
- GH asked if all in attendance happy with accuracy of the accounts – all agreed.
- JG to sign the accounts off for GH to submit.

3 Future Years

- GH explained that the Parish Meeting needed a financial plan moving forward as cannot keep raising money as a Parish Meeting if we have no plan to spend it on.
- MJ asked if there is a 'list' of what the PM can spend the precept money on. GH advised there was a limited list for Parish Meetings, any money would need to be spent on any village assets and would need to be approved by residents.
- For the last 20 years the majority of the precept money has been going to the Reading Room for ongoing running costs and repairs. However, GH feels that as the treasurer he cannot provide any further capital funds to the Reading Room unless a structural survey is carried out on the building itself, identifying the extent of work and investment required. This has been requested but nothing has come back from the Reading Room committee to date.
- PT asked about the authority basis for money to go to the Reading Room. GH explained it was recorded in the Parish Meeting minutes that David Baker, the Chair at the time had been to a meeting arranged by the Leicestershire and Rutland Advisory Council (the body which advises Parish Councils and Meetings) where it was discussed and clarified. Following discussion it was felt it would be best to get this formally clarified in writing from LRALC as a basis for the future.
- There have also been some difficulties in getting the Parish Meeting bank accounts set up with signatories. JG has sent letter of complaint to the bank. PT would also like to send a letter of complaint - JG to share this.

..... Julie Guiver