**LONG LOAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Long Load Parish Council held at **the Village Hall, Long Load on Tuesday 21 March 2023.**

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**Present:**

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| Cllr Marsha White (Chair)  Cllr Richard Collis  Cllr David May  Cllr Diana Taylor  Clerk Dawn Porter  Cllr Emily Pearlstone (County)  7 members of the public were present |  |

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman read out a statement and advised that the meeting would be recorded. The statement can be found on the last page of these minutes.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Pat Collins and Cllr John Bailey (County)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Marsha White declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda.

**4. Public Participation**

The matter of speeding equipment was raised. It was reported that the Parish Council is still looking into this and when we have some positive news it will go on the agenda.

The matter of blocked storm drains was raised. It was reported that this is being dealt with and further information will be relayed once it is available.

The matter of pot holes in Church Lane was raised. It was agreed to chase this again with Highways.

**5. District Council/County Council Report**

Cllr Emily Pearlstone provided a summary of the report. It was confirmed that Long Load Parish Council will fall under the umbrella of Somerset Council when the changes are implemented on 1 April and that things will stay almost the same going forward.

The County Council report can be found on the Parish Council website under the section County Council Reports.

**6. Notice Board**

It was reported that the cost of the new notice board would be £1154.45 + £33.00

The notice board will need to be mounted on batons so it would be necessary to find out how high it will need to be when mounted.

It was resolved to go ahead with the order at the cost quoted above.

**7. Defibrillator**

It was reported that the total cost of the defibrillator with a heated cabinet would be £1644

It was resolved to go ahead with the order at the cost quoted above. The clerk will ascertain whether the cabinet will need an electricity supply and if this is the case then permission from listed buildings will need to be obtained to drill through the wall.

**8. Correspondence & Planning**

An email was received regarding the finger posts on footpaths. Cllr Emily Pearlstone confirmed that the district/county councils no longer have a responsibility for this. It was resolved to add this to the agenda for the next meeting. The email also mentioned the storm drains as covered in public participation.

A letter was received from the Village Hall Committee requesting a grant of £3,500 to assist with the updating of the electrics and heating in the hall. Cllr Emily Pearlstone informed the council that she was unsure whether grants would be available from District or County in the future for this type of request so it was resolved to support the request. The decision was unanimous.

An email was received from the Somerset branch of St John Ambulance requesting a donation towards the purchase of a new ambulance unit. It was resolved to support them with a donation of £150. The decision was unanimous.

**9. Accounts**

Three cheques were signed as follows: Clerk salary, grant to the village hall and a donation to St John Ambulance.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 with the AGM at 7pm prior to the normal meeting at 7.30pm.

**13. Any other business**

It was reported that the village sign along Church Lane has become dilapidated. It was resolved to look at this at the next meeting.

Chairman Cllr Marsha White declared the meeting closed.

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|  | ..……………………………………Chairman |

**A statement made by the Chair as follows**:

None of the members of the Parish Council are paid for their time with the exception of the clerk who is paid by the council for a nominal number of hours each month to undertake statutory tasks required for the council to fulfil their responsibilities.

The councillors are all residents of the village and willingly give their time to fulfil their roles and to serve the needs of residents in this, our village. We have always put the best interests of all residents foremost and are obliged at each meeting to declare if there is anything tabled in the agenda that they have a personal interest in where they could be considered to be anything other than impartial, we have always acted honestly and with full transparency..

In the past our meetings have been run in a very informal manner with frequent involvement from the village residents, this is atypical of most Parish Councils where public participation is generally strictly limited.

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**As taken from Guidance published by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Participation by members of the public**

“A Parish Council meeting is not a public meeting but a meeting conducted in public. The public are asked to respect the fact that this is a meeting to conduct Council business and interruptions during Council business are not permitted.”