WOODSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held Monday 18th December 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Oulton Institute Hall.

**Members Present**

W. Marrs (Chairman) H. Barrow M.D. McCabe (Clerk)

D. Wright S. Connor

M. Mullett J. Mattinson

**Members of the Public Present**

## None.

**Apologies for Absence**

Were received from the following, and accepted. Mrs A. Lewis – prior engagement, Mrs C. Robinson – ill, T. Mattinson – prior engagement, Mrs E. Lynch – other meetings.

**The Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

It was agreed to ask Celeste Connel if she was willing to carry out the annual internal audit, and to enquire who did this for Waverton P.C. The fingerpost signs around the Parish are being restored thanks to the efforts of Cllr Mrs Lewis. All the actual posts have been rubbed down and repainted, and the arms removed for restoration. Some of the signs have now been completed. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks when they are all completed. A very thorough job appears to have been done.

**Cumberland Councillor’s Report**

None.

**Wigton Burial Joint Committee Report**

Emma Ireton, town clerk for Wigton is also WBJC clerk.

**Precept 2024 / 25**

The Clerk prepared figures which would have resulted in a precept of £6797. This was considerably higher than last year, partly they have a better due to the estimate for the Clerk’s salary last year being significantly lower, due to an overlooked salary increase. As these figures are largely estimates, it was decided to reduce the precept estimate by £300, and that for maintenance by £50. Wigton Burial Joint Committee have asked Woodside for £1607 for next year, an increase of £457. The revised figures are part of these minutes, giving an overall increase of £565.

**Vacancy for Councillor**

This still needs to be filled.

**Internal Auditor**

Cllr Connor had approached a friend about this position. Unfortunately, he was not interested. It was agreed to approach Mrs Celeste Connel who has worked in banking, and lives in Oulton.

**On-line Banking**

Barclays have advised that they have a better account available than the Community Account which we currently have. The National Savings account pays a very low rate of interest. The whole of the Council’s banking arrangements needs updating. Councillor Marrs brought in some information about accounts which are available. The Cumberland Building Society was considered. They are the only suitable one to have a branch in Wigton. However, they are not accepting new accounts, like we need, at the moment. As we are with Barclays, it was decided to pursue on-line banking with them, and see what kind of package might be available.

**Clerk’s Salary**

It was agreed to follow the Local Services Pay Agreement. This would mean the clerk’s salary being £14.70 per hour x 4 hours per week x 52 weeks = £3057.60.

**Correspondence**

**Hospice at Home** has sent a newsletter, raffle tickets and a Christmas card flier. They ask that we consider donating again.

**Eden Valley Hospice** has sent a newsletter. They are asking if the Council would consider donating.

**Glasdon** has sent its latest catalogue.

**Clerk & Councils Direct** was made available to the meeting.

**Bank Statements**

Statements from Barclay’s were checked and approved by the meeting.

**Applications for Planning**

**New Applications**

None  **Decisions**

None

**Accounts for Payment**

M.D. McCabe (Clerk’s 1st ½ year salary) £1223.20 Chq 100666

H.M.R.C. (Employers P.A.Y.E.) £ 305.60 Chq 100667 Wigton Burial Joint Committee (2nd payment 2023/24) £ 526.37 Chq 100668

T.E.E.C. (Website hosting) £ 157.56 Chq 100669

Hospice at Home (Donation) £ 100.00 Chq 100670

Great North Air Ambulance (Donation) £ 50.00 Chq 100671

Oulton Institute Hall Committee (Hire & Donation) £ 438.00 Chq 100672

Society of Local Council Clerks (Membership 2024) £ 80.00 Chq 100673

Wigton Wiza Club £ 50.00 Chq 100674

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is provisionally a Monday in February 2024.