**M653 a) Those Present** Cllrs Jonathan Good, Elaine Burgin and Nick Stamford

**b) In Attendance** RBC Cllr Tina Combellack, NCC Cllr Neil Clarke, CBPC Clerk Nige Mayglothling & one member of the public

**c) Apologies for Absence** Cllrs John Jennings, Andrew Fletcher and Sabina Manea-Nelken

**M654 Election of Meeting Chair** In the absence of the CBPC Chair Cllr Elaine Burgin was elected to Chair the Meeting

**M655 Declarations of Interest** With Planning issues listed “to note” no declarations of any interest requiring withdrawal from the meeting were required.

**M656** Council received & endorsed **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 September 2023** as presented

**M657 Matters Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda**

**a) OpenReach Broadband Project:** Confirmation received by Clerk that the project is progressing to build stage.

**B) Conservation Area Update. T**he Clerk informed Council that the consultation part of the process had been completed and that work to complete the process would be undertaken once the PC laptop was available (currently in bluescreen lockout mode, awaiting repair in Bingham). The Draft Update would then be presented to The Working Group members, Council and then to RBC, who would in turn then organise a parish consultation on the agreed document**.**

**M658 Environment and Amenities (Clerk obo Cllr Jennings)**

**a)** **Flooding** Council noted two flooding incident closures at St John’s to date. Members of the CB Flood Warden Team had attended and supervised sign-display as appropriate. A walk-round of the various flood-sites by the whole CBFW team is planned for Dec 16, 11-1230.

**b)** **Important Trees Survey** Ongoing Item for attention Spring / Summer 2024

**c)** **Village Hall Insurances and Future Funding (Mr David Lambert, VHMC Treasurer)**

The Village Hall Management Treasurer Mr David Lambert was welcomed to the meeting and invited to update Council about the Village Hall. It was noted that the financial situation of VH has improved dramatically, but that heating & power bills require a large % of the VH income stream. The VHMC now have about £20k in account, assisted by previous business -support grants and ongoing fundraising, so the VHMC envisage some scope for making additional improvements. The key areas noted for consideration included ongoing Storage issues, a potential for installing solar panels (south facing road), a requirement to upgrade the kitchen area and concern that the Main Hall floor is ageing. It was noted that the paddock fencing also needed repair but Council noted that this remains an Estates ownership-issue, as there is currently still no contractual agreement in place with regard to these areas.

Given current Capital Grant availability and scheduling dates Mr Lambert informed Council that work is already being undertaken to explore a **Solar Panel project** (which would both help insulate the VH south roof and also provide some protection against future fuel rises). Three quotes have already been received, with costs in the region of c£15k expected. It was noted that the grant-awarding group often looked look more favourably on those projects able to offer matched funding of around 30% (potentially c£3.5-4k). If a grant was likely, and post VHMC confirmation, Mr Lambert suggested that Council could perhaps consider a 50-50 funding split to support this matched-funding with VH, so a potential commitment of c£1.5-£2k towards the solar-panel installation project might be made by Council.

Following Council discussion **members supported the solar panel installation project in principle** against receipt of grant funding and further information from the VHMC. The RFO informed Council that they could indicatively afford to support this project directly from Reserve or if necessary, by an increase in Precept request. It was noted that if a grant application was unsuccessful then the VHMC would probably not pursue this project.

Mr Lambert was thanked for his Update and left the meeting.

**M659 Local Representatives updates**

**a) Rushcliffe Borough Council** **RBC Cllr Tina Combellack**

i)Neighbourhood Watch Discussion had been held around the potential of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Cllr Combellack provided further information on similar local groups.

The Clerk also gave feedback on recent “Veteran” & “Visitors” incidents.

ii) New Items Cllr Combellack noted that two CBPC Reps (Cllrs Burgin and Good) had attended the Town & Parish Forum. Cllr Burgin noted that she had found the Forum both informative and useful.

A local Farm Watch Meeting had also been well attended by local farmers. It was important that any potential issues were reported via 101 asap. A Rural Phone Watch Group was also good for aiding swift recoveries after break-ins / thefts (07977 583 069 Jill \*McQuort)

Cllr Combellack also highlighted a 9th Jan meeting with the new Police Inspector at Bingham Arena, open to all.

b) **Nottinghamshire County Council NCC Cllr Neil Clarke**

i) Speedwatch Scheme Funding (with Cllr Burgin)

Councillor Clarke was thanked for his attendance, having arrived from a Finance Meeting elsewhere.

Cllr Burgin offered an update on Speedwatch potential in Colston Bassett. Local Police offer free training & other assistance with local schemes. Equipment costs are around indicatively c£500 and CB has enough volunteers to run a team.

Cllr Clarke intimated that as per previous comments he was happy to assist with a Councillors Contribution towards this potential scheme. Council thanked Cllr Clarke for this support.

After discussion Council resolved that Cllr Burgin should proceed with the scheme, including arranging purchase of the appropriate equipment. The Clerk was requested to email Cllr Clarke with a formal request for support including full details (items, cost, CBPC bank details) in liaison with Cllr Burgin.

ii) Lamppost speed / flood message indicators

Discussion was also held around additional interactive warning signs, but Council recognised that the costs of these may be too high. Cllr Clarke offered to look at the potential costs of interactive warning signs and report back.

iii) Cllr Clarke also commented on his experiences inspecting the recent Flood issues across Nottinghamshire, which had seen the worst flooding for many years with many “new” areas also suffering inundation. Cllr Clarke congratulated the CBPC Flood Team for their dedicated response in flagging & handling local flooding issues throughout long “duty periods.”

**c) Nottinghamshire Police PC Saskia Mills / Kelly Carlisle:**

The Clerk notified Council that there was a rapid Police response to the Hall Grounds Drive intrusion, and that an enhanced “police presence” was evident around the village. The Police had been given a clear face-photograph of the “Homeless Veteran” who had been visiting village properties (including early-hours trespassing off Hall Lane) & acting inappropriately.

**M660 Planning Cllr Stanford**

1. **Recent and Pending Applications; Council NOTED the following**

**i) The Old Vicarage** (Internal works **23/01204/LBC**) **Supported/(RBC Granted)**

ii)**The Old Vicarage 23/01039/FUL** Solar Array & Heat Pumps **Supported/(RBC Granted)**

iii)**23/01266/FUL Orchard View**, Hose Lane (Orangery & extensions) **Supported/(RBC Granted)**

iv) **23/01299/LBC** Replacement windows**, Old Vicarage**, Hall Lane **Supported/(RBC Granted)**

v) **The Old Vicarage** 23/01652/FUL. Condensers to west of garage **No Objection/RBC Granted**

**vi) 23/641/FUL The Cottage on Church Gate Extensions Support with Cond / RBC Granted with Con**

*Variances to 23/641/FUL on 10/11 & 14/11 NOTED; Council not asked to comment*

**vii) 23/01713/VAR Linden Lea School Lane** Variation of Conditions 2 & 5 **Support / RBC Granted (CLERK refc Appeal)**

**Clerk Report online the Inspectors misrepresentation of CBPC view**

viii) **23/01718/FUL & 23/01719LBC Martins Arms**: Change of usages **Support / RBC Granted**

With regard to 23/641/FUL Council NOTED correspondence between Parishioners and the Clerk with regard to certain aspects of the application. Council resolved that where communications were also effectively potential complaints to Council any such communications should also pass to Councillors for their consideration and comments. The Clerk was thanked for his responses as the Proper Officer to the planning issues raised by parisioners in this instance.

1. **New Applications:** *None Received at Agenda Publication date*

**M661 Finance** [**Cllr Burgin / Responsible Financial Officer)**

A) ***Clerks 2023-4 Salary****: NALC JNC Recommendations were circulated ahead of the meeting* Following discussion Council resolved to continue remuneration at Scale 6 on the NALC Scales

Council will negotiate rates with any new Clerk on their appointment.

B) Council received the 2023 Financial Advisory Group Meeting Notes (as circulated)

ii) To Consider the 2023 Financial Advisory Group recommendations as listed

1. Council considered the 2023 Review of the Asset Register (as circulated)

Council accepted the Listings but recommended that the Hall Value be appraised on a six month basis, Cllr Stamford to take an initial assessment forward.

1. Council considered and accepted the 2023 Review of the Risk Register (as circulated)
2. To Consider Arrangements to Review the CBPC Standing Orders *(Cllr Good)*

Council noted that the current Standing Orders were in places outdated. Council resolved to utilise a SLCC/NALC Pro-Forma Template and then consider adoption. Clerk to progress

1. Council considered the CBPC Financial Standing Orders. Council noted that certain references and practices were also outdated, eg by the adoption of online banking (“two signatories”) Cllr Burgin & RFO to update in line with the updating of the General Standing Orders.
2. Precept Submission 2024-5. Total to be requested and due process. (£10,400 /£ 11,200 tbc)

It was noted that FAG had recommended retention of the 2023-4 Precept Level. In line with established policy to support the VH where possible and given consideration of the VH Solar Panel project the Chair of FAG (Cllr Burgin) recommended introduction of an additional “project” line in the presented 2024-5 Precept projections. Following consideration of the impact of this potential increase on all parishioners, Council resolved, (after a substantive cut in Precept was made to support Parishioners in 2023-4) to return Precept to the 2022-23 level (around an 8% increase in 2023-4) to ensure support for VH projects could be considered and afforded as appropriate. Clerk to liaise with RBC and request Precept support as outlined at £11,200, or at highest % increase allowed if less than a return to 2022-23 levels is allowed

**C) Council considered and resolved to APPROVE Sums paid and/or falling due for repayment**

**i) Clerk Q3 Salary Differential** **£50.07\*** & **Expenses** **(£30 – RBL wreath)**  *(\*once confirmed by Dec Payroll)*

**ii)** **HMRC PAYE Q3**: Balance due **£237.60\*** *(\*once confirmed by Dec Payroll)*

**iii) Lengthsman Account; £800 payable to Mr PH Crabtree** *(2023-4 £960 grant, but using 50% 22/3 max £1,440 available)*

**M662 Parishioners and Councillors Urgent Considerations**

1. Cllr Burgin had investigated options for a **Village Photo.** Quotes to date were excessively high, but research ongoing, so continue to look at options potentially for 2024, perhaps but not necessarily linked to an event at the Village Hall**.**
2. **Council Co-Option:** The Clerk was made aware of a parishioner who had intimated to Councillors that they may be prepared to offer themselves for co-option to Council. This nominee was supported by Councillors. The Clerk was requested to approach the candidate for formal confirmation of their interest and if confirmed to initiate due process as appropriate in advance of the next PC Meeting.

**M663 2024 Meeting dates***: All from 7pm at the Village Hall*

*With an alteration accepted to the proposed January Meeting date, the following early 2024 dates were noted;*

***FEBRUARY 5 18 March with Annual Parish Meeting May 13 with Annual Parish Council Meeting***

Provisional dates from that point forward

***July 15 September 16 (Finance Advisory November 11 tbc) November 25 (Precept)***

***There being no further business the Meeting Chair closed the meeting with thanks to all attendees at 2203hrs.***

*Clerks Note: The Clerk anticipates supporting Council at least through to completion of the 2023-4 Audit Process, including supporting the 2024 Annual Parish Council Meeting. During that period a potential handover to a replacement Clerk will be transitioned, with handover completed expected for the mid-summer (July tbc) Council meeting. These arrangements to be discussed and ratified if appropriate by Council in their February meeting, possibly with the creation of a (voluntary) Assistant Clerk role to be considered, to assist and regularise this transitional process.*