

# WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held virtually due to Covid 19, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

**Present :** Mr A Leary (Chairman), Mr L Cammack, Mr B Allen, Mrs L Dales, Mr S Lord, Mr P Smith, Mr M Kneen and Mr P Farmer

**Apologies :** Mr D Richardson

### **Matters Arising from the Meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

No matters arising

### **Precept 2021/22**

Mr Cammack had prepared and circulated figures which showed the spending for 2020/21 and the prospective spending for 2021/22. There was very little difference in the two years, so it was proposed to leave the Precept unchanged. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to confirm this to NSDC.

### **Annual Accounts 2019/20**

A response has now been received from Pkf Littlejohn in respect to the 2019/20 external audit.

Pkf are saying that our response to Assertion 4 should be no as they say we did failed to make provision for the exercise of public rights. This is from an email from Pkf.

In regards to the report, we raised an except for matter in our report as last year we commented that the response to Assertion 4 should be 'No' in the AGAR for 2019/20. As the response was ticked 'Yes' we are required to raise an except for matter. Assertion 4 is referring to the public rights period that occurred **during** the year under review i.e. the public rights period that took place during the year ended 31 March 2020 which was during the summer of 2019.

The Clerk confirmed that she had endured a difficult relationship with Pkf. She emailed them to ask for advice for the period of public rights, asking if the period chosen was in order. They confirmed in writing that it was and she acted upon their advice and still they weren't happy.

Pkf have further frustrated the Clerk by using her personal email address despite her emailing them every time on the Parish Council email address. They have also said that information has not been received by them when requested only having to backtrack when they realised, they had missed her emails. All in all, it has been hard work.

Mr Leary asked the question is, do we stay with Pkf? Mr Cammack suggested that they have the contract, and it would not be possible to change. Mr Cammack commented that by having an external auditor, it keeps things transparent and protects the Parish Council by proving that the finances of the Parish Council are correct. This was agreed by all including the Clerk.

Mr Lord suggested getting our own external auditor such as Barker Maule. Mr Leary felt that we had now opted in to Pkf and couldn't get out. Mrs Dales offered to take advice from Democratic Services at NSDC as to alternatives available to us. Apparently, we are not the only Parish Council which are having problems with Pkf.

Mr Kneen said that we should write to Pkf in relation to the service we have received. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to them and felt that it might be better if Mr Leary, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, wrote to them. This was agreed.

Mr Leary said that we would have to continue with Pkf for the next accounting period as it was too late to change things.

On a positive and important note, all financial matters were in order following the external audit.

### **Internal Audit**

Mr Duncan Richardson had completed an internal audit for the current financial year. He sent the following email.

I am writing to let you know that I have now carried out an interim audit of the Parish Council's Accounts up to the end of December, and am pleased to report that they appear to be in good order.

I do not intend attending your Zoom Meeting on Thursday, as I have nothing additional to add, and would ask you to kindly convey my apologies to the meeting.

Many thanks,

Duncan Richardson

### **Accounts**

Holding Account	£9221.31
Focal Point Account	£2897.91
Willsons Printers for January edition £228 and £55.00 credit M Musgrave and £84.00 C Smith	
Current Account	£146.67

Uxello £150 and Clerk's Wages £170

Events Account £235.97

Festival Account £826.27 Interest 0.01p

Tennis Club Account £4307.37

Property Trust Account £7670.06

£307 Allotment Rent and £58.01 Western Power

### **VAT**

The Clerk confirmed that the VAT refund requested in December has not as yet been paid by the HMRC.

### **AOB**

None

Meeting closed 7.27 pm