ST ISHMAELS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on December 9th, 2019

In The Memorial Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs Moira Hawkins (Chair) Barbara Harston, Lynda Thomas, John Everett, Colin Jenkins and Ken Hackett. Revd Mike Cottam (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

C. Cllr Reg Owens

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (October 14th):

Read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING:

*Planning:*There is a delay to the execution of the planning proposals at the Garden Centre.

*Monkhill Farm:*It was reported that the gate across the road is still left closed on many occasions.

*HGV access to Hoaten Lane:*The clerk reported that the council’s concerns had been reported to PCC highways authority.

MEMORIAL HALL:

The clerk reported that, as usual, extended and protracted communication by him with solicitors over the hall was continuing. The purchaser’s solicitors were making new requirements that the council supply completed surveys on Legionnaire’s, Asbestos and Fire Risk. It was decided not to accede to these new and unwarranted conditions and to remind the purchaser’s solicitors, through Red Kite, that the hall was offered for sale in an unoccupied, semi-derelict, and ‘as seen’ condition. The councillors expressed frustration at the reported legal delays in the conveyancing and the seeming obfuscation of the purchaser’s solicitors.

It was however agreed that, with regard to the access to the property and as there is no documented right of way referred to in the Hall’s title nor the title of the adjoining owners, the council do agree to provide the purchaser’s solicitors with an “Absence of Easement Indemnity Policy” for a ‘one-off’  cost of £70.00.

*The latest news from Red Kite (7th January) is that, on receipt of copies of the latest utility bills, the vendor is looking to complete “at the end of February.”*

FLOODING:

The recent high rainfall had affected the main sewer to the extent that toilet tissue and faecal matter were escaping through the inspection hatch in Grove Road by The Brook Inn and flooding the road. The perennial and outstanding problem of flooding of the top Grove Road and the inertia of the County Council to address it, was now causing real annoyance in the council.  It was also reported that the roadside grids at Bicton were choked and blocked and that the problem, together with the flooding that ensued was not only a problem at that location. The clerk will contact the highways.

TELEPHONING AND COMMUNICATION WITH PCC:

The clerk relayed his great frustration with the time now spent in contacting PCC and in receiving assurances that complaints would be relayed to the relevant sections of the council and that were not subsequently honoured. He had to wait endlessly on the line before even getting to the switchboard; the last time being told that he was thirty-fifth in line! Other councillors reported similar experience. The clerk said that he would make a strong complaint about the deteriorating service.

RATES FOR THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

It is now understood by the clerk that the rates imposed for the last two years are going to be dropped in April.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 10th at 11.00 a.m. in the Memorial Hall.