

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 6th SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 5.00PM AT HARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance – Cllr M Pilkington Cllr S Ratledge
Cllr S Martin Cllr J Windsor - Chairman
Cllr L Sackett
Cllr R Bird Members of the Public:12
Cllr M Roscoe
Cllr S Hyden

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr O de Braekeleer due to family commitment.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS – Cllr Ratledge declared he was Chair of the Governors of Huxley Primary School.

PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Ratledge reported as Chair of the Governors of Huxley Primary School that the Governors had not been able to set a workable budgeted for the next three years due to the numbers of students attending the school. Therefore after discussion with CWaC and the Diocese the Governors of Huxley School were left with no alternative than to ask CWaC to Consult on closure of the school. CWaC would be the "Proposer". The consultation process has not currently started due to the COVID-19 lockdown, however, the governors believed it could start anytime soon. It was confirmed that a deficit budget was only acceptable with CWaC subject to there being a plan to recover the deficit within 2 – 3 years.

Cllr Windsor asked for clarification for the role of the Parish Council with regards to this consultation? Cllr Ratledge confirmed that the Parish Council was one of the groups on the list of stakeholders should a consultation take place. One role of the Parish Council could be as intermediary between the community and the local authority in order to ensure that all local residents had a voice in the consultation.

Cllr Windsor asked if there was any possibility of the school remaining open. Cllr Ratledge confirmed that they had reached out to other schools and academies in the area to see if anyone was interested in working in federation with Huxley.

Cllr Ratledge confirmed that currently there were only 4 pupils attending the school and it had capacity for 49 (7 years each with a Published Admission Number of 2 pupils).

Cllr Ratledge confirmed that the school had been using its reserves to run over the last few years. Cllr Ratledge also confirmed that clarification needed to be sought from the Diocese and CWaC as to the ownership of the land and buildings.

Cllr Windsor confirmed that the school building was registered as a Community Asset within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Jo Copping (chairman of the PTA) provided the meeting with a report upon what the PTA have done recently which included arranging a lot of extra activities/community groups that could utilise the facilities. More work was being done to utilise the school facilities.

The Parish Council confirmed that it would be willing to support the Primary School in any way it possibly could and hoped that it could remain open in the future. It was suggested that a Parish Council Steering Group be set up to review the consultation paper when it was released and arrange a Public Meeting for residents. The group would include Cllr Sackett, Cllr Pilkington, Cllr Hyden & Cllr Ratledge. There would be only 4 weeks in which to make representations after the consultation period commenced. The steering group would collate comments from the community and pass on to the local authority and governors.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 20/016 that the Chair signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July, 2020 proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Ratledge, subject to the following changes:-

Page 1 – “the consultation process has been halted” – should read “has not been started...”

Page 1 – “dioecies” should read “diocese”

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising from the minutes were raised that were not covered in the agenda.

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Guy Lane Speed Limit – it was reported that CWaC had confirmed the scheme can now proceed to installation. CWaC are waiting on a start date from the contractors then the legal order can be sealed.

Huxley Primary School – *already covered under Public Participation.*

Huxley Village Gates – Cllr Sackett provided a report following the meeting she had with CWaC regarding the proposed sites for the Village Gates. She was waiting on costings for gates to be located near Huxley Primary School. The two other locations had been confirmed by CWaC as not suitable due to the verge being too narrow.

Cllr Sackett also confirmed that CWaC had highlighted the pavements in Huxley being in disrepair and undertook to start the process of getting them repaired.

Planning Enforcement re Field in Hargrave next to the Church – it was confirmed that the Parish Council had reported to the Planning Enforcement in November, January & March issues of lack of planning at the Field in Hargrave next to the Church. The Enforcement Officer eventually visited the site and subsequently a retrospective planning application was submitted. The Parish Council has now been consulted upon and provided a response objecting to the application.

Concern was also raised by councillors and several members of the public as the ‘Rural Workers’ dwelling was originally applied for a resident of the Inn at Huxley, this has since been amended as a limited company has been set up called “The Hawthorn Equine Company Ltd” – however Parish Councillors questioned if a viable business plan or three years’ worth of business accounts showing sustainability needed to be included to show the need for a rural workers dwelling on site. Questions were also raised if the original retrospective planning application should be withdrawn and a new commercial planning application submitted in view of the site being used as a business

Defibrillator – it was agreed that since the Defib had been relocated at the Inn at Huxley during COVID-19 due to the inaccessibility of the Defib in the original location, the new location was very visible and the first responder who had provided training to residents on its use, confirmed its suitable position. Therefore the Parish Council confirmed they were happy for it to remain in this location.

Flooding in Gowy – Cllr Sackett reported following a telephone call she had with the Environmental Agency, that the Environmental Agency no-longer dredge any rivers and would not get involved in local flooding unless a lot of houses were under risk of flooding. The Environmental Agency confirmed that it was the land owner’s responsibility to maintain the water course.

Footpaths – it was reported that the footpaths between Huxley and Hargrave were in poor repair with a stile fallen apart. Cllr Windsor confirmed that she had spoken with Mr R Ankers and they were organising contractors to repair the stile and do general maintenance on the footpaths but this had not, as yet, been undertaken.

Blocked drains on Hoofield Lane – Cllr Hyden reported that last winter there were several problems with blocked drains on Hoofield Lane, Cllr Hyden reported it several times together with other local residents. Cllr Hyden confirmed that within the last few days signs had gone up confirming the lane would be closed for maintenance work and he hoped that these issues would be resolved shortly.

Cllr Bird asked if it would be possible to get a better understanding of the procedures that are undertaken by CWaC with regards to clearing gullies and attending to blocked drains.

ACTION: contact CWaC to get a copy of their procedures.

Cllr R Bird left the meeting.

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 18/08/2020 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

Cllr Windsor reported upon comments she had received from a resident with regards to planning application 20/02612/OUT (Land North of Church Lane, Hargrave) Erection of 2 self-build dwellings and associated works.

The Parish Councillors commented that there was nothing specific on the planning application to explain the disposal of waste water. Concern was also expressed by a member of the public about the size of the garages for each dwelling, together with the need for an additional 3 car park spaces per dwelling. Cllr Sackett and Cllr Windsor undertook to draft comments for the Parish Council’s review, prior to submitting to the Planning Department.

Enforcement Issue – **ACTION:** it was requested that the Clerk contact the Planning Enforcement Team with regards to the lack of a change of use application for the Shop & Butchery that is due to open in September at the Inn at Huxley.

Planning Applications received after the Agenda has been sent out:-

20/02852/FUL - 1 Golden Nook Cottages – no objections were received to this application.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Accounts for payment

RESOLVED 20/017 Year to date cashbook dated 26/08/2020 was approved as a true and correct record. Approved Cllr Roscoe seconded Cllr Sackett

Payments made/received since last meeting:-

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Clerk Pay | Tax Point 5 | £223.43 |
|-----------|-------------|---------|

Clerk to the Council:

Trudy Ryall-Harvey 07805 698 388

email: clerk.huxleyhargravepc@gmail.com www.hargravehuxleypc.co.uk

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Clerk Pay | Tax Point 6 | £223.43 |
| British Legion | Poppy Wreath | £22.25 |
| Clerk's Expenses | | £23.20 |
| Autela Payroll | July - September | £61.20 |

RESOLVED 20/018 to accept these invoices since the last meeting for approval.

Bank Reconciliation to Cashbook YTD

RESOLVED 20/019 to accept the Bank Reconciliation to the Cashbook dated 31st August 2020. Cllr Windsor reviewed the bank statements and signed them at the meeting.

Poppy Wreath - **RESOLVED 20/020** to purchase a Poppy Wreath at a cost of £22.25 for Remembrance Sunday in October.

Pay Scales – **RESOLVED 20/021** to accept the new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1st April 2020.

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY –

The Clerk reported upon the current situation with regards to the Parish Council website and the Accessibility Policy, she hoped to have everything in place within the next two weeks. Current costs were approximately £100 + VAT however the Clerk reported that the current website package was very basic and may need to be upgraded. The Clerk would advise further regarding costs etc.

ITEMS REQUESTS FOR NEXT AGENDA – please email any agenda items two weeks prior to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday 1st November, 2020 at 5pm at Huxley Village Hall The meeting closed at 6.30pm

The Parish Council asked to pass on their thanks and appreciation to Hargrave Church Hall Committee for allowing the Parish Council to have the meeting in public.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....