

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th MARCH 2022 AT 5.00PM AT HUXLEY VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance – Cllr J Windsor - Chairman
Cllr S Martin
Cllr M Pilkington
Cllr M Roscoe
Cllr S Hyden

Cllr L Sackett
Cllr S Ratledge
Cllr R Bird
Members of the Public: 4

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr O de Braekeleer due to family commitments.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS – No declarations of interests were received.

PUBLIC SESSION –

Residents brought up concerns with regards to the speed limit on Long Lane, it was reported that there were 11 houses plus barge owners and 18 gates for animals to exit which is more than in some areas where the speed limit has been reduced. A resident report that as you enter Tattenhall the speed limit had been reduced to 40mph. It was reported that the village of Hargrave had also seen an increase in traffic. Concern was raised due to the additional houses being built in Tattenhall causing additional traffic on Long Lane and through Hargrave.

ACTION: Ask CWaC if they could undertake Traffic Survey on Long Lane and through the village of Hargrave – with a view to reduce the speed on these areas.

ACTION: Ask PCSO to monitor speed along Long Lane and through Hargrave Village.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 21/040 that the Chair signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th January 2022 proposed by Cllr Ratledge and seconded by Cllr Martin

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Huxley Primary School – It was reported that the Roles & Responsibilities of the Governing Body are as follows:-

Dr Ann Williams - Chair of Governors - Quality of Education, inc Curriculum & Safeguarding

Mr Stephen Malbon - Vice Chair - Finance & HR, Health & Safety, Flexi Schooling

Mr R McCann - Quality of Education, inc Curriculum

Mrs Sarah Hampton - SEND & Pupil Premium

Rev Laura Rhodes - Collective Worship & Personal Development

Miss Joanne Copping - Early Years Foundation Stage

Mrs Rachel Gourley – Headteacher

Last term the pupils enjoyed visits from Egyptologist Philip Harris, he brought ancient artefacts for the children to learn about and see first-hand. The pupils enjoyed learning to play the Tenor Horn and will be learning how to play the Ukulele during this half term. As part of 'keeping us safe' themed assemblies, the pupils had a visit from the Canal and Rivers Trust and will soon have a visit from our local PCSO and local paramedics to also talk about safety. A number of Heritage fruit trees have been planted in the school field, which were kindly donated by Argo Forestry.

During the months ahead the School & PTA will be assisting with the planning for Hargrave & Huxley's Queens

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The school and pupils are also looking forward to taking part in other local events organised by the Happy Days team.

The Board of Governors have secured the school financially and going forward they will be looking to develop the curriculum and flexi schooling provision.

Footpaths – It was reported that the stiles were waiting with the CWaC contractors to install, however the landowners had requested that they not be installed until the land becomes drier. Cllr Pilkington reported that two other stiles need attention:-

- the first stile on the path where Huxley footpath 3 and Huxley footpath 15 meet.
- on the path in the field belonging to Golden Nook farm between Long Lane and Old Hall Lane

These have been reported to Cheshire West and Chester and progress will be monitored along with the old outstanding issues reported some 12 months ago.

Village Gates – It was confirmed that CWaC have now placed the order for the Village Gates and the licence had been raised. Additionally, since the last meeting CWaC had confirmed that they would not look to relocate the 40mph signs at this time.

Review of Condition and Safety of Assets – It was reported that three quotes had been sought for replacement noticeboards, these were:-

Fitzpatrick Woolmer – Quote of £1,504

Marmax Recycled Products – Quote of £1,863

Greenbarnes – Quote of £1,355

It was **RESOLVED 21/041** to proceed with Marmax once a quote for a header board had been circulated around the Parish Council.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Bird reported upon the initial meeting of the Queens platinum group when 10 people attended and Cllr Bird was elected as Chair. It was agreed that the event would take place in Hargrave. The programme was to resurrecting the 50's including 'retro' event, with cars, clothing, music (Juke Box) and picnic. It was suggested that people bring their own gazebos. The next meeting to discuss arrangements was 17th March 2022. Cllr Bird would report back to the parish council who are willing to make a financial contribution towards the event.

Cllr Windsor also sought confirmation if the Parish Council wished to plant a commemorative tree. It was requested that Parish Council consider if there are any locations that could be considered for tree planting – to potentially create a small fruit orchard or to plant black poplar which is native to Cheshire.

ACTION: See if there are any grants available for tree planting.

Community Litter Picking – It was agreed that the next Community Litter Picking Event would take place on 9th April 2022 at Huxley and 2nd April 2022 at Hargrave between 10.00am - 12.00 noon. This to be advertised in the parish newsletter asking for volunteers.

Highways – A report on the current highways issues was circulated and actions since the last meeting were noted.

ACTION: Chase up with CWaC all outstanding issues.

It was reported that there seems to be a number of properties with excessive external lighting.. Cllr Windsor to

speak to Environment Agency and has emailed Andrew Bates of the Dark Skies Group asking that he consider writing an article for the parish newsletter highlighting the environmental and wildlife damage caused by excessive lights. It was noted that our Neighbourhood Development Plan had a clause which stated that external lighting should be movement activated wherever possible.

Condition of Road – Cllr Bird report on the condition of the Guy Lane between Martins Lane and Gowy Bridge.

ACTION: Cllr Bird to report to CWaC and provide reference to Clerk for monitoring.

Dog Fouling – Following a report from a neighbouring Parish Council in relation to dog fouling along Park Lane, it was reported that the issue had been highlighted to the Community Safety Warden and he was undertaking monitoring the area. A resident had written about this problem in the parish newsletter.

Cheshire West and Chester Wildflower scheme – it was reported that CWaC in June 2021, Cheshire West and Chester Council approved three new strategies: a 'Parks and Greenspaces Strategy', a 'Wildflower and Grassland Strategy' and a 'Play Strategy', collectively known as the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS). At a time when tackling the climate emergency and improving health and well-being is a high priority, the Environmental Management Strategies provide detailed action plans for the Council to deliver with clear priorities identified for the next 5-10 years.

Whilst areas within Hargrave and Huxley had not been identified for this year's programme CWaC had offered to meet members of the Parish Council to try to identify locations within the area suitable for putting forward in the future. CWaC would undertake to mow any such area once a year.

ACTION: Parish Councillors to consider if any areas within the Parish could be utilised for planting Wildflowers.

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 22-02-2022 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

The following planning applications had been received since the last meeting:-

21/05060/LDC - Land At Hoofield Lane Huxley Chester – Not Consulted the Parish Council

21/03374/FUL – Mill Lane Farm, Mill Lane Huxley Chester Cheshire CH3 7RQ – Single Storey Rear Extension - no objections.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Accounts for payment

RESOLVED 21/033 Year to date cashbook dated 25/02/2022 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 21/042** – that the Chair signs the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements against the Cashbook YTD.

Clerk undertaking the CiLCA Training

The clerk sought support from the Parish Council in undertaking the CiLCA Course.

It was **RESOLVED 21/043** to support the Clerk in undertaking this course over the next 12 months and agreed that the Parish Council would contribute ¼ of the cost of the course (£215.88). It was also noted that further training support may be required to complete this course and the Parish Council would be advised at a future meeting if this was the case.

Insurance Renewal

RESOLVED 21/044 to pay the annual renewal premium of £402.24 to Hiscox Insurance Company for a 3 year binding Long Term Agreement (LTA) which will run until 31/03/2025

VAT Reclaim for 2021-22

RESOLVED 21/045 to submit the VAT Rebate Application for 2021-22 in March to allow for payment to be reviewed within the same financial year.

National Salary Awards April 2021

Following the receipt of the approved National Salary Awards it was confirmed that Pay Agreement has been reached on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2021. It was **RESOLVED 21/046** to accept the pay increase for the clerk of SCP21 of £0.24

Income – it was reported that since the last meeting the following had been received:-
£0.13 and £0.13 from Bank Interest

Payments made/received since last meeting:-

Clerk Pay	Tax Point 11	£234.17
Clerk Pay	Tax Point 12	£234.17
Clerk's Expenses		£35.79
Ashton Hayes Parish Council	Bitdefender Joint Subscription	£17.49
Hargrave Parochial Church Council	Church Hall Hire for Sept & Jan	£30.00
Huxley Village Hall	Hire of Hall for Nov & Mar Meeting	£40.00
Gallaghers Insurance	Parish Council Insurance for 2022	£402.24
Linux Internet	Cloud Hosting Plan from 20/01/2022 – 19/01/23	£57.46
Word Press	Domain Registration	£16.00

RESOLVED 21/047 to accept the income and payments since the last meeting for approval.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Risk Assessment for 2022

RESOLVED 21/048 that the Risk Assessment be approved as circulated prior to the meeting and signed outside of the meeting in preparation for the Internal Audit. Proposed - Cllr Roscoe, seconded by Cllr Windsor.

Asset Register for 2022

RESOLVED 21/049 that the Asset Register be approved as circulated prior to the meeting. This was unanimously approved. Proposed - Cllr Hyden, seconded by Cllr Bird.

Internal Auditor

RESOLVED 21/050 to instruct Phil Sanders to undertake the Internal Auditor for 2021-22.

Policy Schedule Review

ACTION: Send copies of all Policies to Parish Councillors for consideration prior to and adoption at May's meeting.

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

ACTION: Cllr Martin to provide details about new defib pads which need to be re-ordered.

ACTION: Check with CHALC if it is within the remit of the Parish Council to attend a property if it is believed development is being carried out without planning permission.

CHASE - Flooding on Guy Lane and Martin Lane.(already on CWaC list of outstanding issues)

ACTION: Check with Christine Hunt if she is checking the Huxley defibrillator on a weekly basis.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday 8th May 2022 at 5pm at Hargrave Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 18:18

Signed:.....

Dated:.....