

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

In Attendance – Cllr J Windsor - Chairman

Cllr S Martin

Cllr M Roscoe

Cllr S Ratledge

Cllr M Pilkington

Cllr O de Braekeleer

Cllr R Bird

Cllr S Hyden

Members of the Public: 2

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L Sackett due to ill health.

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

Cllr R Bird joined the meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

Chair of Huxley Primary School reported following the implementation of the Interim Executive Board (IEB) at the end of May the school has been running for two terms under this structure. The IEB meet every three weeks and therefore have a good understanding of where school is at and there is a school improvement plan in place. The team include Kate Doyle a head teacher mentor; Sharon Dean as the School Improvement Partner and Martin Bell, head teacher for the IEB. These people come in at different times to help support the school and report back to the IEB.

It was confirmed that currently there were 35 pupils on the enrolment which was an improvement and the school would be full with an enrolment of 49 students; of the 35 - 8 were full time and it was believed that all students travelled from out of the area.

It was reported that significant work had been undertaken with parents to provide them with the understanding of what was expected from them within the flexischool policy. A Programme called 'Showbe' had been made available to allow parents to provide the school with input for work that they are undertaking with the children on the Monday and Friday and schools can also put information on this system to allow the parents to plan their work with their children in co-operation with the school.

The Chair of Huxley Primary School thanked the PTA who had provided some lovely new equipment this included buddy benches. The PTA had now been disbanded.

Staffing Issues – It was reported that the Early Years Teacher was leaving in December, this job had been advertised and the closing date was Friday 11th November and the school had received several applications.

The Chair of Huxley Primary School went on to advise the Parish Council that once a school was put in special measures by OfSTED then the primary school had to look to become/join an Academy. Huxley School has now started the process of looking to join an Academy the first step of this being a Soft Due Diligence Process, and the school has received interest from one Trust in taking them into their multi-academy trust. The Chair hoped to be able to provide further information regarding this at the next Parish Council Meeting.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 22/029 that the Chairman signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2022 subject to the following change:-

The words “on the agenda” be added to the section under Parish Council Policies on page 84, it would therefore read:- Cllr O de Braekeleer undertook to abstain from this item ***on the agenda***.

ACTIONS

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Huxley Primary School – This item had been reported under Public Participation.

Footpaths – Cllr Pilkington reported that she had nothing further to report.

It was reported that the issues raised since July had still not been resolved and had been chased with CWaC:-

- Restricted byway off Hoofield Lane had been reported to CWaC for maintenance work due to the byway being overgrown and impassable. CWaC confirmed that the byway was on their list of annual maintenance and had scheduled this work with their contractor.
- Stile on FP4 – Huxley Lane Opposite the Inn at Huxley was overgrown.
- Stile on FP3 (location 50556 62155) – on land owned by Lloyds had a top rail loose
- Stile on FP3 (location 50826 62217) – overgrown hedges surrounding stile
- Bridge over Southerly Brook FP3/FP10 intersection – north side steps broken and partly collapsed bridge
- Stile on FP4 (location 50939 61873) – overgrown around stile and deep mud on both sides making gate impassable in the winter.
- Stile on FP4/FP11 intersection – overgrown
- Bridge on FP11 is rotten and has a large hole on it, no handrail and also overgrown

CWaC PROW officer has confirmed that due to ill health these issues had not been resolved, however he highlighted that the public can remove vegetation themselves if its obstructing their passage along a PROW. If there’s an overgrown hedge restricting access to a stile for example the person walking the route would be within their rights to clip it back.

ACTION: A bridge which is on a bridleway has been repaired but is now too narrow for horses to pass over. – Cllr Windsor undertook to do this.

Review of Condition and Safety of Assets –

It was reported that the Moulson Trust and Parochial Church Council have agreed that the Beacon can be located on the playing field in Hargrave in a suitable location alongside the hedgerow. A new sleeve now needed to be installed at the agreed site to allow the alternative siting.

ACTION: Cllr Windsor to check with Cllr Sackett if the Beacon could be powder coated or painted prior to installation to reduce the possibility of corrosion. A quote to be obtained.

It was noted that the noticeboard in Huxley still needed to be erected. Cllr Martin with Cllrs Ratledge, Braekeleer and Hyden assisting volunteered to carry this out. Hopefully weather dependant, this will take place on Saturday 12th November.

It was highlighted that the noticeboard in Greenlooms area required some maintenance and it was agreed that as it was not legally required and due to the location it would be removed.

ACTION: Add new notice board and beacon to Assets Register and inform Insurance Company and remove Noticeboard at Greenlooms from Asset Register.

It was reported that a resident had raised that the bus shelter in Hargrave was looking a run down – review again in Spring.

Defibrillator Huxley – it was reported that the replacements defib pads had now been installed. Cllr Martin would register it now.

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

The following highways work remained on-going:-

HW389727334 – Damaged Sign at Junction of Red Lane, Huxley and Huxley Lane – Query if **completed**

HW364056532 – Missing Church Lane sign between Bridge House and Swallow Farm had been passed to contractor. - **Completed**

HW389942562 – Junction of Martins Lane/Guy Lane – further works still to be programmed.

It was reported that the following item had been reported since the last meeting:-

HW388167512 – Gully/Draining – Huxley Lane, Huxley – located on footpath after Green Farm

Community Litter Picking & Daffodil Planting - It was reported that the Community Litter Picking Event that took place on 8th October 2022 at Hargrave and 15th October 2022 at Huxley between 10.00am - 12.00 noon had been well attended and thought to be useful, however it was felt demoralising as there was litter back within a week of undertaking the litter picking event.

It was reported that only a few volunteers came forward to assist in the planting of the daffodils and there was over 2000 bulbs. It was **RESOLVED 22/030** that Neil Barker be paid £105 to undertake the planting of the bulbs. Cllr Martin proposed and Cllr Hyden seconded.

Speed Monitoring – Cllr Sackett reported that Speed Monitoring had taken place outside of the Primary School and down Huxley Lane.

The Parish Council had also received an email from a new resident of Huxley who was concerned about the speed traffic drives through Huxley. It was reported that the Chairman had responded directly to the resident about these concerns.

Additionally, a resident who lives opposite Elm Tree Cottage has also expressed concerns regarding the volume of traffic trying to get past Elm Tree Cottages at rush hour which often resulting in car drivers arguing over right of way.

ACTION: It was suggested that a webpage be added to the Parish Council's Website to highlight to all residents the work that has been undertaken by the Parish Council, including the Speed Assessment work CWaC had carried out in Hargrave that has been reported at this meeting.

CWaC Speed Assessment on Hargrave – following the recent Speed Assessment that CWaC carried out, a report was circulated to show the mean speeds along Church Lane and Long Lane it was agreed no further action could be taken.

Community Orchard Promotion – pass information on to the Primary School. No further action by the Parish Council.

41A Bus Services – following writing to Edward Timpson MP with regards to the withdrawal of the 41A Bus Services a reply was received from the Department of Transport and Edward Timpson and noted. We were advised to ask CwaC and the service provider Arriva if the bus service could be reinstated.

ACTION: Write to CwaC and Arriva to ask if the original service could be reinstated?

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 26/10/2022 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

It was reported that the following application had been consulted upon since the last meeting:-

22/02986/FUL – Mill Lane Farm, Mill Lane, Huxley – Two storey side extension – Comments made by the Parish Council - **No Objection but submit a comment that the Parish Council would welcome the use of domestic solar panels or alternative energy sources.**

22/03674/FUL – Old Hall Barn, Church Lane, Hargrave – Single storey side extension with raised patio area – Comments made by the Parish Council – **No Objection but comment that the use of alternative energy sources would be welcome.**

22/03443/S73 - Stapleford House, Guy Lane Foulk Stapleford Chester Cheshire CH3 7RZ - Demolition of detached garages and erection of single storey detached garage and swimming pool - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on 18/03585/FUL – **No Objection**

Planning Enforcement 20/02055/FUL – Removal of mobile home and septic tank from land at Hargrave. Clerk and Chairman had chased the Head of the Planning Department for an update and confirmation of a new Planning Enforcement Officer being assigned to the case had been confirmed therefore the re-issue the enforcement notice was estimated to be sent out within the month. This would give the occupiers 4 months to address the enforcement.

Items to review and may require reporting to Planning Enforcement:

- Entrance to Green Farm – it was reported that an entrance has appeared on Huxley Lane with 2m high fence and a native hedge has been removed is this included within a planning application?
- Huxley Lane Farm - it was reported that an alternative access has been installed – confirm if this was on a previous planning application .

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Cashbook and Out-turn Forecast YTD

RESOLVED 22/0310 Year to date cashbook and out-turn report dated 26/10/2022 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 22/032** – that Cllr Hyden signs the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.

Payments Made & Received since the last meeting:-

Income received since the last meeting:-

£0.59 & £0.59 in Bank Interest

Payments made since last meeting:-

Clerk Pay	Tax Point 7	£243.01
Clerk Pay	Tax Point 8	£243.01
Clerk's Expenses		£90.85

PQR Limited	Payroll Services for Q2	£30.60
Hargrave PCC	Hire of St Peters Church Hall	£21.00
PQR Limited	Payroll Services for Q3 & Q4	£61.20
Mrs J Y Windsor	Planting of Daffodils	£105.00

ESOLVED 22/033 to accept the income and payments since the last meeting for approval.

Seek Budget Requirements for 2023-24 for consideration

Cllr Windsor sought the Parish Council's thoughts on any budget requirements that should be considered for inclusion in the budget preparation for 2023-24. The budget would seek approval at the January meeting.

Clerk's Salary

RESOLVED 22/034 to approve the Clerk's salary increase of one salary scale point following the completion of the CiLCA Qualification and in-line with the Clerk's contract.

RESOLVED 22/035 to approve the Clerk's salary increase of one salary scale point for the financial year 2023-24.

It was reported that NALC has advised that the LGA has notified that they have come to an agreement on the new pay scales for 2022-23 to be implemented from 1 April 2022. Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible. It was therefore **RESOLVED 22/036** to the agreed new pay scales for 2022-23 and this be backdated to 1st April 2022.

Budget – no additional budget requirements were suggested and the draft budget was requested to be circulated around the Parish Council.

Cllr Hyden left the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

The following policy was presented to the Parish Council meeting for approval following a request from a member of the public for sight of this and clarification from CHALC that it was a legal requirement to have it in place:- Publication Scheme.

ACTION: Find out when the Publication Scheme became a legal requirement.

RESOLVED 22/037 to adopt the Publication Scheme as presented to the meeting; proposed by Cllr Windsor and seconded Cllr Bird.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday 8th January 2023 at 5pm at Hargrave Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 18:20

Signed:.....

Dated:.....