

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM AT HARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance: Cllr S Martin
Cllr M Roscoe
Cllr M Pilkington
Cllr R Bird (Chairman)

Cllr S Ratledge
Cllr R Lambert
Members of the Public: 4

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Jones (Ward Councillor) due to work commitments and Cllr F Halton due to previous commitment.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS –

Cllr Lambert declared a disclosable interest in any matters relating to the Sandstone Trust due to being a Trustee for the Sandstone Trust, a pecuniary disclosable interest in matters relating to Highways due to living on Huxley Lane and a pecuniary disclosable interest in any discussions relating to the Planning Enforcement for Willow Bank, Huxley Lane. Cllr Lambert undertook to leave the meeting and not participate in any discussions relating to the pecuniary disclosable interests.

DISPENSATION

The Clerk reported that she had received requests from Cllr Lambert to seek a dispensation to participate in discussions and voting in relation to Huxley Lane due to his property sitting adjacent to the road within the Parish and Cllr Lambert had an interest in all discussions relating to speed limits and traffic calming measures within the parish including Huxley Lane.

Proposed by Cllr Pilkington, seconded by Cllr Roscoe and unanimously **RESOLVED 23/030** to approve the dispensation requests until May 2027.

PUBLIC SESSION

Gail Webb, Chair of Interim Executive Board for Huxley Primary School reported that OFSTED had visited the school which they undertake to do within 18 months of putting a school in special measures and undertake a monitoring visit. This visit happened on 18th July and the report was released to parents on 19th September and will go live on the OFSTED website on 28th September. Gail Webb undertook to send a copy for circulation to the Parish Council Clerk.

Ms Webb reported that during the monitoring visit the areas of judgement that were reviewed were the leadership and management and its effectiveness to make progress against the recommendations and whether the school development plan was fit for purpose. Ms Webb was pleased to report that both of these areas were reported to be positive in their findings.

Secondly, Ms Webb reported that any school that is in special measures comes under the Regional Directors Office and there are two tracks that they have available to them to explore: either to find a multi-academy sponsor or to close as a school. In the last three months Chester Diocesan Academy Trust has visited the school to do diligence, there have also been conversations with the Regional Directors Office and it has been confirmed that CDAT would be willing to take the school into their Trust. The Advisor Board met on 12th September and a recommendation has been agreed that Huxley Primary School will move into the ownership of CDAT a flexi school.

MINUTES

RESOLVED 23/031 that the Chairman signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2023 proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Roscoe.

ACTIONS

All actions were already covering within the agenda.

BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Police/PCSO Update – nothing to report.

Huxley Primary School – The Chair of Huxley Primary School comments under Public Participation.

Footpaths – Cllr Pilkington reported that the landowner on FP15 had been contacted to seek approval to install one kissing gate to replace the stile by Mill Cottages, Hargrave and two spring gates either side of the bridge by Leadgate Farm.

Total cost of 1 x Kissing Gate and 2 x Spring Gates is £1,040.40 plus installation of £540

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had received a contribution to fund the installation of from Cllr Jones half the total funding for this.

ACTION: Once receive landowners permission and CWaC's approval purchase gates and arrange for their installation.

Review of Condition and Safety of Assets – It was reported that the Parish Council Beacon was currently located in the car park of the Hargrave Village Hall and the priority was to relocate it in the position that had been agreed on the field.

ACTION: Cllr Ratledge, Martin & Cllr Roscoe undertook to arrange for the relocation of the Beacon before the next meeting.

ACTION: Defer the decision on whether to obtain a plaque for the beacon to a future meeting once the beacon had been relocated.

Speeding and Road Safety within the Parish – Cllr Lambert reported that the next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st September at 10.00am in Huxley Village Hall and Officers from the CWaC Highways Department were attending the meeting.

The Parish Councillors felt that any proposal should be consulted on by the residents.

Impact of spending on resident of Huxley Lane – Cllr Lambert reported that he had a meeting with where he had raised his concerns to Cllr Jones about the potential loss in value of house on country roads due to the amount of traffic that now utilise these roads. Residents that have been living in the area for a long time and originally bought their houses when the roads were quite, are now finding it difficult to sell their homes due to the amount of traffic. It was suggested that CWaC Council be contacted and asked what their position was with regards to this.

ACTION: Write to CWaC Council.

Flooding on Huxley Lane – Cllr Lambert reported that he had recently been made aware of a residential property that had been flooded due to the amount of rainfall that they had experienced and their septic tank and drains not being able to accommodate the water coming off the road. It was also reported that the gully was blocked outside of the property. The resident has been reported this to CWaC.

ACTION: Request them to clean out the gullies and request street cleaner.

ACTION: include information on landowners responsibilities to clear ditches, keep mud off the road and keep the hedges tidy in Down our Way.

A resident reported that there are farmers in the area that do make sure that they come out and clean up the mud after the contractors have been out and this is welcomed and appreciated by residents.

Community Litterpicking - It was agreed that the next Community Litter Picking Event would take place on 21th October 2023 at Hargrave (Cllr Roscoe to organising the event) and 28th October 2023 at Huxley (Cllr Martin to organising the event) between 10.00am - 12.00 noon. This had been advertised in the Down Our Way newsletter asking for volunteers.

Broadband – Cllr Bird reported that he had found a company who provides broadband called “Skylink” and broadband connectivity is considerably better he believes that the installation costs approximately £400 with a monthly charge of £60. Cllr Bird would be interested to know if there was a number of residents that may be interested in exploring this and whether a discount could be achieved via Skylink.

ACTION: Cllr Bird to explore if a connectivity discount would be granted by Skylink if a number of residents were interested in utilising this service?

The Clerk reported on a discussion she had with CWaC with regards to the Gigabit Scheme that the government is currently running.

ACTION: Send map provided by CWaC to Cllr Ratledge.

Bus Services within the Area – Cllr Bird sought the Parish Council’s agreement on any further steps that could be taken to campaign to get a bus service back within the area or conclude that matter.

ACTION: Ask the public if they would use a bus services if there was one provided and how often – Cllr Ratledge to ask the question in October at the ‘Pop up Pub’ and get residents feedback.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Action Plan – The Clerk highlighted the benefits of creating a Parish Council Action Plan for 2024-25, allowing better transparency of projects that the Parish Council wished to undertake and the link to establishing a budget for 2024-25. An example was circulated and Parish Councillors undertook to submit amendments to the Clerk before the next meeting where the Action Plan could be approved.

ACTION: Amend between the Parish Council and circulate and bring to next meeting for adoption.

ACTION: Add to the Action Plan Facebook the future Parish Council Meeting dates etc and link it back to the Parish Council website.

Surgery/Drop In – Cllr Lambert reported that Tattenhall Parish Council provide drop-in sessions for residents to meet their Parish Councillors and raise any concerns they may have, he felt that offering this could make the Parish Council feel more approachable. It was agreed not to take this forward at this time, however to try to undertake more community engagement opportunities via village events that are organised.

Vacancies- it was noted that there remained 2 vacancies on the Parish Council and the Chairman sought ideas of how to fill these positions. The Clerk confirmed that she had advertised the vacancies in the recent Down our Way.

ACTION: Contact Cllr Jones to see if he knows anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 11/09/2023 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

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

23/00151/FUL – Brook Cottage, Old Hall Lane, Foulk Stapleford CH3 7RT – Application to change position of all-weather arena- Retrospective - *approved*

Planning Enforcement

PL41223430 Stapleford House – Detached two storey building with Clock Tower – this has now received appropriate planning permission approval and is therefore resolved.

Cllr Lambert left the meeting.

PL493952363 Willow Bank, Huxley Lane – it was reported that this has now been passed to Highways and therefore closed by the Planning Enforcement.

Cllr Lambert returned to the meeting.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – wait and see what the CWaC Local Plan once it has been amended and then look to align our Neighbourhood Development Plan. Also, review the NDP boundaries at this time to see if they need amending.

ACTION: Find out a timescale for when CWAC will be finished reviewing their Local Plan.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Cashbook and Out-turn Forecast YTD

RESOLVED 23/032 Year to date cashbook and out-turn report dated 13/09/2023 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 23/033** – that Cllr Pilkington signed the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.

Payments Made & Received since the last meeting:-

Income received since the last meeting:-

£10.97 & £13.87 in Bank Interest

£822 from CWaC Ward Members Budget Grant towards the installation of stiles.

Payments made since last meeting:-

Clerk Pay	Tax Point 5	£265.20
Clerk Pay	Tax Point 6	£265.20
Clerk's Expenses	To include Training, Stationery, Mobile, Travel etc	£79.29
Old Chad's Orchard	Code of Conduct Training	£90.00

RESOLVED 23/033 to accept the income and payments since the last meeting for approval.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 21st November at 7.00pm in Huxley Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.15

Signed: _____



Dated: 9.11.23