Hockliffe Parish Council

"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Scott, P Dickens & R Reyland

Clerk: C Underhay

100: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Coleman & Cllr Alexander apologised in advance for their absence.

101: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

102: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2022:

It was resolved by all Councillors present that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2022 were correct. Cllr Dickens noted a correction to item 93 (he was not present at the meeting). The item read "Mr Alexander advised that with only 40 responses to the recent questionnaire, we cannot go forward – this would be because any plan would not be supported by more than 50% of the households that live here". This is incorrect as any Neighbourhood Plan need only be accepted by more than 50% of respondents.

103: CBC - Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion was not present at the meeting

104: Public Forum:

No members of the "public" were present

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105: Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda:

The Chair noted that the Christmas Event was not as well supported as last year – primarily due to England playing in a World Cup football match the same evening.

106: The Park:

Cllr P Scott asked for this to be moved to the next Agenda – as the Council really need some form of resident participation to take this forward.

107: Hockliffe Herald:

Cllr Dickens noted that the last edition was March 2022. Various options were discussed – as well as relevance. Cllr Dickens is to invite comments by way of a Facebook post (via webmaster) -and this will then be discussed at a future meeting.

108: Village Hall:

Cllr Dickens advised the "village hall committee" is going through the process of changing from an unincorporated charity to a registered charity. Cllr Dickens was also of the opinion that if we offered our land (i.e., the park) to have a village hall built, then it would be owned by the Parish Council. Possibly, we could investigate a lease arrangement. Further discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

109: Cemetery Parking:

Cllr Dickens will report further at the next meeting.

110: Churchyard Trees:

The Church has advised that some tree branches have overgrown on a property next door and could cause damage. The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to investigate removal (via CBC as the trees are in a Conservation Area).

111: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised there were no new planning applications.

112: Meeting Dates 2023/24:

Meeting dates for 2023/24 were proposed by the Chair, and seconded by Cllr P Scott, and then resolved by all Councillors present. The schedule is attached to these Minutes

113: Review of policies:

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr P Scott, §and resolved by all Councillors present that the following policies are renewed for a further 12 months:
Grant application policy
Scheme of delegation

It was proposed by Cllr Dickens, seconded by the Chair, and resolved by all Councillors present that the Cemetery Table of charges is renewed with one amendment – that fees will not be multiplied by 5 for persons where they have lived in Hockliffe permanently for 10 consecutive years throughout their lifetime.

114: A5:

Cllr P Scott is going to draft a letter to National Highways from the Parish Council regarding the A5.

115: Issue with a tree on our land (& damage to a fence):

The Clerk advised that the tree has now been removed – however, the residents have noted that the tree caused damage to their fence. Two Councillors have visited and advised that, in their opinion, the wooden fence posts were rotten below ground – and if anything, the tree was holding up the fence. The council will therefore not pay for the fence to

be repaired. The Clerk will correspond with residents – and advise our insurers in case a claim is made.

116: Handyman

No update

117: Blooming Hockliffe:

No update.

118: HM The King's Coronation:

The Chair advised that we will do some form of event – this item will be discussed further over the coming months.

119: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid (some payments below are retrospectively authorised – they were all within agreed budget lines):

Chq	Amount	Payee and reason
2004	£92.39	Mrs M Underhay (Christmas presents)
2005	£79.75	Mrs A Alexander (Christmas presents)
2006	£8.00	C Underhay (Expenses)
2007	£266.90	C Underhay (salary – November)
2008	£177.60	HMRC – clerk tax
2009	£30.00	Hockliffe Parochial Church Council (hire for Nov meeting)
2010	£617.53	Goldleaf – Dec maintenance

An amount of £26 was also paid to the Clerk for the working at home allowance (via standing order).

A credit of £81 was received for the cemetery (stone inscription fee).

A credit of £11.22 was received in respect of interest.

2. **Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:**
   A full bank reconciliation was provided to the Council by the Clerk. As at 30th November 2022 the Current account balance was £4,917.04 & the savings account £34,942.05. Spend against budget shows that with 66% of the year gone, the council have only spent 46% of budget.

3. **Budget 2023/24**
   The budget for 2023/24 was presented. It was noted that the £5000 annual payment from Ground Farm Solar Farm had been removed – this is because since this had been agreed, we have not heard anything further, and the Chair is of the opinion that the Company concerned may have gone out of business/been taken over. The budget was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr P Scott and resolved by all Councillors present. The budget will be posted on the website.

120: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The chair noted that no items had been received.

121: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

None other than those noted above

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 19th December 2022

Signed as a true copy……..Rob Scott 9th January 2023