Hockliffe Parish Council

"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th April 2023

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Scott, R Alexander & D Coleman

Clerk: C Underhay

Guest: Cllr M Versallion (CBC)

163: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Reyland & Dickens apologised for their absence.

164: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

165: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023:

It was resolved by all Councillors present that the Minutes of 6th March were approved as a true record.

166: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion reported as follows:
The work on the A5 average speed cameras is due to start on 24th April 2023.
Alison's Brook – a new telegraph pole has now been installed – so work should be completed soon and the railings removed.
Bull Farm – National Highways has agreed to move a lamppost – so the Developer now needs to pay for it.
Speed outside the school – the head of CBC Highways has resigned, so waiting for a new person to be appointed to take this forward.

A resident asked about a broken fence that CBC own between Ninelands and an adjoining field – Cllr Versallion will take this forward.

167: Public Forum:

A resident asked about sheep in the fields – and dogs not on leads – the Chair noted this was beyond the remit of the Parish Council – however, Cllr Alexander advised that he would post a note on Facebook about the importance of keeping dogs on leads in fields with sheep in them.

A resident asked if the CCTV cameras would be switched off in the shop (where the election is taking place) – the Chair advised that this would be the remit of the Presiding Officer and not the Parish Council.

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

The Chair noted that the dangerous tree in the Churchyard has now been removed – as an emergency – the planning permission had been obtained by the Clerk (as it is in a conservation area), and this stated that the tree was in a perilous condition and needed to be reduced to between 3 and 4 feet, as quickly as possible, before it damaged a property (this was confirmed by Lee Norman from All Trees and Hedges). The Clerk had arranged 3 quotes – all much the same (All Trees & Hedges £420; Brown Tree Solutions - £500; T Machon £450) – agreement had been reached to go forward with the quote from All Trees & Hedges – this was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr P Scott. It was then resolved by all Councillors present.

The overgrown shrubs in the cemetery have been cleared (agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting).

As agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting, lamp post flags have been ordered for the King's Coronation.

Cllr Alexander has not been to look at the footpath at the Church yet – he will do so before the next meeting and report back.

169: 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:

- Freedom of Information Act
- Precept

The Precept policy was amended to reflect the current years precept as follows:

"The Precept in Hockliffe declared for 2023/24 is £22890.00. This equates to £56.80 per household per year or £1.90 per week".

170: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised that one application had been received:
CB/23/00534/full – The Crows Nest, Church End.
As no Councillor had any comments to make, the Council will respond as "no comment."

171: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid:

Chq no	Amount	Payee
2024	£250	Mike Smith Pay for shrub clearance
2025	£420	Lee Norman Tree removal (All Trees & Hedges)
2026	£266.90	C Underhay March salary

2027	£177.60	HMRC	Clerk tax
2028	£112	SLCC	Annual Subscription
2029	£32	CBC	Hall hire (March meeting)
2030	£225	BATPC	Annual Subscription
2031	£163.58	A Alexander	Coronation flags
2032	£57.79	C Underhay	expenses (Printer ink)
2033	£266.90	C Underhay	April salary
2034	£177.60	HMRC	Clerk tax – April
2035	£1188.55	Zurich	Insurance

The cheque to Zurich is year 2 of a 5-year deal agreed at in our May 2022 meeting.

A £26 standing order was also paid to the Clerk for working at home allowance (1st March 2023). A credit of £29.74 was also received in respect of bank interest (31st March 2023) & £24.16 (28th February 2023).

2. Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:

Both February and March 2023 reconciliations were presented. At the end of March (financial year end), we had spent 63% of expected budget. However, this was based on an expected £5000 income from the solar farm that did not materialize – this had been included in the income budget – as a result, income was less than expected by this amount. Bank balances as at 31st March – Current account - £9994.81 - savings account £35,043.45. There were no uncashed cheques at the end of the year.

3. **S106 Email (received from CBC):**
   The Clerk advised he had been in receipt of an email from CBC regarding S106 funds – as we only have 12 months to spend it. Ideas from CBC were included, as well as a form to claim the funds. The Chair asked for this to be discussed at the next meeting (which is after the Election) – so the new Council can take this forward.

172: Correspondence Received (for information only):

A free operational inspection report came from Fenland regarding the park this came as part of the installation last year. This was shared to Councillors – no risk areas identified.

173: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

None other than those noted above

The meeting closed at 9pm
Colin Underhay – Clerk – 29th April 2023

Signed as a true copy……. (Chair) 15th May 2023

Colin Underhay, Parish Clerk to Hockliffe Parish Council,
47 Manor Avenue, Hockliffe, Bedfordshire, LU7 9LW
email: parish.clerk@hockliffepc.org.uk
www.hockliffepc.org.uk