Hockliffe Parish Council
"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023

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

Clerk: C Underhay

142: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Reyland apologised for her absence. Cllr Coleman was also not present.

143: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

144: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2023:

It was resolved by all Councillors that the Minutes of 2nd February 2023 were approved as a true record.

145: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion reported as follows:
The Secretary of State for Transport visited Hockliffe and met with Cllr Versallion, Cllr Scott & Cllr Dickens, to discuss the A5. He is very supportive of measures we want to take to calm the traffic through Hockliffe.
Average speed cameras will be installed on the A5 in May 2023.
The speed limit outside the school – CBC has said they cannot do anything until approved by National Highways (as stepped reduction of speed limits near the A5 need to be approved by National Highways) - National Highways have said they have no issue – the Police are supportive of a speed reduction, but not speed humps (as the road is

termed as a "critical road" for them). Cllr Versallion is attempting to get CBC/National Highways together to resolve the matter.
Bull Farm – the entrance work was going to go ahead – this has been delayed due to a lamp post that needs to be moved (owned by National Highways).
Contact has been made to Hockliffe School (by Cllr Versallion) to see if they can make use of a grant.
We could possibly apply for a grant for a footpath between the lights on the A5 to Goose Green.
Cllr Alexander asked if it would be possible to change the use of the green space by the Church to be changed to parking use. This is thought unlikely, as this space is governed by the Village Green directive.

146: Public Forum:

Nothing was brought to the Councils attention.

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

The matter of the dangerous tree at the Church Cemetery was discussed (from last meeting) – the Clerk advised that he is in the process of obtaining quotes and permission from CBC to undertake whatever work is necessary to secure.
Cllr Alexander (as Handyman) said he would go and inspect the footpath at the Church – as it has been reported by the Church Warden as being slippery.

148: Election 2023:

The Clerk advised the Council of the process for the upcoming election, and made forms available for those Councillors that wished to be considered as a candidate for the Election.

149: 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:

- Health & Safety
- Standing Orders
- Risk Management Strategy

150: Risk – to sign off the following as at March 2023:

The Clerk presented the risk reports for sign-off. There are no significant risks identified. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr P Scott and resolved by all Councillors present that the following risk reports were signed off:

- Risk Register
- Open Spaces Risk Assessment

151: 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
2017	£32	CBC (Hall hire)
2018	£617.53	Goldleaf – Feb Maintenance
2019	£266.90	C Underhay - February salary
2020	£177.60	HMRC – Clerk Tax
2021	£617.53	Goldleaf – March Maintenance
2022	£850	Blooming Hockliffe
2023	£16.66	Expenses (Postage)

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

The following credits were received in January 2023:
£24.52 interest
£420 – Cemetery income

2. **Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:**
   February bank statements have not been received, so an up-to-date reconciliation could not be provided. However, January's were provided (as these were not available last month).
   As at the end of January 2023, the balance in the current account was £14,319.69 and the savings account was £34,989.55 – total £49,309.24.With February spend, and spend in March to date – the Clerk expected a 62% against budget – however, the budget was worked out on an additional income amount of £5000 that has not been received (solar farm) had that amount not been included – and expenditure not set around it (so taken out), spend is estimated to be 74% of budget at 31st March 2023

3. **Sign off Asset Register – March 2023:**
   This document was provided by the Clerk. It was proposed by the Chair that this was agreed, and seconded by Cllr Alexander, and then resolved by all Councillors present.

4. **Sign off funds in reserve statement:**
   This document was presented by the Clerk. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Dickens and resolved by all Councillors that an additional £6000 should be reserved towards the village hall.
   The reserve funds are now as follows:
   Village Hall - £16000
   Neighbourhood Plan - £2500

Garden in the park - £2500
Cemetery verge parking - £5000
Community events - £1588.52
Tree work - £1911
Total - £29499.52

152: A5:

No report.

153: Matter of fence/overgrown shrubs on the boundary of the Church and adjoining property:

Pictures were shared of the issue – shrubs from the Church Cemetery have overgrown an adjoining garden and impacted the fence. The Clerk advised that the resident had accepted the fence belonged to them and that they have said they will repair it. However, it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay to have the shrubs tidied and removed (it is along a fair length). A quote has been obtained by the resident concerned for £250 – the quote comes from Mike Smith who has previously undertaken work for us well. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr P Scott that this quote is accepted and that the Clerk authorise the work. This was then resolved by all Councillors present.

154: Village Hall:

It was noted by the Chair, that the village hall committee had met (they are independent to the Parish Council). It was a well-attended and new Trustees were appointed. They are to canvas residents for potential uses of a new village hall.

155: Hockliffe Herald:

Cllr Dickens noted that he had not had a lot of feedback from the Facebook post he had posted. It was agreed by all Councillors not to take this forward now – and perhaps to look at alternatives in the future.

156: The Park:

The Chair shared details received of a potential swing for less abled people. The quote is expensive (around £5000) – and this would be made more expensive with the addition of wet pour. A consultation will now be held with the intended users to see if the type of swing would be used – and if not, what would be?

157: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair noted the following planning applications:

CB/23/00007/Full - 11 Bull Farm
CB/23/00474/Full - 11 Bull Farm
CB/23/00484/Full – 10 Birches Close

All 3 were discussed – Cllr Dickens proposed no comment, and this was seconded by the Chair and resolved by all Councillors present.

158: HM The King's Coronation:

Due to a general lack of interest from the village to pleas of help, it was decided that no event would be organised by the Parish Council. It was agreed that lamp post flags could be ordered for the event.

159: Play items on the Village Green:

The Clerk provided several items about what a village green can/cannot be used for, together with the rules on how children's play items have to be placed/closed off (from ROSPA). Different ideas were discussed, with no conclusion made.

160: Blooming Hockliffe:

The team advised that they had spent the remainder of this year's budget on plants (£850). These will be planted over the coming weeks. Many plants had died due to the very low temperatures over the winter.

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161: Correspondence Received (for information only):

None

162: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

None other than those noted above

The meeting closed at 9pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 2nd April 2023

Signed as a true copy…….. Rob Scott 17th April 2023

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