Hockliffe Parish Council
"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th April 2024

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), R Wuczke, P Edwards, Cllr Mike Richards & Cllr Melanie Richards.

Clerk: C Underhay

1: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Alexander sent apologies.

2: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

3: Induction of Co-opted Councillors:

A resident that had previously expressed an interest did not come to the meeting (Ms Jenny Lane)– and so could not be inducted.

4: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024:

It was proposed by Cllr Wuczke & seconded by the Chair that the Minutes of the Meeting's held on 11th March 2024 were approved as a correct record. This was then resolved by all Councillors.

5: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion reported on the following:
CBC has now agreed the budget – and adopted the maximum increase to Council Tax. It is now looking at how it can save funds through "efficiencies." There has been a mainly negative view to the £55 levy to collect green bins. The thought is that residents will just use black bins for garden waste – defeating the object (as green waste is not supposed to be put in black bins. The council is also considering "switching off"

some facilities it does not have to offer, such as libraries. Cllr Edwards asked if the increase also included the maximum for social care – Cllr Versallion said it did – and that the number of children and adults falling into social care requirements had increased. Cllr Edwards noted the number of accidents that had occurred near the new wind turbines – and thought these were possibly caused by motorists looking at the new wind turbine near the A5. The Chair suggested average speed cameras may help – Cllr Versallion said he would take the matter "away." The Chair asked about an email received from CBC today regarding an audit of facilities – and in particular the business "in time for tea" – a business where the credentials may be missing. Cllr Versallion said he would investigate this to ensure correct certificates etc were in place, and if not, he would ask CBC to start the enforcement process.
Cllr Versallion noted that Tilsworth Parish Council have approached CBC to see whether a roundabout can be built with the junction from Tilsworth to the A5. Cllr Versallion has sent 4 emails to Gary Powell (new head of CBC Highways) regarding the speed limit outside the school and had no response.

6: Drainage Issue:

The Chair advised that he has chased our MP Andrew Selous and his secretary, but had no response. He asked for it to be recorded that he was disappointed the resident that came to the Parish Council Meeting in February had not returned – and that we had not received many photos as evidence.

7: Public Forum:

A resident again asked about parking at the cemetery. Whilst this is a later item on the Agenda, the Chair decided to discuss the matter here – the Chair advised that the land does not belong to us, and the land is not wide enough (under current rules) to be made into parking spaces. Hockliffe Parish Council cannot therefore make any change, as it could then be liable for any issues caused. A resident asked about parking in the village generally – the Chair advised that this was beyond the remit of Hockliffe Parish Council (it is a CBC/National Highways matter).

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

Clarity was sought regarding ownership of the Barbecue, as it does not appear in our asset register. Cllr Edwards advised that it was purchased by the Events Committee (which was a formal subcommittee of the Parish Council some years ago). The funds to purchase it were raised from a coffee morning. Therefore, the Barbecue belongs to the Parish Council. It was thought that the value should be recorded as £400 and added to the asset register for 2024/25 – proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Edwards and resolved by all Councillors present.

9: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised that no planning applications had been received.

10: Parking at the Cemetery:

Dealt with in item above.

11: Cemetery Matters:

Cllr Edwards reported on following:
"Letters to loved ones" box ordered, and has been received. Cost £180.
The Plinth under the bench does not need replacing – it just needs to be cleaned. The "letters to loved ones" post box can then be placed next to it. The bench is old and needs replacing. It also appears to have been "wrenched" out of the ground. Cllr Edwards said he would facilitate all the work required from the funds set aside for this from reserves (agreed at last month's meeting), and provide quotes for consideration if any single item is more than £250.
The Clerk advised that he is still waiting for quotes from Goldleaf for removal of the "spoils" and hedge cutting.

12: Annual Review of policies:

The following policies were reviewed:

Freedom of Information Act
Precept

It was proposed by Cllr Wuczke and seconded by Cllr Mike Richards that both were renewed for 12 months, with amendment to the Precept policy to include this year's Precept amount. The Precept is the same – but because of an increase in properties, the amount received increased to £23,004. This was then resolved by all Councillors present.

13: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid:

Cheque	To	Amount	For
2107	Mr B Simpson	33.76	Domain name renewal (3yr)
2108	Mr P Edwards	180.00	Letters to loved one's box
2109	Zurich Municipal	1281.11	Annual insurance renewal
2110	Goldleaf Groundcare	48.00	Disposal of Christmas tree
2111	Goldleaf Groundcare	655.14	Ground maintenance – April
2112	Mr R Alexander	37.50	Handyman labour
2113	Mr C Underhay	308.90	Clerk – March salary
2114	HMRC – Clerk tax	205.60	Clerk tax
2115	Hockliffe Lower School	96.00	School hire – April - June

A standing order for £26 was paid to C Underhay on 1st March 2024 for working at home allowance. A direct debit for £10.25 was paid to Clear Methods on 20th March 2024 for payroll administration. A credit of £39.41 was received on 28th March 2024 in respect of interest.

Payment of all the above was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Wuczke, and then resolved by all Councillors present.

2. **Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:**
   Bank account balances as at 31st March 2024 – current account £8410.52 and savings account £35471.16. Spending against budget (taking out the tarmac spending as this was not in the budget) comes to £20,465.09. This represents 76.1% of the full year budget to 31st March 2024

3. **Sign off Asset Register:**
   This was included by accident (signed of in March 2024 meeting).

4. **Sign off funds in reserve:**
   This was included by accident (signed of in March 2024 meeting).

The Clerk presented the Annual Return section 1 and 2 for sign off. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Wuczke that these statements were signed, and then resolved by all Councillors present.

14: A5:

The Chair noted that we had received an email regarding recorded speeds (over 30mph) between the average speed cameras. These emails will be received regularly moving forward.

15: Notice Boards:

The Clerk presented an email with quotations for different size notice boards – and was asked by the Chair to provide quotes to include installation. The colour required is green.

16: Village Hall:

Nothing to report.

17: Handyman:

Nothing to report.

18: Development of HAS26:

The Chair noted he has included this as a standing item – nothing to report at this meeting

19: The Park:

1. **Swings:**
   The Clerk reported that this work is imminent.

2. **Tarmac at the park:**
   The Chair asked the Clerk to go forward and obtain three quotes for the tarmac "topcoat".

20: Correspondence Received (for information only):

None

21: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

None

The meeting closed at 9pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 28th April 2024

Signed as a true copy……. (R Scott - Chair) 13th May 2024