Hockliffe Parish Council
"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Wuczke, R Alexander & Melanie Richards.

Clerk: C Underhay

Guest: Cllr M Versallion (CBC)

The meeting was opened by Cllr Alexander in his capacity as Vice-Chair

58: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllrs Edwards & Mike Richards apologised for their absence.

59: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

60: Councillor Resignations:

Cllr Alexander advised the Meeting that Robert Scott had resigned (due to him moving out of Hockliffe), and that the position of Chair was now vacant.

61: Resolution of thanks to Robert Scott:

Cllr Alexander noted that Robert had spent a number of years as Chair – and that, during his tenure, a number of matters had been very successfully completed, such as the speed limit reduction on the A5. We also have had some successful events such as HM The Queen's Jubilee Event. Cllr Alexander proposed a vote of thanks to Robert, and this was resolved by all Councillors present – and echoed by all residents that were at the meeting.

62: Election of new Chair (& Vice Chair):

Cllr Alexander advised the Meeting that he was prepared to stand as Chair. There were no other applicants. Cllr Wuczke proposed that Cllr Alexander be elected as Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Melanie Richards. There was no further vote as, apart from Cllr Alexander, no other Councillors were present. Cllr Alexander was duly elected as Chair. Cllr Wuczke advised the meeting that she was prepared to stand as Vice-Chair. There were no other applicants. The Chair proposed that Cllr Wuczke be elected as Vice-Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Melanie Richards. There was no further vote as, apart from Cllr Wuczke, no other Councillors were present. Cllr Wuczke was duly elected as Vice Chair.

63: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion reported on the following:

Speed limit outside the school – still chasing the correct CBC officers for the priority spending list. The highways budget has been cut again (to £7 Million from an initial £25 Million), and this includes drainage – hence the reason for the delay in the production of the spending priority list.

Flooding/Drains – Cllr Versallion is attempting to get all agencies "in the same room" to discuss and come up with a proper plan. He will report back.

Milton Keynes Local Plan – this has been passed, and includes a large development of houses and industrial units in south Milton Keynes – probably meaning further stress on the A5. CBC have not done their Local Plan yet.

A resident advised about a pipeline from the canal that was due to come down the A5 and across some land in Hockliffe Parish. Cllr Versallion had seen the document referred to but had not digested it – and he said he would do this.

64: Flooding:

A general discussion took place. A resident noted that she was very appreciative of help given to her. Reference was made to Cllr Versallion's comments, and update at the next meeting.

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65: Approval of Minutes of the meetings held on 10th June and 12th September 2024:

The Chair postponed this until the next meeting, as there were not two Councillors present that were at both Meetings (hence a proposer and seconder).

66: Public Forum:

A resident asked about an item on our website called Hockliffe Masterplan as it is very out of date, and not now relevant. The Chair agreed – and the Clerk will arrange for its removal.

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

The Chair advised that as we have mistakenly missed Christmas off the Agenda, we would discuss here.
Cllr Wuczke offered to run an event, supported by Cllr Melanie Richards. The budget was confirmed by the Clerk.
The Clerk advised the Christmas tree had been ordered – The Chair and Cllr Mike Richards will arrange to erect it when it comes – the Clerk is just after confirmation of a date from them, and he can the arrange delivery.
We have received a request from Hockliffe Lower School for a grant (s137) to purchase their Christmas Tree. It was proposed by Cllr Melanie Richards that we donate £100 – this was seconded by Cllr Wuczke and resolved by all Councillors present.

The Clerk has received an email from CBC regarding salt for winter – and how to order. The only salt bins we have are at Church End. The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange for salt to be delivered to these bins.

68: Notice Boards:

In Cllr Edwards absence, the Clerk advised that the notice boards have been ordered and are being made.

69: Frequency of Meetings:

After discussion the feeling was that frequency of meetings should remain the same – monthly, with exception of August. No resolution to amend.

70: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised there were no Planning Applications to consider.

71: Cemetery Matters:

The Clerk advised that the annual Memorial Test was completed in August – no issues to report.
Still pending – the "spoils".
The Chair advised that we had received an email from "Andy" re the slippery moss on the pathways at the Church – and suggesting he could clear it. The Chair said he would go and look, and report back.

72: 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	Amount	To	For
2134	£308.90	C Underhay	June salary
2135	£205.60	HMRC	June tax
2136	£1310.74	Goldleaf	July & August maintenance
2137	£132.00	Playsafety	ROSPA report
2138	£112.00	SLCC	Affiliation fees

2141	£10548.00	Online Noticeboards - New Noticeboards	
2142	£252.00	B Simpson	Webmaster fees
2143	£655.14	Goldleaf	Oct maintenance
2144	£444.00	M J Humphries	Christmas Tree

A standing order for £26 was paid to C Underhay on 1st June, July, August & September 2024 for working at home allowance. A direct debit for £10.25 was paid to Clear Methods on 20th June, July, August and September 2024 for payroll administration. The following credits have been received in respect of interest

30th June - £39.56

31st July – £46.67

31st August – £42.88

30th September – £43.95

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 30th September 2024 – current account £18,584.99 and savings account £35,734.54. Spending against budget comes to £10330.61 This represents 24% of the full year budget to 31st March 2025, with 50% of the year gone.

Reserve funds – it was proposed by the Chair that the budget amount for the new notice boards should be £11000 (to take account of any additional cost above the £10,548 already spent). The reserve funds statement was reviewed and adjusted to account for this. This was seconded by Cllr Wuczke, and resolved

by all Councillors present. The updated funds in reserve statement are attached to these Minutes.

3. **Sign off of Annual Return:**
   The Clerk advised that the external auditor has signed off the Annual Return on 30th September with no actions. The legal Notice has been posted.

4. **Appoint replacement bank signatories:**
   It was proposed by the Chair that Cllr Wuczke and Cllr Melanie Richards be appointed signatories (as Robert Scott will need to be removed). This was seconded by Cllr Melanie Richards and resolved by all Councillors present. The Chair will arrange for the alteration with our bankers.

73: A5:

The Chair advised that this was Roberts Scott's area – as the new Chair, he will now take ownership. Nothing to report currently.

74: The Park:

Cllr Wuczke asked whether we could have a roundabout and a table tennis table (designed for parks). The Clerk will arrange quotes.

75: Correspondence Received (for information only):

Nothing to report

76: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

Green bin by the cemetery
New dog toilet bins

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

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Colin Underhay – Clerk – 20th October 2024

Signed as a true copy……. (Richard Alexander - Chair) 11th November 2024

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