

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 12th Feb 2024, at Walmer Bridge Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), D Owen, J Rainsbury, S Rainsbury, S Evald, C Foster, T Wilcock, Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** No absences.
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg held on 8th Jan 2024:**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th Jan 2024 were accepted as a true record and agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllr C Foster declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she is a member of the Walmer Bridge Village Hall Committee.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting:** It was agreed that it was positive to see that SRBC had taken note of the parish council's letter and had placed a waste bin, on a trial basis, on the Dob Lane Recreation Park near to the wooden footbridge over the brook.
5. **Public Time - matters raised by member of public:** Concern was expressed by a member of the public as to the speed of cars in and around the village and whether the parish council would approach the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to see if a representative might attend a future parish council meeting. The Chair explained that he has asked for an assessment of the speed limits in the village by Lancashire County Council Highways,. It was considered that the outcome of this assessment would be awaited prior to considering any approach to the PCC.
6. **Planning Applications:**
 - a) 07/2024/00046/CLD Hall Carr Lane Walmer Bridge PR4 5RA, Application for a lawful development certificate for a proposed detached garage to rear

The planning application was noted and **it was resolved** that no representation would be made.

7. **To approve payments transacted through the bank for Jan 2024:**

Current a/c Jan 2024			
Date	Payee	£	Description
02-Jan-24	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	36.96	Monthly website subscription
11-Jan-24	HMRC VTR	-3,130.66	VAT reclaim 2021/22 & 2022/23
12-Jan-24	B/P to: Paul Cafferkey	64.65	Clerk's Expenses Tax Month 10
12-Jan-24	B/P to: Paul Cafferkey	357.72	Clerk's Salary Tax Month 10
Instant Access a/c Jan 2024			
Nil transactions			

It was resolved that the above transactions be approved.

8. **Payments for approval: It was resolved** that the Clerk's claim for Jan 2024 of 12.17 hours and expenses of £11.50 be approved.
9. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted:** Nil
10. **Financial Statement as at 31st Jan 2024:** A detailed financial statement was presented by the Clerk to the parish council showing the following balances as at 31 Jan 2024:

current account balance of	£33,354
deposit account balance of	£19,175

The balances stated above, and as presented in the financial statement, were independently verified to copies of the bank statements by Cllr Evald.

As at 31 Jan 2024:

the council's forecast expenditure outturn for 2023/24 is £36,703.

the council's forecast income outturn for 2023/24 is £25,479

This is a net deficit forecast outturn for 2023/24 of £11,224. This is a net deterioration in the forecast deficit for 2023/24 of £750 between the budgeted deficit of £10,474 and the forecast outturn deficit of £11,224. Therefore, the opening balance at the start of the financial year 2023/24 of £60,239 is forecast to be a closing balance of £49,015 at the end of 2023/24

It was resolved that the financial statement be approved.

11. **Proposal for use of Biodiversity grant monies.** Cllr Evald presented a paper for the use of the £300 biodiversity grant monies which had been allocated to the parish council by Lancashire County Council. The proposal is to build a bug hotel for the community garden, Cllr Evald has volunteered to build and install this. Also the grant will fund 30 to 40 smaller bug hotels to be built by the children at the Little Hoole Primary School After School Club. Cllrs Evald, Dryden and S Rainsbury have kindly volunteered to be assist the children in building these smaller bug hotels. **It was resolved** that this proposal be accepted.
12. **Proposal for Summer Planting:** Some quotes had been obtained by Cllr Dryden for the purchase of plants and labour costs for the planting of the plants. However, some quotes had yet to be received. It was agreed, therefore, to defer any final decision on the summer planting until the March meeting when hopefully all quotes had been received.
13. **Discussion on the Cleaning of the New Bus Shelters:** Cllr Dryden is to follow up with South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) if they will clean the new bus shelters as they had previously indicated. Failing this, Cllr Evald agreed to obtain some quotes from e.g. local window cleaners.
14. **Dog Waste Bin, Dob Lane Recreation Ground – Update** Item 4 refers
15. **VAT Return Update:** The Clerk reported that HMRC had paid the 2021-22 and 2022-23 VAT claims in the sum of £3,130.66. Item 7 also refers.
16. **Discussion re possible purchase of two additional SPiDs (Speed Indicator Devices):** The pros and cons of purchasing additional SPiDs were discussed,

although no clear consensus was arrived at. It was agreed that further discussion would take place once it was known if LCC Highways would agree to undertake an assessment of the speed limits in the village (see also section 5). In the meantime, Cllr J Rainsbury agreed to try and obtain further quotes in addition to the quote already received from ElanCity.

17. **Speed awareness signs project – Update:** Cllr Evald explained that Lancashire County Council would not approve the signs and, therefore, this project could not proceed. It is understood Lancashire County Council are of the opinion there can be too many road signs in terms of their effectiveness on motorists. The council thanked Cllr Evald for all her work in trying to promote this project.
18. **Public Rights of Way – volunteers:** Cllrs Dryden and Evald informed the meeting that they have volunteered to help Cllr P Cocker (Much Hoole Parish Council) fulfil his role as a volunteer helping to maintain public rights of way in both Little Hoole and Much Hoole. Cllrs Dryden and Evald will walk public footpaths in Little Hoole to assist in identifying any problems. Cllr Wilcock also kindly volunteered to help. Cllr Dryden has also volunteered to use his experience as a joiner in the fixing of stiles.
19. **To discuss the location (venue) of future parish council meetings:** As a member of the Village Hall committee Cllr Foster left the room for this item Discussion took place about using Old Mill Court, rather than the Village Hall for some or all of future parish council meetings.. It was agreed that the parish council would continue to use and support the Village Hall if concerns could be addressed regarding the suitability of the meeting room i.e. there have been a couple of recent occasions where councillors have had to clear away beer glasses prior to a meeting. Also, in past years the parish council has had to find an alternative venue for its January meeting. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to the Village Hall to see if these concerns could be addressed.
20. **To review and approve calendar of key decisions and responsibilities: It was resolved** that the calendar of key decisions and responsibilities be adopted.
21. **Correspondence:** Cllr Wilcock informed the meeting that she had received email confirmation from SRBC that part of the Dob Lane Recreation Park is to be considered for wildflower planting. Cllr Dryden confirmed he would be completing the application for the Best Kept Village Competition.
22. **Information and Updates:** This item is purposefully not recorded, it is to allow councillors a short time to discuss any matters that might result in a future agenda item. No financial or legal decisions are made.
23. **Date & Time of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on the 11th March, 2024, 7pm, Walmer Bridge Village Hall.

Approved as a true record: Laurence Dryden – Chair – 11th March 2024

