**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Monday 11th Dec 2023, at Walmer Bridge Village Hall**

**In attendance:**

Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), D Owen, J Rainsbury, S Rainsbury, S Evald, T Wilcock  
Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Foster.
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg held on 13th Nov 2023:**  
   The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th Nov 2023 were accepted as a true record and agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest:** None
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting:** *Puddle on highway outside of bike shop/next to bus stop* *(near Walmer Bridge Inn).* It was reported that despite Lancashire County Council (LCC) saying they have done some work to resolve this problem there is still a problem some two years after this issue was first raised. The Chair has contacted LCC again.
5. **Public Time - matters raised by member of public:** The circular planters are starting to look “a bit tired”. The Chair confirmed that he has asked for some costings for work to improve the appearance of the planters, but any such work will only commence once the weather improves, spring time onwards.
6. **Planning Applications:**
7. 07/2023/00889/VAR, Unit 1 Lesser Marsh House Farm Station Road Little Hoole PR4 5LH, Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 07/2022/00913/REM to allow to changes to driveway layout
8. 07/2023/00961/REM, Land at Brook Lane Much Hoole, Application for the Reserved Matters of Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale following outline approval 07/2020/00906/OUT for the erection of 1 dwelling following demolition of the existing domestic storage building

Regarding item b) above the Chair agreed to check if the footprint of the new building was comparable to that of the storage building being demolished.

1. **To approve payments transacted through the bank for Nov 2023:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Current a/c Nov 2023** | | | |
| Date | Payee | £ | Description |
| 1-Nov-23 | Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS) | 33.60 | Monthly website subscription |
| 15-Nov-23 | B/P to: L T Dryden | 22.31 | Refund to Cllr Dryden re Gravel |
| 15-Nov-23 | B/P to: L T Dryden | 120.00 | Refund to Cllr Dryden re Winter Plants for brick planters |
| 15-Nov-23 | B/P to: James Harrison | 80.00 | Strimming & weeding |
| 15-Nov-23 | B/P to: L T Dryden | 98.34 | Refund to Cllr Dryden re Bulbs for brick planters |
| 15-Nov-23 | B/P to: L T Dryden | 70.92 | Refund to Cllr Dryden re Winter Plants for brick planters |

**It was resolved** that the above transactions be approved.

1. **Payments for approval:** **It was resolved** that the Clerk’s claim for Nov 2023 of 12.33 hours and expenses of £62.49 (includes Microsoft 365 annual subscription of £59.99) be approved. **It was also resolved** that the Clerk’s annual subscription to SLCC (Society for Local Council Clerks) be renewed.
2. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively** **noted:** Nil
3. **Financial Statement as at 30th Nov 2023:** A detailed financial statement was presented to the Parish Council showing the following balances as at 30 Nov 2023:   
    current account balance of £47,211.91  
    deposit account balance of £19,043.27  
     
   The balances stated above, and as presented in the financial statement, were independently verified to copies of the bank statements by Cllr Evald.  
     
   Gross expenditure for the year is forecast to be £36,745 an overspend of £6,021 compared to the agreed budget of £30,724. This overspend is a combination of a commitment to purchase two new bus shelters, for which no budget provision was made at the time of setting the budget, and underspends on various other budget heads. There are sufficient funds to cover this overspend.  
     
   Gross income for the year is forecast to be £22,212 which is slightly over the agreed budget of £20,250.00.   
     
   The forecast net expenditure of £14,533 (£36,745 less £22,212) will result in a forecast closing balance of £45,706 as at 31 March 2024.  
     
   **It was resolved** that the financial statement be approved.
4. **Budget 2024-25: It was resolved** that a budget of £48,898.50 be approved for the financial year 2024-25.
5. **Clerk’s Pay Award for 2023-24:** The Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had recently (Nov 2023) reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. **It was resolved** that the Clerk, therefore, be paid in accordance with the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) pay scales, point 21, with effect from 1st April 2023.
6. **Wild Flowers on Dob Lane Recreation Park – Update:** Councillor Wilcock confirmed she had met with a representative from SRBC (South Ribble Borough Council) who had confirmed she would put forward an additional area (part of Dob Lane Recreation Park) to be planted with wild flowers by SRBC. An update has been requested from SRBC.
7. **Correspondence:** The parish council had received a letter from LCC consulting on upgrading footpath 7-6-FP8 to a bridleway from Moss Lane to Wham Lane, Little Hoole. On looking at the plan provided as part of the consultation it was agreed the Clerk would seek further clarification.
8. **Date & Time of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting on the 8th Jan, 2024, 7pm, would have a change of venue to Old Mill Court in Walmer Bridge.  
     
   ***Approved as a true record: Laurence Dryden (Chair) 8 Jan 2024***