

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting  
held on Monday 14/02/2022, at Walmer Bridge Village Hall**

**In attendance:** Councillor L Dryden (Chair)      Councillor J Rainsbury (Vice Chair)  
Councillor C Foster      Councillor D Owen  
Councillor S Rainsbury      Councillor D Rimmer  
Councillor T Wilcock      Mr D Swift (Clerk/minutes)

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17/01/2022 were accepted by all Councillors present and agreed as a true record.

**3. To receive declarations of interest**

None.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

Item 9: Councillor Foster declared a pecuniary interest: she is the landlady of the Walmer Bridge and the Christmas tree was placed in the pub's garden. Councillor Rimmer had no pecuniary interests. *The Clerk will pass these details to South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC).*

Item 10: The revised contract for the lengthsman will be sent to all Councillors for final approval. In a related issue, Councillor Foster reported that significant amounts of debris has now gathered around the trash screen. This will be inspected. *Councillor Dryden will contact Lancashire County Council (LCC) to discuss how to resolve this issue.*

**5. Matters raised by the public**

None.

**6. Financial Statement**

The Clerk presented the Financial Statement, as at 31/01/2022. The balances are:

- *Current Account: £25,840.19*
- *Business Reserve Account: £18,611.45 (plus interest for October to January)*

Councillor Rimmer reported that the request for the closure of the NatWest Business Reserve account has timed out. *The Clerk will resubmit this in conjunction with Councillors Rimmer and Wilcock, who will sign the document in their capacity as signatories.*

**7. Payments**

<b>Payment Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk's invoice for hours worked in January 2022	£176.00
Walmer Bridge Village Hall booking fee for January 2022	£11.00

Approval was proposed by Councillor Wilcock, seconded by Councillor J Rainsbury and unanimously agreed.

## **8. Update on VAT Reclaim for 2020/21**

The Clerk reported that he has compiled and submitted the VAT reclaim; the value of the claim is £946.87. It has not yet been remitted by HMRC.

## **9. Appointment of auditor**

Councillor Rimmer proposed that Ian Edwards be appointed as the internal auditor for the current financial year; this was seconded by Councillor S Rainsbury and unanimously agreed. *The Clerk will make arrangements for the audit, likely to be in May 2022.*

## **10. Parish Precept for 2022/23**

Councillor Wilcock proposed that the Parish Precept be set at £22,500. This was seconded by Councillor Rimmer and unanimously agreed. *The Clerk will notify SRBC of this ASAP.*

## **11. Survey on Rural Electric Vehicle 'Car Clubs'**

Councillor Owen outlined some advantages and disadvantages of such a scheme. After some general discussion, it was decided that this was too large a project for the Parish Council.

## **12. Future projects**

a. After the council's discussion on rural electric vehicles, Councillor Wilcock suggested the use of electric bicycles for use by local residents. This will be researched in terms of cost and feasibility and discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

b. Councillor Foster raised the possibility of the footpath on the recreation ground to be extended around the ground. Councillor J Rainsbury stated this has been raised with SRBC Western Parishes and a feasibility study was to be undertaken regarding this issue.

c. Councillor Wilcock suggested that local school children could be involved in 'welcome' displays such as hand prints at the entrance to the Recreation ground and possibly the new bridge over the 'brook'.

d. Queen's Platinum Jubilee - after some discussion, *Councillor Dryden said that he would contact Walmer Bridge Village Hall committee to look into possibilities of a joint venture.*

e. Councillor Dryden stated that the Community garden needs some maintenance work to be undertaken. *He will seek quotes for this and report back to the Parish Council.*

f. Councillor S Rainsbury raised the possibility of the Parish Council helping to support or subsidise a bus service from the village to Leyland. *The Clerk will write to Longton Parish Council for details of the number 12 bus service they have helped to support.*

g. Councillor Dryden suggested that the Parish Council could support the construction of a new "five a side" football pitch and a perminate climbing wall. *He will research this and present a report to the Parish Council.*

h. Councillor Wilcock suggested that the Parish Council could support the hire of a climbing wall, erected as a temporary structure in the summertime. *She will research the costs and report back at a future meeting.*

i. Further discussions on replacement noticeboards will take place at the Parish Council meeting in March.

### **13. Clerk's Contract**

Councillor Dryden has obtained a copy of a standard contract from NALC. Councillors Rimmer, Owen and J Rainsbury will examine this and compile a suitably worded contract for the Parish Council to approve.

### **14. Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence have recently been received:

- **Letter from resident re speeding in Walmer Bridge Village:** this was duly noted. *The Clerk will reply by email.*
- **Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition:** It was agreed to enter the competition. *Councillor Dryden will complete and submit the application form.*
- **South Ribble Borough Council Budget Consultation 2022-2023:** this was noted.
- **'Highways Special' themed conference for Parish/Town Councils in Lancashire, 19/03/2022:** It was noted that Councillors can attend in person or virtually if they wished to do so.
- **Lancashire Public Health Report 21/22:** The Clerk has sent a copy of this report to all the Councillors.

### **15. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on March 14th, 2022, in the lounge of Walmer Bridge Village Hall, starting at 7pm.