

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting  
held on Monday 16/05/2022, at Walmer Bridge Village Hall**

**In attendance:** Councillor L Dryden (Chair)      Councillor C Foster  
Councillor D Owen      Councillor T Wilcock  
Councillor J Rainsbury      Councillor S Rainsbury  
Mr D Swift (Clerk/minutes)      Plus five members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Rimmer was unable to attend.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11/04/2022 were accepted by all Councillors present and agreed as a true record.

**3. To receive declarations of interest**

Councillor Foster declared an interest in the planned climbing wall (see item 15).

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

**5. Matters raised by the public**

A member of the public present stated that there is still a puddle regularly forming outside the cycle shop. *Councillor Dryden has previously reported this to Lancashire County Council (LCC) but he will report it again.*

**6. Further Grant Application relating to St Michael's Lodge**

3 members of the public representing St Michael's Church thanked the Parish Council for their previous grant and presented the case for further support. The original plan was to construct a timber framed lodge at a cost of around £70,000. However, the planning application was turned down, so tenders were sought for a brick built facility instead. Due to significantly increased costs in building materials, the lowest quote is now £104,000. So far, approximately £80,000 has been raised (including Gift Aid). An additional grant of £5,500 has recently been made by Much Hoole Parish Council along with £500 raised from other sources.

Councillors asked the representatives some questions regarding the project and the general consensus from the Parish Council was to offer an extra amount of financial support. Councillor J Rainsbury proposed £5,000 and this was seconded by Councillor S Rainsbury. Councillor Wilcock proposed £2,500 and this was seconded by Councillor Owen. A vote was taken and the majority was in favour of awarding £5,000. The offer came with a stipulation that the Parish Council will be unable to provide any further funding beyond this.

## 7. Financial Statement

The Clerk presented a detailed Financial Statement. The balances, as at 30/04/2022, are:

- *Current Account: £44,314.84*
- *Deposit Account: £18,616.29*

South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) remitted the Parish Precept of £22,500 in April 2022. Councillor Owen asked why the Council Tax had increased by 1% even though the Precept remained the same as last year. Councillor Dryden explained that it was due to the change in the number of Band D properties within the local area and not as a result of a raise in the parish precept.

## 8. Payments

<b>Payment Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk's invoice for hours worked in April 2022	£208.00
Walmer Bridge Village Hall booking fee for February to April 2022	£33.00

Approval for these payments was proposed by Councillor J Rainsbury, seconded by Councillor Foster and unanimously agreed.

## 9. Lengthsman Contract: update

The new lengthsman has now been appointed. Councillor Dryden has been discussing the requirements with him. The contract is for 3 years but subject to annual review.

## 10. Defibrillator: update

Carole Bimson, who looks after the defibrillators in the village, attended the meeting and thanked the Parish Council for their support and invite. Unfortunately, the defibrillator near the Spar, whose batteries/pads expire in July 2022, has been discontinued. This means that replacement items cannot be ordered.

Councillor Owen thanked Ms Bimson for her work in the community and stated that funding a replacement device would be a good use of the Parish Precept. He proposed that the Parish Council fund a replacement defibrillator and this was seconded by Councillor J Rainsbury. *Ms Bimson will gather quotes for a new device and pass these on to the Clerk for dissemination, leading to formal approval for the purchase at the June 2022 meeting.*

## 11. Parish Precept: update

The Clerk reported that the Parish Precept of £22,500 for 2022/23 has now been remitted.

## 12. Annual External Audit: update

The Clerk reported that he had completed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2021/22. This was checked and signed by Councillor Dryden after the meeting. *The Clerk will submit this to the external and internal auditors and later publish it on the Parish Council website.*

## 13. Annual Internal Audit: update

The Clerk has compiled all the required information into a single lever arch file and *will submit this to the internal auditor for review.*

#### **14. Climbing wall: update**

Councillor Wilcock has applied to SRBC to have the climbing wall situated on Dob Lane Recreation Ground. A general discussion between Councillors and the members of public present followed thereafter. Councillor Foster reported that she had contacted Billy's Entertainments (for August 17th and 24th) and a company in Blackpool (for August 10th) regarding the hire of a bouncy castle. The hiring companies will deliver, erect and dismantle the bouncy castles on the days stated but Councillor Foster will be in charge of it under the insurance policies of the suppliers. Councillor Wilcock seconded this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

#### **15. Platinum Jubilee decorations**

Following on from previous discussions, the Clerk has ordered a plaque, 50 metres of bunting and 25 roundels. It was agreed that a further 25 roundels should be purchased; *the Clerk will organise this.*

#### **16. Future projects**

As well as the subjects which had already been discussed during the meeting, a number of other possible projects were listed for consideration at subsequent meetings: a bridge near the park; replacement noticeboards; entrance signs to the park; more trees to be planted in the village near Dob Lane Recreation Ground.

Relocating the Speed Indicator Device was mentioned, so *Councillor Dryden will contact LCC to arrange for the device to be moved onto Liverpool Old Road (near the Longton Arms).*

#### **17. Clerk's contract: update**

The Clerk left the meeting whilst this was discussed. *The Chairman will send a letter to the Clerk in due course.* The Clerk re-entered the meeting after the discussion had ended.

#### **18. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on June 13th, 2022, in the lounge of Walmer Bridge Village Hall, starting at 7pm.