

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 12/09/2022, at Walmer Bridge Village Hall**

In attendance: Councillor L Dryden (Chair) Councillor D Owen
 Councillor J Rainsbury Councillor S Rainsbury
 Councillor T Wilcock Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk/minutes)
 Plus one member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors C Foster and D Rimmer were unable to attend.

2. Introduction & welcome to the new Clerk to Little Hoole Parish Council

The new Parish Clerk, Mr Paul Cafferkey, was welcomed and introduced to those present. Paul gave a brief outline of his strong links to Little Hoole; he also briefly outlined his significant experience of 38 years working (now retired) in various finance roles at Lancashire County Council.

The Parish Council requested that the Clerk report back on the cost and time commitment for the Clerk to study the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

3. To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11/07/2022 were accepted as a true record and agreed unanimously.

4. To receive declarations of interest

None.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Bouncy Castle & Climbing Wall: Discussion took place as to the climbing wall and bouncy castle which the Parish Council had arranged and funded for use by local children on three dates in August. The general consensus was that the event had been a success. The Parish Council agreed to also contact the providers of the bouncy castle and climbing wall for their views as to the success of the event. It was agreed that a future meeting would consider providing such an event next year and possibly extending the number of dates.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Walmer Bridge Hall requesting

a donation to the village hall for the use of the village hall car park for the relocation of the bouncy castle and climbing wall from the playing field to the village hall car park because of the risk of damage to the playing field because of heavy rainfall.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would make a donation of £55.00 to the village hall roof fund.

Smells from the Brook: Councillor Dryden confirmed that he had contacted the Environment Agency about this matter and would do so again.

6. Matters raised by the public

A member of the public present at the meeting raised the following issues:

a) the smell coming from the brook, (see also section 5), the member of the public confirmed he has telephoned the Environment Agency on a weekly basis but has received no update.

b) a piece of the gym equipment is broken and concern was expressed this may be a safety hazard to anyone who may try to use it. It was agreed that Councillor Dryden would contact South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) and Councillor Rainsbury, who is also a Councillor at SRBC, also agreed to raise the issue with SRBC.

c) the current poor state of the boards on the circular planters was raised and that this issue had been raised some time ago. It was also pointed out that one of the boards had fallen off. The member of the public requested an update. Councillor Rainsbury confirmed he had previously raised the matter with SRBC. Councillor Dryden reported that the board that had fallen off, had been handed to him by a member of the public, he also agreed to raise the matter again with SRBC as the planters are the responsibility of SRBC.

7. To approve the financial statement as at 31 August 2022

A detailed financial statement as at 31 August 2022 was presented to the Parish Council showing:

a current account balance of £30,899.38

a deposit account balance of £18,632.36.

It was resolved that the financial statement be approved.

8. Payments for Approval

SRBC, charge for brown bins 2022-23 re community garden	£50.00
Pro-Tec Garden Products, Commercial Green Landscape Fabric - 2m x 50m re community garden	£77.99
Amazon, Garden 100Pc Stake Pins re community garden	£17.99
Outgoing Clerk's final invoice – Sept 2022	£150.49

It was resolved that the payments referred to above be approved

9. Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted

It was noted that there were no such payments.

10. Update on Climbing Wall & Bouncy Castle event

This item was covered in section 5, "Matters arising from the minutes"

11. SRBC invite to Remembrance Sunday 13 Nov 2022

It was noted that Councillors generally attend their local Remembrance Sunday event but that any Councillor who wished to attend the event at SRBC would complete the reply slip that accompanied the invite.

12. Clerk's attendance at Society of Local Council Clerks - Lancashire Branch

The Clerk reported that he had attended the above event at the request of the Chairman. The Clerk briefed the Parish Council about the two main items covered i.e.

a) a presentation by a playground equipment manufacturer (Kompan).

b) a presentation by Lancashire County Council's Highways Operational and Support Liaison Manager regarding the County Council's recently launched "Love Clean Streets" mobile phone application. This "app" enables members of the public to readily report faults such as pot holes and faulty street lights.

13. Christmas Decorations / Trees

Discussion took place as to the provision by the Parish Council for Christmas Lights and Christmas Trees.

Councillor Dryden agreed to explore options regarding the purchase of a smaller tree for the community garden and a larger tree to be placed in the grounds of the Walmer Bridge Inn. It was agreed that Councillor Dryden would contact Garden Scene to see

if they can provide the trees and if not he would contact Bolton Christmas Trees. For future years Councillor Wilcock suggested the Parish Council consider planting a “living” tree in the Community Garden which would reduce the Council’s carbon footprint.

Councillor Dryden informed the meeting that the lighting shop in Walmer Bridge served as the electricity source for the Christmas lights at the front of the shops. In the past no charge for electricity has been made by the Lighting Shop but that he would contact the shop owner this year just to clarify if there would be any cost for the electricity used for the lights given the current increase in energy costs.

Councillor Wilcock suggested restarting, post Covid, the Christmas lights switch on involving the children from Little Hoole Primary School. Suggested dates for the switch on were t 25 Nov or 2 Dec 2022. Councillor Owen agreed to contact the PTA for Little Hoole Primary School

14. Future Projects

Circular Planters outside the parade of shops : See section 6c.

Community Garden : Councillor Dryden reported that there had been difficulty procuring a firm to undertake some groundwork to the community garden to help with water logging and weed control, including the laying of a weed membrane. This was something the previous contractor had failed to undertake. This work is necessary to help Councillor Dryden maintain the community garden if he is indisposed for any period of time in the future. It was noted that a member of the public had spent a number of days clearing and maintaining the garden. Councillor Dryden is to enquire whether they wish to submit an invoice for this work.

Notice Boards :Discussion took place as to the poor state of repair of the three Parish Council notice boards. **It was resolved that** Councillor Dryden would obtain a quote to replace the worst notice board at the bus stop opposite the Walmer Bridge Inn. Future consideration would be given to the replacement of the two other notice boards.

Old Bridge renewal between recreational ground and the village hall: Discussion took place as to the poor state of repair of the bridge. It was reported that some of the foot boards were rotten and one of the handrails was in danger of collapse. Because of the risk of injury to the public, Councillor Dryden had already replaced some of the foot boards. However, the Parish Council expressed the view that it was not their responsibility to maintain the bridge and that a few years ago SRBC had undertaken to replace the bridge. **It was resolved** that the Parish Clerk would write a letter to SRBC expressing the Parish Council’s concern over the bridge.

Feature on entrance to the park: Nothing to report

Tree for jubilee plaque to be planted in autumn: Nothing to Report

Bus service from Little Hoole to Leyland, possible linkup with Longton's bus service:
The Parish Clerk was asked to liaise with Longton Parish Council as to the feasibility of establishing a bus service from Walmer Bridge to link up with Longton's number 12 bus service.

15. Correspondence

a) *2 emails sent to Councillor Dryden on the 23/08/22, from 2 members of the public regarding littering and anti-social behaviour on the recreation ground :* Councillor Dryden updated the meeting; he has contacted LCC, SRBC and the Police. An officer from the Community Police Team is to visit. SRBC have stated they will not provide any additional litter bins. Councillor Wilcock suggested that as a number of Councillors walk this area, they will attach some refuse bags to the bench in the area where the littering is occurring, they will then check them periodically and move them to the SRBC litter bins.

b) The Clerk reported that he had received an email from a member of the public thanking Councillor Dryden for his repair work to the bridge between the recreational ground and the village hall.

c) The Clerk reported that he had received an email from the Unity Trust Bank regarding the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and that he had responded, confirming the Parish Council's eligibility.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10th October 2022, in the lounge of Walmer Bridge Village Hall, starting at 7pm.