

# Haslington Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Attendance:** Cllrs. Samantha Green – Chair, Howard Blake, Mike Blakeman Yvonne Bushill, Martin Deakin, Steve Edgar Janet Griffith, Anthony Peake, Graham Sawyer, Andrew Stubbs, Rob Welch, Stephen Welch

**Apologies:** Cllrs Connie Davis, Melissa Mews, Mark Trigger, Cllr Alison Heler (Cheshire East)

**Not in attendance:** None

**Also in attendance:** Lucie Ferneyhough (Cheshire East)

**Public:** 3 members

### Meeting started at 7:00 pm

#### 1. Welcome

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present. It was noted that we had a large agenda to get through and that members were reminded of the importance of keeping to agenda items and raising their hands if they wished to speak.

#### 2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Davis, Cllr Mews, and Cllr Trigger.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Green declared an interest in item 16 Schedule of payments.

#### 4. Policing Matters

PCSO was not in attendance but has advised that a beat report will be sent soon.

#### 5. Minutes of the previous meeting

- a) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair
- b) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

#### 6. Public Participation.

A resident spoke of the Dingle Orchard project and reported that it was now moving forward and that a group would be created. A date has been set for a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm in the Cosey Club. Those interested would be welcome to join. Seed sowing has also been arranged and will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 9:30 am.

Permission to plant further trees has been obtained from Ansa. Cllr Stubbs has also spoken to residents.

Lucie Ferneyhough spoke to introduce herself to members as the Community development officer for Cheshire East. Lucie works with community groups and projects within the local area and can offer support and is here to help. Lucie has information on grants and can assist with funding searches with local groups. Lucie's contact details are [Lucie.Ferneyhough@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Lucie.Ferneyhough@cheshireeast.gov.uk) / 07929 717909

A resident spoke of the issues that they are having with mobile connectivity, especially with the EE network. The resident has raised the issue on social media and has had 200 people come forward with the same issues. EE has been contacted, Work was completed on the mast on 24-26<sup>th</sup> August and the problem was reported to have been solved but it hasn't. The resident is concerned about elderly people and not being able to raise the alarm in times of emergency due to poor mobile signal. The resident asked if anything could be done and if providers were going to install additional masts. The chair stated that the providers are commercial companies, and it is down to them on the service level that they are

providing and that there is nothing that the Parish Council can do. The Clerk stated that the resident could refer it to Ofcom to see if they can assist.

Cllr Peake stated that 999 calls should go through as they utilise all masts regardless of callers' mobile network.

Cllr Edgar stated that using VOIP could assist as well and that the networks have not submitted any planning applications for additional masts at this time.

Cllr Griffith suggested that the problems may have got worse since the Zzoomm fibre rollout.

Cllr Sawyer reported that they have also spoken to EE and were told that upgrades had been made.

A resident spoke to report on the recent MapRun Explore Haslington Parish activity. Their comments had been shared with members ahead of the meeting.

All 50 maps were issued. Roughly 50% to family groups 40% to other residents 10% to the local Scout & Guide Association.

The overall impression is that the event achieved what it was intended, and residents were more impressed with the printed map than the technology.

The launch event held at Butterson Lane Farm was supported by our local MP, Dr Keiron Mullen.

The event was delivered within the budget of £200.

The date of the event has been extended on MapRun to the end of October as the improved weather may help any others seeking to have a go.

The Chair thanked the resident for their hard work in organising the activity.

This resident also wanted to raise a potential issue of the concessionary footpath at Butterson Lane Farm and that with the retirement of the current leaseholders, ownership of the property reverts to Cheshire East Council. There are various rumours as to CEC's plans for the farm, but it would be a loss if the footpath were to be lost.

Cllr Blake queried if we would get notified if there were plans to close it. Cllr Edgar stated that we would and that they would watch out for any plans.

## **7. Cheshire East Borough Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Edgar reported;

- that the Bovis/Hazelmere estate will be having a large exploratory excavation on the left bend just past where the road dips. The residents of the 2 adjacent houses will be relocated whilst the work is carried out. Work on the estate is very nearly completed.
- Winterley Pool phase 3. The site has been sold by Duchy Developments to Seddon Developments. The same number of houses and the same design have been agreed. Any changes will need a new planning application.
- Cllr Edgar is working with residents of Willam Dykes Close to get the road formally adopted by the Council. There are a couple of complications that need resolving.
- In October, the link road between the M6 motorway and Alsager will be closed for 6-8 weeks as they will be creating a new junction just south of the railway line for Radway Green. Traffic will be diverted through Alsager, Oakhanger, and Crewe Green onto the A500 and then to the motorway. All that can be done to protect heavy traffic from entering the minor road network is being put into place. This is in addition to the proposed new entrance coming forward in the near future.

## **8. Remembrance Service**

RESOLVED: To accept the quote received from Amberon for £490 for road closure and traffic management.

Cllr Peake reported that they are experiencing issues in sourcing a bugler. Cllr R Welch suggested they have some contacts so will make enquiries. Cllr Bushill will also make some enquiries. Cllr Edgar

reported that they know a sax player so will enquire with them. The Clerk reported that they book a Bugler for another service and that they may be available but that they would charge.

#### **9. D-Day Celebrations**

The chair asked members to start thinking about what we want to do to celebrate the occasion in June next year. Suggestions of hosting an event on the Green or the Yoxall were made. Members were asked to come back with ideas for the next meeting.

#### **10. Member Email Use Policy**

RESOLVED: To proceed with obtaining email addresses for the Clerk and members utilising the Parish Council domain at a cost of £254.

Cllr Edgar spoke of GDPR issues that other Parish Councils have experienced.

Cllr R Welch stated that organisations should not be using private email addresses and that this would now eliminate that.

#### **11. New Planters**

RESOLVED: To defer this item to the next meeting.

Cllr Bushill stated that the donation as detailed on the agenda was not from a resident of Oakhanger but from a contact of Cllr Bushill.

#### **12. Gutterscroft Play Equipment**

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Wicksteed of £333.81 for essential repairs to playground equipment as identified at the last Rospa inspection.

#### **13. Christ Church Churchyard Funding Request**

RESOLVED: To approve the request and award £550 to Christ Church for maintenance of Christ Church Wheelock churchyard.

Cllr Sawyer asked about other churches that have received a donation previously and if they would need to apply. It was confirmed that they would.

Cllr S Welch questioned the amount that the Parish Council give and why it is higher than what it is stated that Sandbach Town Council give.

Cllr Edgar asked if we could have sight of invoices paid by Christ Church so we can see how the funding is spent.

#### **14. Code of Conduct**

RESOLVED: To adopt the current Cheshire East Code of Conduct (updated October 2022).

#### **15. SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)**

a) RESOLVED: To allow the Clerk to obtain a full membership to SLCC at £159.20 per year. (80/20 share with the clerk's other council.)

b) RESOLVED: To purchase a copy of the 'Yellow Book' – 13<sup>th</sup> Edition Local Council Administration at £109.60, members price (+£4.80 postage) (80/20 share with the clerk's other council.)

Cllr Peake queried the cost not being split equally between the clerk's 2 councils. The Clerk informed that costing according to precept share is standard practice and ensures that the cost to the electorate is fair and equal.

## **16. Authorisation of Payments**

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments correctly states the invoices presented and that the following are authorised to be paid or accepted as paid (As detailed on page 72)  
£2495.78 to be paid, £2906.49 as paid under 5.5b, £6032.35 as paid under 5.5a. (An error of £0.02 was identified on the schedule of payments presented which has now been duly corrected).

The Clerk noted that the schedule was much larger than usual due to there being no meeting of the Council in August.

## **17. Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Deakin checked and verified the bank statements and bank reconciliation as provided by the clerk.

## **18. Budget Review**

RESOLVED: To accept the expenditure against the budget for the first quarter of the Council year.

Cllr S Welch queried the budget line code 53 Public convenience and what are the terms for the payment that is made. The clerk will look further into this and report back to members.

## **19. Gutterscroft Management Committee.**

### **a) To receive an update from the committee.**

Cllr Griffith reported that the hall had now been decorated and was looking good. It was also reported that hall hire has been promoted on Facebook and has generated some interest and potential bookings. The committee have agreed to not allow the hall to be used for adult parties that would continue after 10 pm.

### **b) Radiator Covers**

RESOLVED: To purchase radiator covers at a cost of £1175.64 so that the hall is compliant and safe for use.

Cllr Griffith stated that there is a possibility that the boiler can be adjusted so that the radiators have a lower surface temperature and if this worked it would negate the need to purchase the radiator covers.

### **c) To accept the resolved spending of the committee for August and September**

RESOLVED: that the committee spending is accepted and that the bill for electrical repairs of £698 is appropriated as £500 within August and £198 within September

### **d) To receive information and discuss the new build project**

Cllr S Welch informed members that any new build project would have a 2–3-year timescale. The committee have been using a shared notebook to note ideas and make a wish list and this will now be opened to all members to use. The committee have engaged with an architect and planning consultant and will be meeting with them to obtain outline recommendations on how to proceed. Cllr S Welch stated that any new building would most likely need to be built in front of the existing building so as to not interrupt hall hire and have to evict tenants.

Cllr Blake stated that he was in favour of replacing the building but would want to see separate rooms that can be used during the day whilst the pre-school is in session.

Cllr Edgar stated that Cheshire Police would find it beneficial to have a room that they could use for surgeries.

## **20. Best Garden Awards**

RESOLVED: To purchase additional prize gift vouchers to the value of £55. (The motion was changed by Cllr Blake from £105 as detailed on the agenda to £55 which is the required amount).

## **21. Clerks Report**

The Clerk summarised their written report highlighting.

- External audit queries answered and waiting now for end notice and completion certificate.
- No residents requested to see the Council's accounts during the period of public rights.
- The playground item needing to be repaired is anticipated to be completed this week.
- Shared Matrix document available for members.
- Website has had substantial edits and essential documents are now easier to find.

Cllr Green reminded members about the asset register and the need to make progress with it. A meeting of the working group will be set up and the Clerk will send the information relating to what work needs to be done.

## **15. Winterley Ward**

Cllr Edgar reported that Ansa has reported that the sluice gates at Winterley Pool are set too high which is causing erosion.

Cllr Blakeman shared concerns about safety around the pool with children chasing wildlife and how a possible accident with traffic could occur.

## **16. Oakhanger Ward**

Cllr Bushill asked about speed watch training, it was confirmed that this can be arranged with the PCSO. Cllr Bushill reported a resident's concern about speeding. Cllr Edgar stated that the need for an average speed check camera could assist in resolving the issues and that it is being explored.

## **17. Haslington Ward**

Cllr Griffith reported that there are markings on the road from the Dingle school to the cricket club and understands this is due to upcoming sewer works. Cllr Edgar will watch out for any upcoming plans relating to this.

Cllr Griffith also reported that building work at the school will result in further lorry traffic on the surrounding roads.

Cllr Edgar asked for the October agenda to have an item relating to a potential asset transfer.

Cllr Peake asked about the war memorial being cleaned before the remembrance service, it was confirmed that this would be done as part of the odd jobs contract.

Cllr Peake asked about wreaths for the service and that they would liaise with their contact who usually orders them.

**Meeting closed at 8:48 pm.**

***These minutes were resolved as a true record and signed by the chair at the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.***

**Haslington Parish Council  
Schedule of Payments  
4th September 2023**

	Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	05/09/2023	W Salisbury	Microsoft 365 Subscription	59.99		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
2	05/09/2023	W Salisbury	Stamps for Best Garden Award Letters	48.00	122.78	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
3	05/09/2023	W Salisbury	Stationary - Printer Paper & Stamps	14.79		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
4	05/09/2023	Manchester & District OC	Maprun Map Prep & Printing	95.00		Public Health 1875 S164	Yes
5	05/09/2023	Clean as Newall	Gutterscroft Cleaning 31st May 2023	94.00		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
6	05/09/2023	JD Services	Floriculture & Odd Job Maintenance	480.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
7	05/09/2023	JD Services	Bin Emptying & Grass Cutting	664.00	2184.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
8	05/09/2023	JD Services	Watering (9 visits)	855.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
9	05/09/2023	JD Services	Winterley Pool Maintenance	185.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
<b>Total</b>				<b>2495.78</b>			

Payments made as authorised on the approved payments list (5.5b)							
	Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe
10	18/07/2023	Scottish Power	Street Lighting	691.58		Highways Act 1980 S301	Yes
11	25/07/2023	Waterplus	Gutterscroft Water Useage	29.90		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
12	31/07/2023	Scottish Power	Gutterscroft Power Useage	412.43		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
13	28/07/2023	Smarty	Broadband Monthly Fee	9.00		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
14	27/07/2023	W Salisbury	Salary - July	1014.51		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
15	27/07/2023	HMRC	PAYE - TAX & NI	76.24		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
16	28/07/2023	British Gas	Gutterscroft Gas Useage	92.00		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
17	08/08/2023	Smarty	Phone Monthly Fee	7.20		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
18	08/08/2023	Cheshire Community Action	Membership Fee - Community Buildings	40.00		LGA 1972 S143	Yes
19	25/08/2023	Waterplus	Gutterscroft Water Useage	33.46		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
20	30/08/2023	British Gas	Gutterscroft Gas Useage	92.00		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
21	25/08/2023	W Salisbury	Salary - July	1014.51		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
22	25/08/2023	HMRC	PAYE - TAX & NI	76.24		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
23	26/08/2023	Smarty	Broadband Monthly Fee	9.00		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
<b>Total</b>				<b>2906.49</b>			

Payments made as authorised under financial regulations 5.5a							
	Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe
24	13/07/2023	Yoxall Village Hall	Room hire for meetings - April, May, June	55.25		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
25	20/07/2023	ChALC	Planning Training - M Mews	90.00		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
26	22/07/2023	The Parish Noticeboard Company	3 x new noticeboards - First 50% payment	1881.00		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
27	24/07/2023	Thomson Planning Partnership	Neighbourhood Plan Fees	366.80		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
28	27/07/2023	Camtek Cheshire LTD	CCTV Annual Service	252.00		Crime & Disorder Act 1998 s17	Yes
29	27/07/2023	Zero Signs & Digital Ltd	New signs on Gutterscroft playing field	671.02		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
30	31/07/2023	Kompan	Play area inspection July 2023	146.28		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
31	31/07/2023	ChALC	Planning Training - M Mews	30.00		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
32	01/08/2023	SALC	Clerk Knowledge Training - W Salisbury	60.00		LGA 1972 S112 (1)	Yes
33	31/07/2023	St Matthews Church	Room hire for Best Kept Garden awards	45.00		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
34	08/08/2023	JD Services	Watering - July (7 Visits)	665.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
35	08/08/2023	JD Services	Floriculture Maintenance (2 visits)	260.00	380.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
36	08/08/2023	JD Services	Odd Job Maintenance (6 hours)	120.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
37	17/08/2023	Rob Fowles Decorator	Decoration - Gutterscroft Centre	1390.00		LGA 1972 S133	Yes
<b>Total</b>				<b>6032.35</b>			

Resolved to be paid at the meeting held on  
Minute Reference

4th September 2023  
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