

Haslington Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2023

Attendance: Cllrs. Samantha Green – Chair, Howard Blake, Mike Blakeman, Yvonne Bushill, Connie Davis, Steve Edgar Janet Griffith, Melissa Mews, Anthony Peake, Graham Sawyer, Andrew Stubbs, Mark Trigger, Rob Welch

Apologies: Cllr Stephen Welch,

Not in attendance: Cllr Martin Deakin

Also in attendance: Cllr Alison Heler (Cheshire East)

Public: None

Meeting started at 7:04 pm

1. Welcome

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present and reminded everyone to keep to agenda items.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr S Welch.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Green declared an interest in item 11 Schedule of payments.

Cllr Griffith declared an interest in item 20 1st Haslington Rangers (Girl Guides) Funding Request.

Cllr Griffith requested dispensation to allow her to speak on the item but not to vote.

RESOLVED: Cllr Griffith granted dispensation to speak but not vote during item 20.

Cllr Mews joined the meeting at 7:06 pm

4. Policing Matters

PCSO was not in attendance.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

6. Public Participation.

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. Cheshire East Borough Councillors' Reports

Cllr Heler reported.

- Replacement bollards have been installed on Crewe Road in Winterley.
- Streetlighting consultation coming up.
- Car parking consultation – advised residents to write in with their objections.
- Elton Lane drain grid is emitting sewage. Highways will look into it and contact relevant agencies.
- Hassall Road issue with increased non-local traffic using this narrow road. An unpleasant interaction with a resident and a motorist has been reported.

Cllr Peake asked about Winterley Pool and for any updates on the sluice gates.

Cllr Edgar advised that they have spoken to Highways and will visit the landowner to discuss options.

8. Planning Committee Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: To adopt the presented amended planning committee terms of reference.

9. Remembrance Service

Cllr Peake updated that they have ordered the wreaths.

Cllr Bushill and Cllr R Welch advised that they had made enquiries with their contacts regarding sourcing a bugler but unfortunately not had any success as they are all busy at other events.

Cllr Peake stated that they still have 2 further contacts to ask if they can bugle at the service and also suggested that a recording of the last post and reveille could be used as a last resort.

Cllr Davis asked if any music schools could assist.

Cllr Stubbs informed that they have a contact who may be able to help and will ask them.

The Clerk updated that invitations had been sent out to the usual participants and that they were waiting for further responses.

10. D-Day Celebrations

The chair suggested that the Council could host a fish and chip supper event with a live band on the evening of the D-Day celebrations. The motion was not moved.

Cllr Griffith asked if there was a way that the schools could get involved in something and stated that they would make some enquiries.

11. 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 84)

£2513.13 to be paid, £1475.21 as paid under 5.5b, £3095.57 as paid under 5.5a.

12. Public Convenience Legal Fees

Cllr R Welch enquired as to the history of why the Council are entering into a lease to provide a WC. Cllr Peake clarified that the Parish Council made this decision several years ago.

The Clerk explained that this was a historic decision approx. 8 years ago and the progress to get to the lease agreement stage has been severely delayed.

RESOLVED: To approve legal fees for lease arrangements of the public convenience to an amount of £1,500 plus VAT and disbursements.

13. Budget Review

RESOLVED: To accept and approve the budget review update for quarter 2.

14. External Audit

The chair advised members that the interim certificate and notice of rights had been shared ahead of the meeting for members to read.

The Clerk updated that due to delays in the external auditor accepting answers provided the external audit could not be concluded by the 30th of September deadline. The interim certificate and notice of rights to inspect have been published on the website and noticeboard. We will now expect the completed external audit to be received before the November meeting at which it can be formally accepted by Council.

15. Social Media Policy

RESOLVED: for the Council and members to adopt the presented social media policy.

16. Email Communications Policy

RESOLVED: for the Council and members to adopt the presented Email Communications Policy.

17. Asset Transfer

Cllr Edgar suggested that the 3 presented areas should be considered separately. Cllr Edgar stated that the process could take from 8 weeks to 12 months and that they would prefer not to purchase any land and that it would save Cheshire East money by taking it off them.

Cllr Blake stated that they have no issues with the Dingle area but that the area behind Shelburne Drive has issues with drainage.

Cllr Griffith reported that the steps to the area behind Shelburne Drive were unsafe and that drainage was needed as it is not meant to be a wetland.

Cllr Edgar stated that they believe that it is a recognised water meadow.

Cllr Peake suggested that if the steps are unsafe then it should be reported to the Health & Safety Executive.

RESOLVED: To pursue the possible asset transfer from Cheshire East Council to Haslington Parish Council for presented area 1 – Green space that runs along Primrose Avenue to The Dingle.

Cllr Stubbs stated that it is Ansa's responsibility to complete drainage works on the area behind Shelburne Drive. Cllr Stubbs raised that if the Parish Council owned the dingle area it would give us an opportunity to explore working on and improving an area.

18. Environmental Working Group

RESOLVED: To form an environmental working group and the membership will be Cllr Stubbs, Cllr Blake, Cllr Trigger and Cllr R Welch.

19. Waterloo Road Car Park

Cllr Edgar stated that they had given out 300 leaflets to promote the consultation and that posters were up in the bakery & hairdressers.

Cllr Edgar raised that a resident was querying the ownership of both parts of the car park and that the asset map needs to be checked.

The Clerk had prepared a letter which was presented to members as a possible response to the consultation.

I am writing on behalf of Haslington Parish Council to express our deep concern, and disappointment and to express our strong objections regarding the proposed car park charges at the Waterloo Road Car Park. We believe that this decision will have a detrimental impact on our local community, local businesses, and will result in parking issues on neighbouring streets, ultimately affecting the quality of life for our residents.

Haslington is a vibrant and thriving community, and one of the reasons for its success is the accessibility and convenience of local amenities. The Waterloo Road Car Park plays a vital role in supporting our local businesses, providing a space for shoppers, visitors, and employees. By introducing charges for parking at this facility, you risk discouraging people from visiting our local shops, public houses, restaurants, takeaways and services. Many of our small businesses are already facing economic challenges, and this additional burden may lead to reduced footfall and potential closures, negatively impacting our local economy.

Furthermore, we are concerned about the potential overflow of vehicles onto neighbouring streets as a result of the proposed charges. The introduction of parking fees may lead to residents and visitors seeking free parking alternatives, causing congestion and parking issues in residential areas close to the Waterloo Road Car Park. This not only inconveniences local residents but also poses safety concerns and disrupts the peaceful environment that our community values.

We understand that local authorities must generate revenue to support public services, but we urge Cheshire East Council to consider alternative funding sources that do not disproportionately burden our local businesses and residents. We request that you reconsider the proposed car park charges at the Waterloo Road Car Park and explore alternative solutions to address budgetary needs without compromising the well-being of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we hope for a favourable and supportive outcome for our community.

RESOLVED: To submit the letter as quoted above to Cheshire East as Haslington Parish Council's response to proposed car park charges and for the letter to be made public on the Council's social media and website.

Cllr Blake stated that we could consider a possible asset transfer of the car park in the future.

20. 1st Haslington Rangers (Girl Guides) Funding Request

Cllr Griffith spoke of the trip that the guides are taking part in and the fundraising which they have completed.

Cllr Peake asked if we could give grants to individuals, and it was confirmed that it is the organisation that has applied.

Cllr Davis raised that an individual application from a special Olympian was made previously which could not be given.

Cllr Blake stated that investing in young people is a good thing and how positive it is.

RESOLVED: To approve the request and to award £200 to 1st Haslington Rangers to go towards their trip to the Netherlands

21. New Planters

RESOLVED: To purchase 2 x Broxap bx45G planters (with Coronation engraving) at £669 each plus £154 delivery.

22. Gutterscroft Management Committee

a) RESOLVED: To purchase the Scribe add-on for hall hire bookings at £597 for year 1.

b) DEFERRED: To defer considering a quote for a replacement kitchen door to a future meeting.

23. Clerks Report

The Clerk summarised their written report highlighting.

- Upcoming ChALC AGM and if any members would like to attend.
- Council Email Transition and that all communications will be sent to council domain emails only from 9th October.
- Budget Setting Process – informal meeting date to be set.
- Hurricane swing at the Gutterscroft is now finally repaired and in use.
- Christmas tree sourcing to commence shortly.

24. Winterley Ward

No updates were brought forward.

25. Oakhanger Ward

Cllr Bushill raised that there was already an increase in traffic both day and night which is due to the road closure and diversion.

26. Haslington Ward

Cllr Griffith queried why Haslington Police post updates on social media that don't relate to the village. The Chair advised that this needs to be queried with the PCSO.

Cllr Blake raised that a field opposite the football field on Clay Lane/Maw Lane has had a hard-core road constructed which covers approx. 60 metres into the field.

Cllr Peake asked which road is closed at the weekend. The Chair confirmed it was Crewe Road from Haslington to Winterley.

Cllr Peake reminded members that the Remembrance service takes place on 12th November, meeting at the Waterloo Road car park at 10:30 a.m. and then parading to the War Memorial at 10:45 a.m. A service will be held before at St Matthew's Church.

Cllr Davis asked if there is a map of where the defibrillators are situated.

Cllr Stubbs informed members that there is a Bulb planting day taking place near Crewe Green Church on 14th October between 10-12.

27. Exclusion of Press and Public

The motion was not moved as no public were present.

28. To consider the personnel committee's recommendation regarding the completion of the Clerk's probationary period.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks probationary period is now complete.

29. To consider the personnel committee's recommendation regarding the required hours for the role of Clerk/RFO.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks contract is increased to 20 hours per week from 1st October 2023.

30. To consider the personnel committee's recommendation regarding any other personnel matters.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks excess hours worked over contract of 32.75 hours are paid.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

**Haslington Parish Council
Schedule of Payments
2nd October 2023**

Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	W Salisbury	Clerks Expense - Printing (HP Ink)	11.99	44.13	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
2	W Salisbury	Clerks Expense - Printing (HP Ink)	11.99		LGA 1972 S111	Yes
2.5	W Salisbury	Best Garden Awards - Refreshments	20.15		LGA 1972 S145	Yes
3	JD Services	Floriculture Maintenance - Watering	760.00	2469.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
4	JD Services	Grasscutting / Bin emptying	629.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
5	JD Services	Odd Jobs / Floriculture / Winterley Pool Maintenance	1080.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
Total			2513.13			

Payments made as authorised on the approved payments list (5.5b)

Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe
6	08/09/2023	Smarty	Phone Monthly Fee	7.20	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
7	13/09/2023	Scottish Power	Gutterscroft Power Usage	238.92	LGA 1972 S133	Yes
8	26/09/2023	Waterplus	Gutterscroft Water Usage	33.46	LGA 1972 S133	Yes
9	14/09/2023	Dropbox	Annual Storage	95.88	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
10	27/09/2023	W Salisbury	Salary - September	1014.51	LGA 1972 S112	Yes
11	27/09/2023	HMRC	PAYE - TAX & NI	76.24	LGA 1972 S112	Yes
12	26/09/2023	Smarty	Phone Monthly Fee (CCTV)	9.00	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
Total			1475.21			

Payments made as authorised under financial regulations 5.5a

Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe
13	11/09/2023	SLCC	Full Membership	159.20	LGA 1972 S143	Yes
14	11/09/2023	SLCC	Yellow Book Council Administration	113.44	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
15	06/09/2023	Netwise	Website Domain Email Addresses	172.80	LGA 1972 S142	Yes
16	06/09/2023	Netwise	Website Domain Email Addresses	56.78	LGA 1972 S142	Yes
17	12/09/2023	Amberon	Road Closure & Traffic Management - Remembrance	588.00	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
18	22/09/2023	Clean as Newall	Gutterscroft Cleaning 27th July 2023	94.00	LGA 1972 S133	Yes
19	21/09/2023	W-Heat	Gutterscroft Electrical Maintenance	837.6	LGA 1972 S133	Yes
20	25/09/2023	Haslington Club Complex Ltd	Buffet for Garden Awards	477.00	LGA 1972 S145	Yes
21	29/09/2023	Christ Church	Grant - Trees Maintenance	550.00	LGA 1972 S214	Yes
22	07/09/2023	Yoxall Village Hall	Room hire for meetings - July / September	46.75	LGA 1972 S111	Yes
Total			3095.57			

Resolved to be paid at the meeting held at
Minute Reference

2nd October 2023
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