

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2023 AT HANKELow METHODIST CHAPEL

Present: Cllr Nigel Dibben, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Ally Williams, Cllr Rob Tindall

In attendance

Abbi Miller (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Janet Clowes (Ward Councillor)

Gerald Laxton (Member of the Public)

23/59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr James Du Pavey, Cllr Ian Bennion and Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Steve Mitchell.

23/60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

23/61 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed that the minutes from 25th September 2023 are approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23/62 QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC REGARDING ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, section 1d, members of the public were able to ask a question of the Parish Council or make a statement.

There were no questions or comments from the one member of the public in attendance.

23/63 MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 25th September 2023.

Regarding the issue raised by Cllr Steve Mitchell of the Royal Mail post box at Artle Brook, it was determined that Royal Mail requires 8 residents to request the post box be returned. However, there is another post box in closer proximity. No further action required.

23/64 NEW COUNCILLOR

Mr Gerald Laxton was co-opted into the Parish Council. This was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Sansom.

The Parish Council welcomed Cllr Laxton to the Council.

23/65 FINANCE MATTERS

A) The Finance Report (Appendix 14) was presented by the Clerk.

B) The Clerk presented the proposed budget for financial year 24/25 with the following amendments.

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- Donations element to be removed and a decision to be made on donations close to the Financial year end if there is an underspend.
- Parish Enhancement to increase by £500 to take into account the cost of a proposed lengthsman.
- Cllr Knibbs noted that it was good practice for a small Parish Council to keep a general reserve of 9 months' worth of the precept.
- It was agreed and **resolved** that Option 3 of the Proposed Precept for financial year 24/25 of uplifting the precept by £772.00 was approved. This will allow the Parish Council to have Precept that matches the budget, so as not to drain on the general reserves.

All budget matters were proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Dibben. **RESOLVED.**

C) The approval of the Parish Clerk financial year 23/24 pay agreement was proposed by Cllr Knibbs and seconded by Cllr Tindall. **RESOLVED.**

D) The following payments were authorised:

- Parish Clerk wages & stationary £575.35
- Parish Clerk HMRC contributions £122.20
- SLCC Parish Clerk Conference £35.00

E) It was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Tindall to approve Account-ant (Yorkshire) Ltd as the new internal auditor.

F) It was proposed by Cllr Tindall and seconded by Cllr Tindall to approve Cllr Williams as a third signatory on the Unity Trust bank account.

Action: Parish Clerk to set up with Unity Bank.

23/66 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors received the Planning Report (Appendix 15), and the following planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 25th September 2023:

23/2900N	Boars Head Pub, London Rd, Walgherton, CW5 7LA	Full planning – Retrospective Application for the retention of a canvas and timber tipi garden room with access path and the proposed erection of an acoustic timber fence. Resubmission of planning application 22/4967N	Withdrawn 20/10/2023
23/3266N	Tollgate Cottage, Audlem Rd, Hatherton CW5 7PJ	Householder – we have moved a 2m high timber fence away from the highway back to its original position, with the instruction of Andrea Bickerton (Senior Highway Officer). The fence is essential to us for security, noise and fume reduction from road traffic.	Refused 03/11/2023

23/66.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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23/2548N	Fields Farm, Audlem Rd, Hatherton, CW5 7PG	Full Planning – rural worker dwelling (agricultural dwelling) and garage. New documents provided. PC to comment.	Parish Council response – Provide Comment - Parish Council are content that the information provided in the new documents have answered the questions that were initially posed at the time of the original application. The Council feel that the application is now more in keeping with the existing buildings.
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c. It was proposed by Cllr Knibbs and seconded by Cllr Sansom that the Planning Meeting Minutes of 30th October 2023 were approved.

23/67 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) Hunsterson Road junction was flooded again in the recent heavy rain. This is likely due to blocked drains. This has been reported to CE Highways and an incident number recorded.
- b) The Parish Clerk provided an update on the response from local residents to the letters that were recently sent out regarding speed restrictions on B5071 & A51. **Action:** Clerk to collate residents' responses and circulate to Councillors to agree format before sending on to CE Highways. Cllr Knibbs recorded that two detailed technical reports from residents were most helpful in formulating the council's response. Thanks were given to all the many respondents which indicated the high level of concern the parish has, for significant improved road safety on these two roads.
- c) Cllr Knibbs highlighted to the Council Cheshire Police's finding with regards to speeding activations and prosecutions on the roads in question.
- d) On submission of the residents responses to CE Highways, the Parish Council's recommendation for B5071 is for better Cheese Factory access directly off the A529 with a speed restriction of 40mph and 7.5 ton restriction on the B5071.
- e) On submission of the residents' responses to CE Highways, the Parish Council's recommendation for A51 junction is for a 30 mph speed restriction to be put in place with improved signage.
- f) Meeting imminent with Highways Safety Team Leader to discuss property damage at Bridgemere Lane end and the triangle. Cllrs Knibbs and Dibben to attend with Ward Cllr Clowes

23/68 UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST WARD COUNCILLOR

- Cheshire East are currently working on Ward Boundary reviews, with decisions due mid-January 24, and shouldn't affect our Neighbourhood Plan.

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23/69 PARISH IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT AND PROGRESS

Cllr Williams provided an update of the Improvement Working Group Meeting held on 13th November.

- Cllr Clinton to plant mixed bulbs in planter.
- Work in progress with painting the finger post at the bottom of Park Lane
- Boars Head layby improvement. Litter bin in place and ANSA has agreed to empty the new bin on their rounds.
- Notice Board at Boars Head needs reoiling as it looks rather weathered. Oil when weather improves.
- Footpath signage improvement – new signs were discussed with possibility of a QR code.
- Hatherton Flush SSSI – Cllr Knibbs is liaising with Natural England regarding its upkeep.
- 1000 Daffodils have been planted by Cllr and Mr Williams.
- Discussions ongoing about the potential for a community orchard.
- Date of next meeting, 15th January 2024.

23/70 CHESHIRE EAST CONSULTATIONS

It was decided that due to the number of CE Consultations within this period and insufficient Parish Council meeting time to discuss them adequately, that a Consultation Committee be set up to discuss and provide councils response. All councillors were invited to attend.

This is being held on 6th December at 1000 at Dagfields Café.

23/71 (ALL) MEMBERS REPORTS TO RAISE TO COUNCIL (FORMERLY AOB)

- Cllr Knibbs talked about the Warm Spaces Hub that will be continuing again this year on Friday afternoons at Hankelow Chapel and asked the Council for any volunteers. **Action:** Cllr Clinton to advertise on the Facebook page, with other councillors to advertise on the Website and Noticeboards.

23/72 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 22nd January 2024
Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN

The meeting closed at 21:46 pm