



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm at the Venue,
New Hoole Memorial Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road.**

Present; Cllrs A Taylor N Woodcock, K.Hayes,.E.Houghton , R.Lea, P.Cocker
R. Weaver, Clerk to the Council

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Nathan Woodcock was elected as Chairman

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Hayes was elected as Vice Chairman

3. Election of representatives at LALC area committee

Cllrs Houghton was nominated

4. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs T Hewitt and Cllr T Brown

5. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs Taylor and Houghton declared a (non-pecuniary) interest in item relating to the Village Hall
There were no requests for dispensations and none granted.

6. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of 11th April 2022 as an accurate record.

7. Adjournment for Public Participation

Footpaths

One member of the public was present and he raised several questions about the Parish Council's involvement in management and maintenance of public footpaths. He asked if better maps could be made available to raise awareness of their locations and also queried why some perfectly good stiles had been replaced by gates while other stiles in a state of disrepair had not been repaired. He was informed that LCC were responsible for these changes and presumably had made changes to increase accessibility. IT was agreed that better maps could be made and published on notice boards, in the next newsletter and the PC website.

Cllr Cocker is now on the LCC Public Rights of Way forum.

A number of way marker signs have been obtained and will be placed on the paths where signs have been lost or damaged to improve access to footpaths.

Cllr Alan Taylor, Cllr Cocker and Martyn Taylor have personally repaired a damaged footbridge on Footpath 22 at the rear of Town Lane and the Chairman asked that a note of thanks be recorded.

8. Planning

The planning applications were noted and there were no comments regarding the pre planning consultation item..

9. Cycle track

It was reported that the cycle track has been inspected in accordance with the inspection schedule. There were no issues to note

10. Finance

It was **resolved** to authorise the following payments:

- a) Clerk salary for April 2022 in sum of £240.00 (net)
- b) Re-imburse the Clerk in sum of £52.80 for mileage and printer expenses
- c) To pay HMRC in sum of £60.00 for April 2022 PAYE
- d) To pay Poppy Signs in sum of £168.00
- e) The Council noted that the audit papers are now with the auditor and will be brought back to the June meeting. It was also noted that a new internal auditor will be required for next year.

11. Lengthsman Contract Review

It was noted that the Lengthsman's contract had not been updated for some considerable time and the hourly rate was now far below the current realistic rate for similar work. It was agreed that a new contract would be drawn up and the hourly rate would be £13 per hour.

12. Community projects update

The signage planning application is still in progress and the sign manufacturer is in discussion with Cllr Hewitt. The Clerk was authorised to release any payments that may be required by way of advance deposits given that a previous resolution had authorised the payment for the cost of the signage.

It was noted that the notice board had been removed from San Marco and relocated to the shop. The old metal notice board at San Marco can now be removed, but in order to cover the area and mask any damage to the wall, a new one will need to be of a sufficient size. A previous resolution authorised the purchase of a replacement board and the Council recognised there may be a small additional cost if a slightly larger board is required.

13. Insurance

The insurance cover currently in force will be renewed on 1st June 2022. At the meeting of 17th May 2021 it was resolved to pay a 3-year fixed price at a reduced premium £479.79 with Community First Insurance. The second of these payments is expected before the end of the month, and it was agreed that the Clerk can initiate the payment of the annual premium when it is received.

14. Village Hall update

Cllr Taylor submitted a report with particular attention being on the improvements to the car park. It has been necessary to close the car park and cause some disruption to events while the car park is tarmaced. Final accounts cannot be prepared until such times as all the contract works have been completed. Despite the disruption, the hall is being well used by a wide variety of groups, some of which are due to take breaks from meetings through the summer. The financial situation is healthy. The Locals' lunch on 26th May has been cancelled although the big Jubilee Lunch is taking place a few days later.

The Spring Fair was successful and raised in the region of £1,700.

15. General power of Competence

As a qualifying Council, it was **resolved** to adopt the General Power.

16. Grants

a) Cllr Lea presented his revised draft of the Grants Policy designed to make application for grants more accessible and easier for local organisations. It was agreed that the new policy was a great improvement and it was adopted by a resolution.

b) A previous resolution agreed to allocate a £5,500 grant towards the cost of building a lodge at the Church for community use. With recent inflation in building costs the original funds raised are insufficient and this is being addressed by further fundraising and adjustments in specifications. The Architect has confirmed in a letter to the Council that inflationary costs have risen by some 30%. The Council was asked to revisit its original decision to allocate £5,500 and perhaps increase it to contribute to the shortfall.

There was some discussion and it was noted that since the original decision, the Council has received £8,500 in CIL money which had not been factored into its budget for 2022-2023. In view of this it was apparent that the Council was in a position to assist and it was resolved to allocate a further £5,500 from the CIL money to the building project.

17. Local Meetings

There were no local meeting reports.

18. Items for the next agenda

Internal audit report, annual governance returns, setting period of public right of access to view accounts. Village Welcome signs planning progress, Update on footpaths

19. Next meeting Agreed as 7.30pm Monday 13th June, 2022 at the Venue 7.30pm Monday 14th June 2021 at the Hoole Memorial Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road.