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**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in The Venue, Liverpool  
Road, Much Hoole.  
These minutes have been produced by T Hutchinson, Clerk**

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**Present:** Cllrs N Woodcock (Chair), K. Hayes, E. Houghton, R Lea, T Brown, P Cocker, A Taylor. Parish Clerk  
T Hutchinson.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

T Hewitt

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Cllrs E Houghton, A Taylor and T Brown (non-pecuniary) re Village Hall.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

It was resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 as an accurate record.

Councillors agreed their shared deep sadness at the recent passing of Parish Clerk Russ Weaver who will be greatly missed.

**4. Adjournment for Public Participation**

Two members of the public were present. Issues raised:

- Nigel Hardacre attended to hear progress on footpath improvements being keen that they should progress with alacrity.
- Notice board outside San Marco restaurant not being used. The owner of the wall has now agreed for a new notice board to be erected only if he can keep the original. Clerk to source new notice board if we do not already have one and the item added to agenda for next meeting to approve costs of removal and fitting. Cllr A Taylor to produce an estimate.
- The cost of repair of footpaths. It was noted that MHPC direct funds to where they feel is best for the village residents and repairing footpaths to keep them usable is seen as a priority.
- Lack of wildflower beds in Much Hoole. Cllr Hayes noted that South Ribble are responsible for maintenance of the highway verges and it is not our place as the Parish Council to advise them in this regard. Some Councillors said that the many wildflower beds in the area are quite sufficient and our many planters in Much Hoole are more attractive and flower for a lot longer. .

**5. Reports from other meetings**

Cllr Houghton attended via zoom a meeting of the NALC Northern Group of councils having representatives from Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumbria and Northumberland. Concerns were expressed over the use of the money that NALC has from recently selling the property in Great Russell Street, London since 85% of NALC monies goes on staffing costs and just 15% is spent on services. The next meeting is in September and Cllr Houghton will keep MHPC informed.

Cllr Cocker attended Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting for introduction and update on footpath inspections. LHPC sent their condolences to R Weaver's family.

**6. Off Road Cycle Track**

No issues or updates. Clerk to action ordering of bench.

**7. Finance**

**It was resolved to pay the following:**

- a) Pay the Clerk T Hutchinson, in sum of £245.60 (net pay for June)
- b) Pay HMRC in sum of £61.40 (for T Hutchinson's June pay)
- c) Pay JDH Business services in sum of £270.00 (for annual audit)

**8. Planning**

None listed under Much Hoole.

**9. Village Hall update**

A written report on the progress of the village hall was read to the Council by Cllr A Taylor. The finances are in good health and it is meeting all its commitments. The Village Hall is still very well used most days. The Local's lunches are still popular although they only happen monthly in the Summer. The Spring Fair went well and raised over £1k. The next big event is the classic vehicle event on 6<sup>th</sup> August. The website has a full list of all activities and events [www.hoolevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hoolevillagehall.co.uk).

The group is also working on the Multi Use Games Area and planning permission has been applied for and the planning process ongoing. Discussions on an information sign at the front are almost complete. The group is in negotiation with a supplier for a height barrier at the front to keep unwanted caravans out.

**10. Footpaths**

Footpath near Puddleduck Cottage (FP11) is considerably lower than surrounding land and completely impassable in winter. If MHPC do ground repairs the owner of the cottage will repair both stiles. Agreed to accept MJ Davidson's quote of £1900 plus VAT and the clerk to ask MJ Davidson to progress with work as soon as possible and keep us updated on progress.

Footpath 22 – looking at a two year project to fix, landowner has cleared the first 100 metres. Cllrs to arrange a date in August to visit and review FP22 in order that a costed proposal for the first stage can be put to the September meeting..

**11. Community Garden**

To review at September meeting.

**12. Silhouette Poppy Statue**

Agreed to order from Royal British Legion, Aluminium, composite silhouette for £175. Clerk to order.

**13. Road Safety Posters**

Agreed to approve quote of £65.88. Cllr Hewitt to order posters.

**14. Update on progress of Clerk**

Audit completed with some recommendations that the Clerk will work through and she will also continue to reach out to LALC. Cllr Cocker will approach the Little Hoole Parish Clerk with a view to assisting our new Much Hoole Parish Clerk in the accounting area.

**15. Items for next agenda**

Community Garden, Progress on FP11, and proposals re FP22 & FP30, approval of costs for fixing notice board at San Marco.

**16. Date of next meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, to be held at the Venue, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, starting at 7.30pm.

*N.S.H.*  
11/9/23