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**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was held in the Venue, Liverpool  
Road, Much Hoole.**

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Present; Cllrs N. Woodcock (Chairman), E. Houghton, K. Hayes, R Lea, T. Hewitt, A Taylor  
Clerk R. Weaver in attendance

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr C Hewitt, Cllr T Brown

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

**It was resolved** to sign the Minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 as an accurate record.

**4. Adjournment for Public Participation**

There were four members of the public present.. A member of the Trustees of the Venue stated he had attended simply to state publicly on behalf of the trustees their gratitude for the support of the Parish Council towards building the new hall. He reported that it is has exceeded expectations in terms of bookings and usage and is set to become a real focal point of the village and an asset to the community.

The Parish Council thanked him for his comments and congratulated the trustees for their efforts in running the facility for the benefit of local residents.

A second member of the public asked why the Council was offering so much in the way of financial grants to local organisations such as the Scouts, the local Church and the Bowling Club to improve their facilities and had these organisations applied elsewhere rather than just to Much Hoole Council? Firstly, where applicants apply to is a matter for them, but in most cases the answer was yes, the Council was providing support alongside a number of other donors. In respect of why the Council was making financial grants available, it was pointed out that improving the appearance and facilities within the village for the benefit of local people was the reason why the Council exists. Furthermore, commercial developers who build housing are obliged by law to make a financial contribution to the village to support local infrastructure (Community Infrastructure Levy - CIL) The Parish Council receives this money and decides how this is to be distributed. If it is not allocated then it has to be repaid to the developers. Some of the grants referred to by the person raising the question were financed in this way by using CIL funding.

Another member of the public supported this response from Councillors and offered the view that if there was any dissatisfaction in the way Councillors were using public money for the betterment of the village then people have an opportunity to vote accordingly.

A question was asked why a payment for room hire was being made to the Village Hall to hold Council meetings given the amount of funding provided to build it. It was explained that the Council has a budget for room hire and whilst the Council had provided a substantial amount of money to help with building costs, the trustees nevertheless had a duty to make it pay its way. The Trustees had come to an agreement with the Council to charge only a discounted nominal rate for hiring the room which was half of what the Council previously paid for its room hire at the Methodist Church hall.

Another question was asked regarding the excellent wild flower borders that have been provided in surrounding villages by SRBC and why so few were in the Much Hoole area. It

was agreed that the wild flowers look magnificent and contact should be made with SRBC to see if more can be done to find suitable locations in Much Hoole.

Another question was asked about the poor condition of the footpath along the A59 which is overgrown with hedging and extremely narrow due to the poor condition of the grass verges which have been reduced to mud in some stretches. This was a matter that had already been raised by other people and it was agreed that it would be addressed with the help of LCC and SRBC. LCC has been requested to cut back the hedging and repair the footpath.

**5. Cycle track update**

There are no issues with the track.

**6. Finance**

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

- a) Clerk salary for October in sum of £240 to PR Weaver
- b) Clerk mileage expenses for October in sum of £7.20
- c) HMRC for PAYE in October in sum of £60.00
- d) Lengthsman's invoice number 110 to G McKenna in sum of £95.58
- e) Rufford Printers in sum of £260
- f) The budget v spend as at 1<sup>st</sup> November was noted

**7. Grant applications**

A proposal to award a grant of £2,000 to buy green maintenance equipment for the Bowling Club was considered. Councillors had heard during public time that the applicant had since revised the application downwards due to the availability of some suitable second-hand equipment. The club was thriving and attracting new members.

An amendment to the original proposal was made, the new proposal being: "*To resolve to award a grant of £1,000 to the Bowling Club to purchase green maintenance equipment*".

The amendment was approved and the new proposal was put to the vote. **It was resolved** that £1,000 would be awarded to the Bowling Club

**8. Planning**

The planning application was noted

**9.. Queen's Jubilee Beacon**

Councillors noted that a national programme of beacon lighting would take place to mark the Queen's jubilee and it was resolved that MHPC would register to be part of the programme

**10. Items for next agenda**

To set the 2022/23 budget and precept

To discuss future Remembrance Day arrangements for 2022 and beyond

To finalise community artwork

The Council was informed that the development of the Village Hall car park was now underway as per the request of the Council when providing its last funding, the AGM had taken place and the committee had been re-elected. The recent community survey regarding future development had been completed by SRBC which reported 60% of those who responded supported development of the tennis court area into a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) 38% of those who responded supported an extension to build a snooker room. This will now be considered by the trustees. Given that the Council has supported the building of the hall, it was suggested that its progress would be of interest to the Council and therefore a standing item should be included on the agenda to facilitate this.

**11. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be held at The Venue, Liverpool Road, Much Hoole