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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm at the  
New Hoole memorial Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road.**

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

Prior to the first agenda item which would result in a new Chairman being elected, Cllr Taylor asked that his thanks to the Parish Councillors for their good humour, support and encouragement be noted as he had very much enjoyed his time as Chairman. Councillors in turn thanked him for undertaking the role over the last three years.

**1. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Nathan Woodcock was elected as Chairman and signed the declaration of office

**2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Hayes was elected as Vice Chairman

**3. Election of representatives at LALC**

Cllrs Houghton was nominated

**4. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs T Hewitt and Cllr C Hewitt

**5. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Cllrs Brown, Taylor and Houghton declared a (non-pecuniary) interest in item 13 relating to the Village Hall

Cllr Lea intended to raise an issue under the agenda item for planning, however he had a personal interest in a particular ongoing planning issue. Cllrs Brown and Taylor also indicated that their proximity to a planning issue meant that they too would consider themselves to have a personal interest.

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 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 as an accurate record.

**7. Adjournment for Public Participation**

Three members of the public were present. Two representatives from Ribble Court care home attended and outlined the progress towards the opening of the facility and the part the organisation wished to play in the local community. It was agreed that posters and information material would be displayed on the notice boards to advertise some of the local opportunities that the care Home will bring.

A point was raised regarding the work currently being undertaken to tidy the bushes in the Trafalgar Gardens and the likelihood that some of the shrubs may need to be replaced. A question was asked about the next newsletter and when it might be produced. It was noted that one has already been produced but limited to the Council's website and with the lifting of lockdown, a proper paper version will be produced in the very near future and circulated through peoples' doors as usual

**8. Planning**

It was noted that for some reason the weekly lists for planning had not been received for several weeks and no specific items were therefore available to view on the agenda. This would be pursued by the Clerk and they would be circulated separately

Cllr Lea raised the issue of a planning appeal against an initial refusal which is currently under consideration. The application is to build a house on Moss House Lane adjacent to where he lives. He stated that his concerns were from a wider community perspective on the potential for unwanted

intrusive development in the village as a whole, rather than personal. Having raised this particular application and bringing it to the attention of the Council he took no further part in discussion, debate or voting about its merits or otherwise. Cllrs Taylor and Brown considered that they too should withdraw from the debate for the same reasons.

The remaining Cllrs discussed the potential for the appeal to lead to further unwanted consequences by setting a precedent for future planning applications. It was **resolved** to write to SRBC to support the original objections and urge the Council to refuse the appeal.

#### **9. Cycle track**

It was reported that the cycle track has been inspected in accordance with the inspection schedule. The track will soon benefit from the planting of wildflowers and a new bench.

#### **10. Finance**

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

- a) Clerk salary for April 2021 in sum of £226.10 (net)
- b) Re-imburse the Clerk in sum of £513.42 for payment on behalf of Council to 'NoticeMe' Ltd
- c) To pay HMRC in sum of £56.40 for April 2021 PAYE

The increased transaction fees from Unity Trust Bank were noted.

#### **11. Community led project update**

The permissions for the road signs are still under discussion and in order to gain permission there will most likely have to be some modification to the design work. The installation work once approved will be undertaken by LCC.

The levelling of the ground in Trafalgar gardens, approved some time ago will be undertaken shortly now that the weather has improved.

Ongoing improvements to the cycle track continue as per item 9 above.

#### **12. Insurance**

The insurance cover currently in force has been offered for renewal on either a single year basis, or on a 3-year fixed price at a reduced premium. It was agreed that the cover and premiums are acceptable and it was resolved to renew the insurance with Community First Insurance on the fixed 3-year offer of £479.79 pa

#### **13. Village Hall update**

Cllr Taylor submitted a report showing that the hall was almost ready for opening and once again thanked the Parish Council for the support in bringing it to fruition.

#### **14. General power of Competence**

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

#### **15. Review of Clerk's Contract**

The Clerk has been in office since 2017 and the contract is subject to an annual review. The Clerk left the room while the review was carried out and it was resolved that the pay scale would be revised from the date of this meeting to National Scale Point 14.

#### **16. Local Meetings**

Cllr Houghton will attend the LALC executive meeting on 19.06.2021 where a representative of the Environment Agency will be there and able to discuss flooding issues in the village.

#### **17. Training**

It was **resolved** that Cllr Hayes would attend the Zoom PTT training event on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7pm -9pm. The Council would fund the £25 fee.

#### **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,

#### **19. Next meeting**

7.30pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the Hoole Memorial Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road.