



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 12th July 2021 at 7.30pm at the
New Hoole memorial Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road.**

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs T Hewitt and Cllr C Hewitt

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs Brown, Taylor and Houghton declared an interest in item 6 relating to the Village Hall. Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 7d

There were no requests for dispensations and none granted

3. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of 14th June 2021 as an accurate record.

4. Adjournment for Public Participation

One member of the public was present and he raised 3 issues. Firstly he congratulated the Council on the professional standard of the repair work on footpath 30 which he had previously raised with the Council. Councillor Alan Taylor gratefully acknowledged the comments as he had done the work personally without charging the Council for any time or labour.

Secondly, it was pointed out there was further damage to the same path further along its length. This Will be inspected and assessed for repairs.

Lastly, he asked why £25,000 had been secretly given to the Village Hall project after the hall had been completed and he was concerned that a number of payments had been made in secret over recent months.

On the last point, it was drawn to his attention that no such payment had been made. There was in fact an item scheduled for discussion later in the meeting relating to support for building costs.

As this item was yet to be discussed later in the meeting, and the person asking the question was present and entitled to stay and watch the discussion, it was clearly incorrect to say there had already been a payment, nor was there any secrecy involved.

In respect of his further point, that the Council had been making payments for some time without the knowledge of local people, he was advised that every financial transaction relating to support for the village hall building project had been discussed in public meetings, minuted and published on the Council website.

The Council itself had asked the internal auditor to scrutinise all such transactions as an additional part of this year's audit and his report was also published on the website. Furthermore, the Council was in a period of time when the public is entitled to ask to view its accounts as part of its audit arrangements.

Another member of the public who was not present had questions raised on his behalf by the Clerk. He asked if progress had been made in relation to speeding on Smithy Lane and the installation of a speed device. There was some uncertainty of the need for a device given that parked cars already acted as an obstruction that slowed cars down. Secondly, he asked that reports on the Village Hall updates be published in full as appendices to the minutes, rather than being summarised in the minutes and it was agreed this was a good idea and would be done retrospectively.

5. Cycle track

It was reported that the cycle track has been inspected in accordance with the inspection schedule. There were no issues of litter, but the gate which had been repaired several times had finally fallen apart. Although it had been previously agreed that a new gate could be fitted when the current one became beyond repair, it was resolved again that a replacement gate should be bought and fitted

6. Village Hall update.

The full update report will be added to the Council website but in summary, the full costs will be in excess of £600,000. Full accounting costs will be published in the near future and the grand opening of the Hall is scheduled for 31st July 2021

A sum of £25,000 was set aside in the budget agreed in January to allow for further support for the building fund if necessary. A proposal was put to the Council to now release this money to the Trustees. The Councillors who are also trustees were asked to leave the meeting while this was Discussed. Before leaving they were asked why this money was still required given that the hall was open. They stated that there were still invoices outstanding, and a number of things that were wanted to enhance the hall had no funding available.

Cllrs Taylor, Houghton and Brown then withdrew. In their absence it was confirmed that the Clerk had been given evidence of outstanding invoices. Cllrs stated that the hall had been generally well received with some positive feedback and was a very welcome modern facility which could benefit local people, so in principle the Council should be supportive. It was **resolved** that £25,000 should be donated to the project with some conditions, those being that work to enhance the entrance area and the obstruction in the car park should be prioritised using the money.

7. Finance and Audit

It was resolved to:

- a) Pay the Clerk in the sum of £240 net for June 2021
- b) Pay the Clerk in the sum of £8.10 expenses (mileage) for June 2021
- c) Pay HMRC in the sum of £60 PAYE for June 2021

Councillor Taylor was asked to take no part in the following decision:

It was resolved to reimburse Cllr Taylor in the sum of £275.50 for materials to repair Footpath 30 (as referred to previously in the minutes at item 4)

8. Community led projects

The issue of permission for signage is still with LCC Highways

Councillors were advised of the LCC Parish Champion's grant fund being available to fund small projects in local parishes.

9. Planning

The planning application was noted

10. Due to a cut and paste error there was no item 10

11. Local meetings

The meeting report from the LALC South Ribble Area Committee Meeting held on 24th June 2021 were noted

12. Items for the next agenda

Consideration of a new Jubilee tree
Draft newsletter
Ideas for parish Champions grants

13. Next meeting

7.30pm Monday 13th September 2021 at the Hoole Memorial Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road.