



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
8th January 2020 at 7.30pm at the
Methodist Church, School Room, Moss House Lane**

Present; Cllrs A Taylor (Chairman), N Woodcock, E. Houghton, T. Hewitt, C.Hewitt,
K. Hayes, T. Brown

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Lea

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs, Brown, Taylor and Houghton – Item 6 regarding the Village Hall and item 7h on finance.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2019 as an accurate record.

4. Adjournment for Public Participation

There were no members of the public present

5. Cycle track update

It was noted that the track is regularly inspected and it was reported that before too much longer it will benefit from some new topping material on the track.

Preparations to plant a wild flower area will commence in the new year. It was agreed that it would be best placed in the corner of the track area at the Smithy Lane end, closest to Moss House Lane.

Plans to develop the track into something more attractive to users are still being developed

It was **resolved** that new signage should be obtained to the effect of 'Dogs allowed on leads' and 'No motor cycles allowed'

6. Village Hall update

Cllr Taylor presented an update paper for the Council which outlined progress to date. Tenders have been evaluated and a preferred contractor has been selected. Discussions had been ongoing with the contractor to renegotiate materials and specifications in an effort to reduce costs. The Clerk to the Council had been invited to oversee the tendering process and all decision making regarding the selection of the successful contractor was explained in order for the Council to be re-assured about the process to which the Council is contributing financially. The Village Hall trustees now believe they have a realistic build cost that can be met with existing finances and achievable future fundraising, including some further support from the Parish Council. They believe that with a small additional amount of support they will be in a position to enter into a contract to commence building work. Whilst the main budget was agreed last month, the Trustees asked that before the precept is set under item 6h, the Council should consider what if any further financial support could be provided.

6. Finance

It was resolved to authorise the following payments;

- a. Clerk salary in sum of £220.00 (Net for December)
- b. Clerk expenses £10.80
- c. HMRC(PAYE) in sum of £55.00 (For December)
- d. R Dalton in sum of £240 for two Christmas trees
- e. Methodist Church in sum of £40 for Council meeting expenses

- f. Ian Edwards was appointed as internal auditor for 2020/21
- g. The terms of reference for the internal audit were approved

- h. A proposal to set the precept at £36,831 was moved which would allow for £25,000 to be pledged to the Village Hall building fund. Due to the declared interests, Cllrs Houghton, Taylor and Brown left the room while the proposal was discussed. Cllr Woodcock as Vice Chair presided over this part of the meeting. It was resolved by those Cllrs still present that the precept would be set at £36.831
- 8. Community led project update**
Village welcome signs are still ongoing
New planters will be placed now they have been delivered
Re-instatement of the bins is awaiting SRBC work
- 9. Community engagement**
Proposals are still being drawn up to establish a social media presence for the Council
- 10. Planning**
There were no planning issues on the published lists for Much Hoole
- 11. Social media**
It was resolved that the Parish Council should set up a Facebook page to facilitate Communication of information about what is happening locally and what the Parish Council is doing Cllr T Hewitt stated that she would be happy to act as an administrator and make the necessary arrangements to create the Facebook account which can be linked to the website. These arrangements will be reported back to the next meeting.
- 12. Local Meetings**
There were no local meeting reports
- 13. Items for next agenda**
Report back on signage proposals
Parish Council social media presence
Meeting dates
- 19. Date of next meeting.** 7.30pm Wednesday 12th February 2020 at the Methodist Church Hall.