



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.30pm at the
Hoole Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole**

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

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs Taylor, Brown and Houghton declared an interest in Item 6e and 8 regarding the Village Hall..

3. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of 12th February 2020 as an accurate record.

4. Adjournment for Public Participation

No members of the public were present

5. Off road cycle track update

It was noted that the plans for the re-design of the cycle track are now at an advanced stage. There is a track design agreed with some professional advice and guidance and the quantities of materials required and plant hire costs have now been determined. It was agreed that the work should go ahead on the basis that the Council can expect invoices in the region of £2,000 which will be presented at future meetings for payment.

It was agreed that the gate which had been damaged should be replaced and the Lengthsman will arrange this. The anticipated cost will be around £300

It was also agreed that an area of grass will be scraped to make a wildflower meadow area. It was also agreed that an area within the cycle track should be given over to planting of trees donated by South Ribble Borough Council.

6. Finance

It was resolved to authorise the following payments;

- a. Methodist Church £40.00
- b. Clerk's salary £220 Net for February 2020)
- c. HMRC PAYE £55.00(For February 2020)
- d. Clerk's expenses £27.45
- e. £10,000 to be transferred to the Hoole Village Hall from the funds set aside for the village hall. A vote was taken on this occasion, although it was felt that the decision to transfer funds is already covered by previous resolutions. Cllrs Taylor, Houghton and Brown left the room.
- f. G McKenna for Lengthsman services £123.44
- g. The Clerk had identified an overpayment of expenses from the June 2019 meeting in the sum of £44.92. It was resolved that this sum be re-paid to the Council account.
- h. It was resolved to pay LALC £75.00 for Councillors to attend the LALC conference
- i. It was resolved that Cllrs Houghton and Woodcock would attend the conference on 25th April 2020.

7. Community led project update

Village welcome signs

The entry signs design is now completed, but will need to be checked against the Traffic Signs regulations General Directive 2016 to ensure compliance. Final sign sizes are still to be determined, but the approximate cost is likely to be in the region of £4,000 for two

signs. Additional messages applicable to this signage will be designed in partnership with the local schoolchildren.

The process is now for Cllr T Hewitt to forward the final digital design to the Clerk. The Clerk will organise a site meeting with LCC Highway engineers at the proposed locations and obtain the permissions to place the signs, after which manufacture of the signs can commence. The Clerk will approach SRBC to see if financial assistance would be available for this project

8. Village Hall update

Councillor Taylor provided a short update to the effect that the project is now underway and the sod cutting ceremony has taken place attended by around 100 people. Local press and media attended. The Parish Council has provided substantial financial backing to allow the project to commence and as a result, the Village Hall Trustees have been able to secure additional funding within the SRBC budget of £50,000 with a further offer of a low interest long term loan of £150,000. There was some disappointment expressed that the SRBC Councillors for the Much Hoole area voted against the SRBC budget (that also contained the funding for the hall), although it was approved by the full Council. The total sums available will allow for completion of a viable building and its approaches under phase one of the project. Development of phase two remains pending subject to further funds being identified.

9. Village Plan

There remains a commitment to develop a village plan and some initial suggestions as to what might be in it were discussed. The serious lack of car parking was identified as a priority and some of the difficulties of obtaining land which could be turned over for parking were discussed. Due to the situation around the Smithy it was agreed that the Clerk would contact LCC to see if any further traffic parking regulations and enforcement can be put in place to ease dangerous traffic problems which are regularly occurring there.

10. Newsletter

It was agreed that a newsletter should be prepared for approval at the next meeting due to the number of projects designed to improve the village which are now underway. The Clerk will prepare a draft for approval at the April meeting.

11. VE Day celebrations

It was noted that the Church is organising the village events and civic service for VE Day. Nevertheless, the Council wished to fly the flag, put up bunting and place commemorative posters around the village. SRBC have some resources available to support VE day celebrations if requested and enquiries will be made.

12. Tree planting

This had been discussed during the discussions concerning the cycle track

13. Planning

The planning issues were noted

14. Local Meetings

Cllr Taylor reported back from his meeting of Parish Council Chairs.

It was noted that the Borough Councillors for the Western parishes had not supported the proposed changes put forward by SRBC to increase community engagement through changes to the Western Parishes Neighbourhood Forum. The Clerk will find out when the next forum is to be held.

Cllr Lea reported back on the meeting held on 18th November 2020 with Parish Councillors and the SRBC Leader and cabinet members

15. Items for next agenda

Newsletter

End of financial year financial summary and bank reconciliations.

23. Next meeting

7.15pm 13th April 2020 Annual Parish Meeting Hoole Village Hall, Liverpool Old Road followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm 13th April 2020 at same venue.