



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
9th October 2019 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, R. Lea, K. Hayes, T. Brown

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs, Brown, Taylor and Houghton - Item 8 regarding the Village Hall. Cllrs. Brown and Taylor - planning item at item 10. Cllr. CT Hewitt - item 7a

3. Minutes of the last meeting

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

4. Adjournment for Public Participation

5 members of the public were present. There was concern expressed by residents of Thornfield that hedge cutting had commenced despite previous objections from the residents concerning the proposed height of the hedge. LCC had begun the cutting but it had been suspended part way through when residents had complained to the crew on site. LCC Cllr Graham Gooch had been previously involved in this issue and had negotiated a suspension of the hedge cutting on the A59 along Thornfield. Residents are concerned that the hedge is now too low and full of gaps. It provides protection from the main road against noise, pollution and visual intrusion which is being reduced by the LCC cutting action. The LCC position appears to be that if the hedge is not cut down to a 2 metre height, (measured on the A59 side), then future maintenance will not be possible due to the equipment being unable to operate above that height.

The Parish Council has no authority in this matter and it is for LCC who own the hedge to determine how it will be maintained. The Clerk will notify Cllr Gooch and ask him to recontact the residents to see what can be done to achieve an agreement or compromise on the future height and maintenance of the hedge.

Concern was also raised about flooding on Town Lane and it was agreed that the Clerk would report the poor drainage to LCC and feedback the response to the resident who raised it.

A further concern was raised about the ongoing problem of vehicles speeding past the school when the children are leaving. This road has developed into a 'rat-run' to circumvent tailbacks on the A59 and is becoming unsafe. The Clerk will contact LCC to discuss the possibility of traffic calming measures.

5. Cycle track update

It was noted that the cycle track remains in good condition and the grass has been kept neat and tidy. 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. The repaired gate is still serviceable but if it deteriorates, then as per a previous resolution it will be replaced with a new one.

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.

6. Finance

It was resolved to authorise the following payments;

- a. Clerk salary in sum of £220 (Net for September)
- b. Clerk expenses £18.81

- c. HMRC(PAYE) in sum of £55.00 (For September)
- d. The bank reconciliation was noted.
- e. The terms of the new bank mandate with Unity Trust Bank were noted.

7. Community led project update

a) *Village welcome signs*

It had been previously agreed that Village entry signs should be erected. Cllr T Hewitt produced some excellent provisional designs for the signs. It was agreed that these should be progressed further to obtain costings for manufactured items.

b) *Winter planting*

It was resolved at the last meeting that when the current flowers in the planters have died off, they will be replaced with suitable winter plants such as winter pansies. This will take place after the WI 'Knit and Natter' group have planted bulbs in the planters which will flower in the spring.

c) *Additional bins*

The three additional bins on order are expected to arrive within the next couple of weeks. On arrival, they will be fitted and maintained by the Lengthsman

8. Village Hall update

Councillor Taylor provided an update to the meeting after meeting with the architect and quantity surveyor. Drawings, plans and planning permissions are virtually complete. Tender documents will go out to contractors on 1st November with completed tenders returned by 2nd December. Tenders will be fully evaluated on 12th December with the Parish Clerk present to ensure that the Parish Council as a major financial supporter of the project is properly represented. In the event that tenders can deliver the project within budget, a contractor will be selected for a 6 month contract period commencing on 3rd February 2020.

9. Lengthsman update

Invoices have been received for work carried out between July and September in the sum of £285.17. The work undertaken has related to:

- Cycle track maintenance, mowing, strimming and litter picking
- Mowing and strimming on public footpaths and access to same.
- Mowing and strimming around Birchfield boundary marker and grass at village gateways
- Weeding, watering, clearing and tending to planters and the tyre planters

It was resolved to authorise the payment of £285.17 to the Lengthsman

10. Planning

Two planning issues were considered. There were no observations or concerns raised

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.

16. LALC AGM

Cllr Houghton was nominated to attend the LALC AGM on 23rd November 2018. The Clerk will also attend the meeting

17. Local Meetings

There were no meetings to note

The Clerk will attend the Lunch with SRBC on 22nd November together with the Vice Chairman if available or another nominated Councillor

18. Items for next agenda

Report back on signage proposals
Parish Council social media presence

19. Date of next meeting. 7.30pm Wednesday 13th Nov 2019 at the Methodist Church Hall.