



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
11th September 2019 at 7.30pm at the
Methodist Church, School Room, Moss House Lane**

Present; Cllrs N. Woodcock (as Chairman), E. Houghton, T. Hewitt, R. Lea, K. Hayes, T. Brown

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Taylor, Cllr C. Hewitt

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllrs, Brown and Houghton declared an interest in Item 10 regarding the Village Hall..

3. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to sign the Minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2019 as an accurate record.

4. Adjournment for Public Participation

No members of the public were present

5. Clerk Salary

It was previously agreed at the meeting in January 2019, that on completion of the CILCA qualification, the Clerk would receive an increment of one scale point on the national scale moving from scale point 10 to scale point 11. The qualification has now been awarded and it **was resolved** that from 1st September, 2019 the Clerk's salary would be set at scale point 11.

6. 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 gate has not been replaced as per previous minutes, but has been repaired instead. Should this repair not prove to be long lasting, then the previous resolution remains for the Clerk to arrange for a replacement gate to be obtained and fitted, under delegated authority up to a value of £300 without reference back to the Council.

Preparations will now begin to plant a wild flower area. 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.

7. Finance

It was resolved to authorise the following payments;

- a. Clerk salary in sum of £431.70 (Net for July & August)
- b. Clerk expenses £24.30
- c. HMRC(PAYE) in sum of £107.80 (For July and August)
- d. PKF Littlejohn auditors in sum of £240 (incl VAT)
- e. Broxap Ltd in the sum of £981.42 (£817.85 plus VAT)
- f. It was noted that no cheques will be issued and these payments will be made after the parish Council has changed to Unity Trust Online banking (application to open accounts currently in progress)

8. Community led project update

a) *Village welcome signs*

It had been previously agreed that Village entry signs should be erected. Cllr T Hewitt is intending to bring some design options to the October meeting after consultation with schools and community groups.

b) *Winter planting*

It was resolved that when the current flowers in the planters have died off, then they will be replaced with suitable winter plants such as winter pansies. The additional planters are awaiting delivery.

c) Three additional bins have been ordered for Moss House Lane/Smithy Lane, Outside the school, on the recreation ground by the changing rooms.

9. CIL Money

It was noted that the work on the Trafalgar Gardens had been due to start but was delayed due to the arrival of SRBC to undertake drainage works. The 5-a-side pitch work was postponed until the end of the summer holidays to allow for undisturbed seeding. None of this work has yet been undertaken and the Clerk will contact the contractor.

10. Village Hall update

Councillor Brown provided a short update to the effect that the Trustees were disappointed in the delays which have been due to illness on the part of the architect. At present, the hope is that tenders will be out in time for building work to commence in November. It was regrettable that the programme is delayed but it is out of the hands of the Trustees

11. Audit Update

The external audit report from PKF Littlejohn auditors was noted. The auditors reported there were no matters for concern in the accounts with one exception which they brought to the attention of Councillors. That being that the audit form submitted to them was incorrectly completed. The mistake related to the asset value figure from the previous year 2017-18 had not been corrected.

The notice of completion of audit is displayed on the notice boards and also on the web site.

12. Planning

There were no planning issues concerning Much Hoole

13. Athena Healthcare

The above-named company has asked if the Parish Council would carry an advert for the residential home being developed in the Village in any future newsletters. It **was resolved** that space for an advert would be made available for a fee which was discussed and agreed at the meeting. The Clerk will communicate this to the company and discuss terms.

14. Village Infrastructure

The Council noted that the Clerk had passed on concerns to LCC regarding issues raised at the HAPI group.

15. Church Invitation

The invitation to the Harvest Festival service at the Methodist Church was passed on to the Councillors. It was also noted that the Church is open to all on Wednesdays between 1.30pm and 3.30pm for quiet reflection.

16. LALC AGM

Cllr Houghton was nominated to attend the LALC AGM on 23rd November 2018.

17. Local Meetings

The Council noted the report from the LALC executive committee meeting on 7th September 2019.

18. Items for next agenda

Report back on signage proposals
Parish Council social media presence
School signage

19. Date of next meeting.

7.30pm Wednesday 9th October 2019 at the Methodist Church Hall.