

# Hanley Castle Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Hanley Swan Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chairman), Alex Walker, Sue Adeney, Angela Hartland, Lesley Smith, Sara Beadon, Alison Sparkes, Pippa Barkley.

**Apologies:** Peter Goodyear (PPW), Nick Harper (Pond Warden), Steve Gogerty (NHDP), D&CCllr Tom Wells.

**In Attendance:** The Clerk, Graham Holmes (PFW), 7 parishioners.

**15/24 Welcome and Apologies:** Cllr Roberts welcomed everyone to the February meeting of 2024 and accepted the apologies received by the Clerk.

## **16/24 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors**

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded that they must be kept up to date. The Monitoring Officer had requested up-dated signed forms from **SA, SB, AS, AW & PB.**

**ACTION: To complete and sign Declarations of Interest Forms.**

- b) Dispensations. No requests had been made.

**17/24 Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 had been previously circulated and the minutes were **approved.**

*The meeting was then closed for members of the public to ask questions.*

No questions were raised but a parishioner was invited to give a presentation on the traffic issues and congestion in Church End. The Parishioner presented a detailed study he had been undertaken with regards to traffic movements on Church End. The Councillors found it very informative and talked through the work they had been doing. It was agreed to arrange a meeting between Cllrs Beadon & Barkley and the parishioner with Highways as the track used by the school was no longer in use and therefore the traffic flow was very different from when Highways previously visited. The need for a proper school travel survey and travel plan was discussed and it was agreed that they were required and the environmental angle could be emphasised. Worcestershire On Demand bus could possibly be utilised.

**ACTION: Cllr Beadon and Cllr Barkley to arrange meetings. Cllr Adeney to push for a School Travel Plan.**

The Owner of Albion Lodge then asked to address the Council to provide an update on the work being undertaken. Following a pause and change of contractors she was happy to report that the work had restarted. She offered to write a small piece for the Parish Link to inform Parishioners about the work and their intentions for Albion Lodge.

**18/24 Councillor Resignation** – It was with sadness that Cllr Roberts accepted the resignation of Cllr Sparkes. She thanked her for all her hard work over the last 9 years and said that her presence on the Council would be missed.

**ACTION: The Clerk to contact MHDC, advising them and requesting the Casual Vacancy Advert.**

**19/24 Matters Arising and Progress Reports** for information:

- a) Action list was discussed and updated.
  - a. GV to look at the benches opposite the Swan and opposite the end of Picken End.
  - b. Cllr Adeney to take over Lengthsman liaison.
  - c. Cllr Hartland meeting with Mr Clements to discuss Three Counties information regarding mobile connectivity.
  - d. School lighting had improved but there needs to be a balance between security and light pollution.

**20/24 Finance:**

- a) To consider and **APPROVE** any payments notified in writing prior to the meeting. The payments in Appendix1 were agreed.
- b) Receipts Received – none received.

**21/24 Planning:** a) To Consider the following applications:

<a href="#">M/24/00050/FUL</a>	Maple House Gilberts End Lane Hanley Castle Worcester WR8 0BX	Conversion of existing garage into a 2 bedroom single storey dwelling.
The application was discussed and it was agreed that it should to be tied to the existing property and not be able to be sold off separately. The Clerk was asked to put the queries raised to the Planning Officer prior to a decision being made.		

- b) Applications received after Agenda – none received
- c) Planning Decisions:

<a href="#">M/23/01786/DEM</a>	The Royal British Legion Coverfield Hanley Swan Worcester WR8 0EG	Prior Notification of Demolition of existing building	Application Approved
<a href="#">M/23/01619/HP</a>	Yew Tree House Hanley Swan Worcester WR8 0DN	Replace current front boundary wall with fence and closure of a secondary entrance	Application Refused

**22/24 District and County Councillors’ Reports:** Report circulated ahead of the meeting.

**23/24 Reports.**

- a) **Path Warden** – The report was read out. Peter said he intended to step down this year - his help would be requested for drafting an advert for the Parish Link and Website – **ACTION: Clerk to ask for his assistance.**
- b) **Pond Warden** – The new bins had been emptied by MHDC.
- c) **Playing Field Warden** – A grant was being applied for from the FA.
- d) **NHDP** – Report read out; 16<sup>th</sup> March was the consultation deadline.

e) **Local Police** – Emailed circulated ahead of meeting.

#### **24/24 Highways Matters**

a) Works for Lengthsman or Reporting to MHDC/WCC – Ask for Hanley Castle Roads sign to be cleaned as many were green.

**ACTION: Cllr Adeney to take over reporting works to the Lengthsman and Clerk to pass over outstanding requests.**

b) Road Safety Matters – Cllrs Beadon & Barkley updated the Council following various meetings they had attended. They would chase up the installation of the VAS pole. The Clerk asked if they knew the dimensions of the White gates so that they could be ordered.

**ACTION: The Clerk to speak to Highways to confirm correct White Gate Dimensions.**

#### **25/24 Carbon Neutral Working Group -**

a) Toad Crossing – Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January to discuss the issue of protecting toads. Volunteers were patrolling Gilberts End and signs had been put up to slow down motorists during the next month.

b) Carbon Neutral Policy update – Cllr Adeney talked about the policy and how the Hanley Carbon Committee fitted into the reporting. A few comments and requests for amendments were made. There was a call for as many councillors and parishioners as possible to sign up to the website/emails.

**ACTION: Cllr Adeney to tweak the policy following feedback given.**

c) Update was provided on Hanley Habitats – seeds were being given out to encourage planting, a bat survey had taken place and lots of information sharing was taking place with other parishes. A talk on ethical banking would hopefully be put arranged.

#### **26/24 Correspondence**

a) Lychgate Repair at Our Lady & St. Alphonsus – Email had been circulated. The Council were happy to support the application for funding for repairs. A vote on whether a donation should be given was taken and all voted in favour, the sum of £500 was approved. **ACTION: The Clerk to contact them to advise them.**

b) Footpath/Cyclepath between Upton & Hanley Castle High School – The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Wells and inform him of the root lifting damage and also thank him for the work on the footpath by Ivy House.

**ACTION: The Clerk to email.**

c) LNRS Issues & Consultation – CALC email. It was requested that they come and talk at a future meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to invite them to a meeting and to complete the survey and say that it and the interactive map was very good.**

d) Flooding Issues.

i) Hanley Swan - photos were shown of flooding which included the public footpath to the Community Orchard. The Clerk was to contact Worcestershire Pathways to see if they could assist as the residents had previously contacted Severn Trent, MHDC and WCC to no avail.

ii) Honeypots/Priestfields – photos were also shown of the flooding in this area. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways to empty the gullies and look at the drainage there and at Bowling Green & Cross Hands. Cllr Adeney commented that the Council needed to look at the Parish's resilience and

suggested that CALC were contacted to assist the Council in pulling together a strategy for building resilience and developing flooding plans.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways Drainage, Pathways and CALC.**

- e) Home Upgrade Grant Scheme – Deborah Dale email circulated.
- f) Travelling Music Box – Email circulated ahead of meeting.
- g) Notice Board on Welland Road – It was agreed that commercial notices were allowed as long as they were advertising businesses or activities within the parish.

**27/24 Topics raised by Councillors, Committees, Clerk & Parishioners**

- a) Village Hall Parking Fee for School Parents – A discussion was held surrounding the request for school parents to pay £10 a year to use the village hall car park during term time. The funds raised were used towards the upkeep of the car park. It was proposed that the Parish Council make a donation towards the up keep in place of the parental contributions. It was voted on an agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation to the value of the funds that would have been raised for the next school year as a one off gesture.
- b) Pollution of Pool Brook – to be discussed at a later meeting.
- c) Date for the Spring Litter Pick – The date was set for the 25<sup>th</sup> March.  
**ACTION: Cllrs to publicise the event and the Clerk to arrange for bags to be collected on the 27<sup>th</sup> March.**
- d) Date of the April Meeting – it was agreed to move the meeting to the 25<sup>th</sup> April to accommodate the Clerk’s holiday. The meeting would be in the large hall.
- e) CALC Nominations to King’s Garden Party – Possible nominees discussed.  
**ACTION: Cllr Adeney to submit nominations.**

**28/24 Date of next meeting:** The date of the next meeting was set for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Signed ..... Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024  
Chairman

Appendix 1: Schedule of Payments & Receipts 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Payments to be Approved - February Meeting**

Elan City	VAS	£ 2,700.00
Tim Feest	NHDP Printing	£ 424.80
Janet Lomas	Toad Signs	£ 163.00
PCC	Grass Cutting Donation	£ 2,400.00
Sue Roberts	Chairman's Allowance	£ 75.00
Steve Gogerty	NHDP Postage	£ 19.99
Suzanne Bennett	Toad Campaign Printing	£ 224.80
Peter Sauntson	January Lengthsman	£ 210.00
Rebecca Abunassar	January Salary	£ 606.40
Steve Gogerty	NHDP Postage	£ 19.99

Signed ..... Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024  
 Chairman