

Hanley Castle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 16th November 2023 in Hanley Swan Village Hall.

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

Apologies: Councillors: Pippa Barkley; Peter Goodyear (PPW), Graham Holmes (PFW)

In Attendance: The Clerk, PC Kevin Johns, DCllrs Katherine & Tom Wells, Nick Harper (Pond Warden), Steve Gogerty (NHDP), and 3 parishioners.

112/23 Welcome and Apologies: Cllr Roberts welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Roberts accepted the apologies received by the Clerk.

113/23 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded that they must be kept up to date.
- b) Dispensations. No requests had been made.

114/23 Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 16th October 2023 had been previously circulated and the minutes were **approved**.

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

Parking on the verge by the village hall was raised - it was agreed that a traffic survey by the Primary School would be requested. Parking across the path and blocking it by St. Gabriel's Church was also raised. It was agreed to ask the Church Warden to remind people visiting not to block the path.

ACTION: Cllr Adeney to speak to the Headmaster and the Church Warden.

PC Kevin Johns was invited to speak. He advised that there was very little to report. There was a Knife Operation taking place. The recent car accidents were discussed and unfortunately the Police had not been contacted so there was not an accident report. Cllr Hartland asked him if it was possible to provide actual statistics to back up the reports in the newsletter that was periodically circulated. PC Johns explained that up until a few years ago a breakdown of all crimes was available on a locational basis but unfortunately the new IT system did not allow that specific information to be easily accessible. He went on to discuss the most common crimes which were thefts from outbuildings and speeding. The Clerk thanked him for changing his shift so that he was able to attend the meeting.

115/23 Matters Arising and Progress Reports for information:

- a) Action list was discussed and updated.
- b) The Pond Warden would put down the cement for the Bench as quotes were over £1000.
- c) Ewe & Lamb Green repairs to the cider mill - Paul Davighi-Edwards to look to see if he could undertake the repairs.

116/23 Finance:

- a) Payments in the schedule of Appendix 1 were approved.
- b) Receipts: None received
- c) Proposed Budget to be circulated in December ahead of the January Meeting

117/23 Planning: a) To Consider the following applications:

M/23/01387/FUL	The Royal British Legion Coverfield Hanley Swan Worcester WR8 0EG	Demolition of former Royal British Legion and erection of detached dwellinghouse
The application was discussed at great length, it was agreed that the Council were opposed to it in its current format as it was contrary to several policies within the NHDP. The Clerk to circulate objection prior to submitting it.		

- d) Applications received after Agenda - None
- e) Planning Decisions:

M/22/01851/HP	Baytree Cottage Gilberts End Hanley Castle Worcester WR8 0AS	Demolition of conservatory and construction of two storey side extension	Application Approved
-------------------------------	--	--	----------------------

117/23 District and County Councillors’ Reports: Tom Wells reported that the SWDP had gone to the Inspectors but it was likely to be towards the end of next year before it is signed off. The new Director of Planning at MHDC would start in March. The Worcestershire on Demand Bus Service was about to be formally launched, it would run for 2 years and was anticipated to cost passengers around £2.50 a journey.

118/23 Reports.

a) Pond Warden – The overflow system required investigation; it was requested a drain survey be included in next year’s budget.

ACTION: Clerk to include a provision for a drain survey to be undertaken.

b) Playing Field Warden – The report was read out and Cllr Roberts would ask Malcolm Waggett to look at the repairs required to the fence.

ACTION: Cllr Roberts to arrange fence repairs.

c) NHDP – A material review would be conducted, MHDC would need to be formally contacted and an article would be published in the Parish Link announcing the review.

d) Local Police – PC Johns had spoken earlier in the meeting.

119/23 Highways Matters

a) Road Safety Matters –A meeting had been held at the High School; speed and congestion were discussed. The school would look into the cost of running a shuttle bus between the school and Upton Car Park as this would potentially reduce the number of cars driving to the school. The parking on Church End was causing more problems in some areas due to hedges protruding into the road. Cllr Roberts offered to talk to the residents to ask if they would trim back their hedges to widen the road.

The purchase of the new VAS was discussed and it was agreed to proceed with it so that it could be operational as soon as possible and the existing VAS would move to the new post to be located on the Worcester Road.

ACTION: Cllr Roberts to speak to Church End Residents. Cllr Barkley & Cllr Beadon to arrange a meeting with Highways to arrange for a pole to be put up on Worcester Road and arrange for the purchase of the Elan VAS.

b) Works for the Lengthsman – The Lengthsman has attended the required training course and was now cleared to undertake work on the highways.

120/23 Carbon Neutral Working Group

a) A meeting had been arranged with Chris Lewis-Farley to review the green infrastructure within the Parish. The British Legion Application would also be discussed with him as his view would be very important.

ACTION: Cllr Adeney to meet with Chris Lewis-Farley.

b) Allotments – Still no response from the Housing Association. The Clerk to continue trying.

c) Carbon Neutral Policy – The updated version had been circulated.

121/23 Correspondence

a) Age UK Energy & Safety Roadshow – 25th November Welland Village Hall.

b) Fraud Bulletin - Circulated ahead of meeting.

c) Outside Lighting being left on around Parish & at the Primary School – Email to Carbon Neutral Group circulated ahead of meeting. Cllr Adeney to contact the schools to ask about turning off lights during the night.

ACTION: Cllr Adeney to contact the schools.

d) Flood Risk Management Survey – Deborah Dale email - Clerk to respond.

122/23 Topics raised by Councillors, Committees, Clerk & Parishioners

a) Christmas Tree for the Village Green, Hanley Swan – Cllr Smith & Cllr Walker had circulated information regarding trees and a demonstration was provided on the lighting that could be provided. The tree would require a hole to be dug for the trunk to allow it to stand. The Clerk would contact the Insurers to ensure that it would be covered. A budget was agreed and Cllr Walker and Smith would see if it was feasible to get a tree and liaise with Nick Harper about the digging of the hole.

ACTION: Cllr Walker & Smith to make the arrangements for the tree.

b) Pollution at Pool Brook – Cllr Adeney asked for it to be added to the January Agenda.

ACTION: Pool Brook Pollution on the January Agenda.

123/23 Date of next meeting: The date of the next meeting was set for 18th January 2024.

Signed Date: 18th January 2024
Chairman

Appendix 1: Schedule of Payments & Receipts 16th November 2023.

Payments to be Approved at November Meeting

Payments to be Approve November Meeting

Rebecca Abunassar	October Salary	606.40
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	October Cuts	805.30
Hanley Castle High School	Verti-draining - October	375.00
Peter Sauntson	Lengthsman Training	140.00
HMRC	PAYE Q2	67.93
		1994.63

Signed Date: 18th January 2024
Chairman