

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HANKELow PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT BROOKFIELD GOLF CLUB, HANKELow ON 3 NOVEMBER 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Foster Chairman  
Councillor G Cope Vice-Chairman

Councillor C Ainley  
Councillor I Jones  
Councillor A Lee

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Borough Councillor R A Bailey

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**38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare any non-pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and in respect of disclosable interests to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

No declarations were made.

**39 MINUTES – 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**40 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Rachel Bailey reported on Cheshire East Council matters of interest including the following:

- Hankelow and Audlem had been successful at the Cheshire Community Council Awards event held in October, with Audlem winning the best website competition.
- Town and Parish Councils Conference to be held early in December.
- Local Plan: The hearing had now been resumed and it was expected that the Inspector (Stephen Pratt) would report in December.
- The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday – June 2016. Cheshire East Council would be promoting the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**41 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**41.1 Budget – 2016-2017**

The following documents were submitted and the Council was invited to consider its budget for 2016-2017.

- Receipts and Payments statement to 30 September 2015.
- Budget monitoring to 30 September 2015.
- Draft budget proposals 2016-2017.

Members agreed to consider this in detail at the next meeting. In the meantime, the following amendment was agreed:

The Village Green	Add Planter	£100.00
	To be located in the west corner of The Green.	

Although detailed separately on the agenda (Items 8.1 and 8.2) Members discussed the drainage on the Village Green. A scheme was referenced, to be carried out free-of-charge by a local contractor. There was, therefore, no requirement to add any provision in the budget for 2016-2017.

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Arising out of discussion it was reported that a long-standing drainage problem on Old School Lane had been improved.

#### **41.2 Authorisation of Payments**

**RESOLVED:** That the following payment be approved:

£65.00 HMRC – Tax on Clerk's salary.

#### **42 WORKPLACE PENSIONS**

The law on workplace pensions had changed. Under the Pensions Act 2008 and associated regulations, every employer with at least one member of staff must automatically enrol those who were eligible, into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it.

Although the Clerk had already registered the Council under the auto-enrolment scheme, and was aware of the requirements of the scheme, the subject had been raised at the Cheshire Association of Local Councils meeting held on 23 September 2015, and for this reason, it was timely to provide a detailed report for Members.

The staging date was 1 November 2016 and information would be provided regularly by the Pensions Regulator from 12 months prior to staging date (ie November 2015).

#### **43 PLANNING MATTERS**

It was noted that Planning Application No. 15/3563N (land off Longhill Lane, Hankelow) had not been considered at the Southern Planning Committee meeting held on 28 October 2015.

The Clerk was asked to enquire into the reasons for the delay in submitting this application to Committee.

#### **44 DISPENSATIONS – PLANNING MATTERS**

At the previous meeting, Members asked about the possibility of all Members being granted a general dispensation to allow parish councillors to consider any planning application within the parish.

Although all Members had been granted a dispensation in respect of major applications (10 dwellings or more), there was no dispensation for other applications. The Clerk had now considered this matter further and was of the view that to grant a general dispensation would be tantamount to attempting to circumvent provisions in the Code of Conduct and was not in the interests of good governance.

Whilst all applications would have an impact on parish councillors, to a lesser or greater degree, it was a matter of judgement for individual councillors to make, based on the proximity of a development to their own home; for example, an application where the site was adjacent to a parish councillor's home would effectively represent a DPI for that councillor, whereas other Members, although affected by virtue of the fact that it was a development in a very small parish, would not be affected to the same degree and could in good conscience comment on the application.

#### **45 DRAINAGE MATTERS**

This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting (Minute No. 41).

#### **46 FOOTWAY REPAIR WORK**

It was noted that the footway repair had been completed.

**47 PERMISSIVE PATH – CORBROOK COURT**

At the September meeting the Clerk was asked to follow-up with the PA to Mr Morris of Morris Care, the current situation in respect of the permissive path.

It was reported that Morris Care had not intended to open the original footpath as it was considered to be a hazardous walkway with uneven steps and potholes. The intention was that the large metal gate adjacent to the existing overgrown footpath was the designated walkway and led up safely through the nursing home grounds and out onto the top part of the road. As the gateway was of heavy construction, Mr Morris had agreed to install a pedestrian gate to the left of the main gate.

The location of the original 'footpath' sign was confusing and had now been moved onto the main metal gate which showed the correct route up through the car park.

All of the work had now been completed and the Facilities Manager was due to sign-off the work to ensure that everything was to a satisfactory standard and complied with safety regulations.

**48 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

There were no matters to report.

**49 AUDLEM PUBLIC HALL ANNEXE PROJECT (APHAx)**

At the previous meeting, Malcolm Lees, as the Parish Council's representative on APHAX reported on progress on the scheme.

The Parish Council was now invited to consider making a grant towards the cost of the project. It was noted that Audlem Parish Council had committed £20,000 and Buerton Parish Council would be making a grant of £1,000.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Parish Council make a minimum grant of £1,000 to the Audlem Public Hall Annexe project; and

(b) That any increase in the level of grant be agreed at the January 2016 meeting as part of the budget proposals for 2016-2017.

**50 SHARED INFORMATION/REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Parish Councillors were invited to share information which was not available at the time of publication of the agenda. This was also an opportunity for Members who were appointed to outside bodies to report on any recent meetings.

- Councillor Ian Jones, who had attended the Community Pride Awards event in October, reported on the evening's proceedings. A Little Gem had been awarded to Hankelow.
- Councillor G Foster reported on a recent meeting of Audlem Burial Board at which time she had been informed that there would be no requirement for a precept in 2016-2017.

**51 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**5 January 2016**

.....Chairman