

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors present Mr Roland Stretch -Chair, Miss June Cohen-Kingsley, Mr Stephen Jones, Mrs Joanne Bateman,
Mr Alan Connor, Mr Antony Obertelli, Mrs Sarah Campbell

Clerks Mrs Doreen Brookes and Mrs Louise Ash

3225 **To receive apologies for absence** none

Standing Orders were suspended

Open Forum

Present: City Cllr K Budden

Cllr Budden commented on the postponement of the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan due to a Judicial Review application having been made to Lancaster City Council.

News is still awaited about a government grant for the Eden Project in Morecambe.

Cllr Budden explained that there will be disruption in some parts of the Lancaster District due to a multi-million pound scheme to upgrade the extensive water pipeline to supply Manchester water.

Cllr Budden left the meeting. Standing Orders were reinstated.

3226 **To record Declarations of Interest**

None

3227 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th December 2022. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

3228 **Progress Reports**

- Burial Ground electricity disconnection was agreed, however there is a form to be filled in and payment is needed upfront.
- A recent invoice from Eon has been questioned as it was higher than usual and no electricity had been used. The extra is Standing Order charges due to a delay in the reading of the meter
- The proposed work by Network Rail on the foreshore has been postponed until Spring
- Road markings on Hest Bank Lane- several reports had been sent to Lancashire County Council and support had been sought from County Cllr Stuart Morris. Lancashire County Council has said that it will not renew the markings at this stage but will give attention to a light on a warning sign nearby.
- A recently fallen Rowan tree on the recreation field has been removed
- Contact has been made about overflowing litter bins on the canal towpath near to the two bridges and action has been promised

3229 **Administration**

Appointment of a new parish clerk

Resolution to formally agree the contract for the new clerk, Mrs Louise Ash

This was agreed and the contract signed by Mrs Ash and by the Chairman on behalf of the Council

Mrs Ash will work alongside the present clerk until 31st March 2023. It was agreed to purchase a new laptop from Black Bear IT Service for Mrs Ash's use, quotation £802 inc VAT. A new e-mail address and phone number is to be set up. The NatWest bank account, including on-line banking needs to be updated as soon as possible. A meeting of signatories with Mrs Ash is to be held to try to resolve the on-line banking problems. Changes of signatories will need to be considered and the addition of the new clerk for access to view the account. To be formally agreed when the full on-line banking details are available. Membership of SLCC will give access to training courses.

Neighbourhood Plan -the Steering Committee has recently held a meeting, however plans for the referendum are on hold due to an application for a Judicial Review made to Lancaster City Council in respect of the planning application made by Appleshwaite Homes for development of land off Sea View Drive.

Standing Orders of The Council and the Council's Code of Conduct have been reviewed and given approval without any changes.

Camper on the foreshore; it has been reported that the person who had been residing on the foreshore for several weeks has now moved on. Lancaster City Council's homeless unit had been in contact with him. Lancaster City Council Public Realm was contacted and asked to clean up any debris left, however it was reported that a parish resident had tidied up the area.

Concerns raised by a resident about the untidy state of the village; the person had been invited to attend the meeting to explain fully his concerns but in his absence these were considered and response agreed as- It was agreed that it should be explained that the parish councillors are volunteers who care about and have pride in the parish and who work to do their best to resolve any problems. However the Council does not have powers to deal with all issues, for example, roads and signs, most grass verges and trees on them, which are the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. Such issues can be reported to Lancashire County Council via the website. Some other areas are the responsibility of Lancaster City Council, for example, litter bin emptying. On its own land the Parish Council is making improvements to the recreation field, drainage work has been carried out and a new Multi-Use Games Area is being constructed which will be a great asset for the parish when the work is fully completed in the Spring. The Council is looking to provide more litter bins to keep areas tidy. The Council relies on the good will and co-operation of residents and is always grateful for any help and support.

3230 Planning Applications

Applications received

22/0231/TCA Slyne Grange, Main Road, Slyne, LA2 6A

22/01438/FUL & 22/01439/LB The Lodge, 92 Main Road, Slyne, LA2 6AZ

22/01572/VCN land to the rear of Kirklands and Hanging Green Lane, Hest Bank

Some concerns have been raised about the drainage of this site and possible impact on the adjacent recreation field. It is suggested that a meeting is held with the developer to discuss these matters.

Applications permitted

22/01162/FUL Londis Store, Manor Road, Slyne, LA2 6JY

3231 Financial Matters

Approval was given to the quarterly summary of receipts and payments.

Account -latest statement £130,730.22.

A half year internal audit has been carried out by Cllr Stretch on 13th January 2023 and no issues were raised.

Grass cutting and grounds maintenance 2023: Quotations had been received from Envirocare Maintenance Solutions and from Lancaster City Council, a third party had not replied.

Resolution: to accept the quotation from Envirocare and to engage them for the work in 2023.

Annual Review of Clerk's salary

Resolution(i): to retain the salary at the present level

New clerk's Salary; approval was given for the payment of Mrs Louise Ash's salary on the scale as stated in her contract.

Budget -information had been provided on the current financial position of the Council along with an estimate of receipts and expenditure to the end of the financial year 2022/23 and projected receipts and expenses for 2023/24. A budget meeting was held on Monday 9 January 2023 at which the budget recommendations and therefore the precept requirement for 2023/24 were considered.

Resolution(ii): to adopt the proposed budget for 2023/24.

Resolution(iii): to raise a precept of £65,000 to meet the expenses of the Parish Council in the financial year 2023/24.

The parish tax rate on a Band D property will be £49.57.

A request for the precept requirement will be made to Lancaster City Council.

Grant Applications; applications for small grants may be made to the Parish Council by not-for-profit organizations. This must be done on the official application form obtainable from the clerk. Funding would be through the S137 and S137(4)a Regulations of the Local Government Act 1972 which enables Councils to make payments for which it

does not hold direct powers. It is suggested that organizations may need some help with high energy costs. This is to be advertised through 'Facebook'.

3232 **Open Spaces**

Electrical installation for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA): further contact has been made with Electricity North West Ltd (ENWL) and with Duncan Ross. An extra box needs to be fixed behind the recreation field hedge and a plan has been supplied by ENWL. Duncan Ross is to be contacted with a view to this work being carried out. This will incur extra cost. Once the box is in place ENWL can make the connection for which an application has already been made.

Contact has been made with BHIB about the insurance cover for the MUGA if it is used in its present state. The Council should be covered within Public Liability. It was suggested that a notice should be put up on the MUGA explaining the present situation with the work and outlining conditions of use -to be actioned.

Resolution: to adopt the draft risk assessment for the MUGA

Provision of litter bins/dog waste bins; these would be for the recreation field and other area in the parish, yet to be confirmed. Contact has been made with Lancaster City Council which is able to supply bins -left in abeyance until exact number required is decided.

Jubilee Orchard; further contact has been made with World of Hedges and information has been received about the purchase of the trees and their planting. A firm quotation is awaited. It is hoped that the planting will be in early February.

3233 **Future Events**

No members of the public attended the Open Meeting on Monday 9th January 2023.

Discussions were held about the possible holding of an event on Sunday 7th May as part of the King's coronation celebrations. This could be a late afternoon/evening event with entertainment supplied by professional entertainers catering for mixed age groups. Quotations are to be obtained. Also a hot pot supper was suggested and again quotations are required. It would probably be a ticked event.

To go ahead with this was agreed in principle but it was stated that input and support from the community is important to determine what residents would like and also in respect of help in organizing the event. Further discussion to be held, possibly at another open meeting, and at the next council meeting.

3234 **Payment of Accounts**

Approval was given for the payments due as listed:

Eon -DD	81.30	burial ground-October to January
Envirocare Maintenance Solutions Ltd	956.80	grounds maintenance -December
Viking	69.50	stationery
Electricity North West	1855.67	electricity disconnection -burial ground
Mrs D Brookes	946.70	clerk's salary
HMRC	415.25	NIC & PAYE
Westmorland Tree Services	144.00	removal of felled tree -recreation field

3235 **Matters for future consideration**

None

3236 **Date of next meeting**

Monday 20 February 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm