

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 26 May 2022
in Hickleton Village Hall

1 Appointment of Chairman

GW advised that, as this was the Annual Parish Council meeting, a Chairman has to be appointed. GW proposed that EW continue as Chairman, seconded by MM, with the vote unanimous.

2 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance:

From the Parish Council: Eric Williams (Chair), Gordon Wordsworth, Margaret Marsh, Jean Dickinson

Others: DMBC Councillor Glenn Bluff, Sprotborough Ward

Apologies: Margaret Goddard

3 Declaration of Personal Interest

None.

4 Adjournment for Parishioners' Questions or Statements

No adjournment was taken.

5 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 24 March 2022 were proposed by GW and seconded by EW.

6 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- i. The Jubilee Hedge would be discussed later in the meeting.
- ii. There has been no further communication from DMBC regarding the appointment of Snow Wardens.
- iii. The state of the fence between the golf course and Lady Mary Walk is to be followed up by MG.
- iv. The compost heap in Lady Mary Walk would be discussed later in the meeting.
- v. The request to DMBC to be able to close the roadway around the Memorial Triangle has been granted between the hours of 12 and 6 pm. Barriers and cones will be loaned by a neighbouring company.

7 Financial Reports and Statements for the Financial Year 2021/22 and for the Current Year 2022/23 Presented for Discussion and Approval

- i. GW presented the Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2022 and pointed out that they had been approved at the last Parish Council meeting.
- ii. In presenting the receipts and Payments for the year 2022/23 to date, GW explained that £4150 had been brought forward from last year and that the first precept of £3450 had been received, the second expected in October. There is an amount of £4983 available to spend. VAT will be claimed back. The accounts were proposed by GW, seconded by EW.
- iii. GW forecasts that, taking the expected payments into account, there will be a sum of £3000 to £4000 left at the end of the year.

8 Approval of the Certificate of Exemption for the 2021/22 Accounts

- i. GW explained that exemption from audit can be claimed as the income or expenditure comes to less than £25,000. GW proposed that the Parish Council apply for exemption, seconded by EW.

9 Payments for Authorisation

1	Gloaming	£1200	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM
2	YCLA Subs.	£130	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM
3	Bank Charges	£6.50	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM
4	Halifax Estate Rent	£75	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM
5	Gardener	£730	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM
6	Net Wise Maintenance	£360	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM
7	Bank Charges	£8.10	Approved by EW	Seconded by MM

10 Open Spaces

- i. All actions of the Gloaming tree survey, instigated by the Parish Council, have been completed, with the exception of the two roadside trees in the crossroads area. Planning permission was requested to take out the trees but has been refused. Gloaming have lodged an appeal with the Secretary of State. GW explained that the crossroads memorial triangle was an area gifted to the village by Halifax Estates. MM asked about liability in the case of an accident caused by the trees falling down but GW explained that we have insurance and have requested remedial action. On the question of replacements in the case of the trees being eventually taken out, it is questionable if there is sufficient light for sustainability.
- ii. The Village Tidy-up took place in April without about 20 villagers taking part throughout the week. Litter picking equipment was provided by DMBC and the litter was duly picked up by them. It was agreed that MM hold onto the equipment to help with future clean-ups.
- iii. DMBC's Streetscene personnel had met with MG and had said they would clear a way up to the church, if they were able to establish the owner of the land, but had not been in contact since then.
- iv. The Jubilee hedge provided by the Woodland Trust and planted by volunteers is starting to thrive. The Woodland Trust have advised that the shields need to stay in place.
- v. The grass verges and open spaces had not been tended by DMBC for some weeks and had become extremely unsightly. Complaints had been lodged via DMBC's website and Reception and a team had arrived to do the grass cutting on the day of the meeting. Having been unable to get hold of a grass cutting schedule, Cllr Bluff agreed to follow this up. JD had spoken to the gardeners and established that they were working as a team of 3 out of an original 12, having lost staff for various reasons in the course of the pandemic. Recruitment was taking place. GW pointed out that the area of footpath from Hickleton down towards Goldthorpe has not been cut and regularly has to be specially requested, even though Barnsley MDC look after the area up to the DMBC border. As this is felt to be a service that is paid for but not being delivered, Cllr Bluff will follow this up.
- vi. The gardener plans to cut the areas controlled by the Parish Council on Monday or Tuesday 30/31 May, having waited for the lawn treatment to take hold.
- vii. One of the villagers has very kindly offered to take care of the stone cross area at the top of Lidget Lane and has asked for approval for the purchase of pebbles at approximately £100. This was proposed by EW, seconded by GW, with all in agreement.
- viii. MM has spoken to someone at the SHDSI UK Doncaster Fund regarding a potential grant for work on the compost heap in Lady Mary Walk. Garden waste has been put on the heap that will clearly take years to rot away and it is hoped that it can now be removed altogether and replaced by a wildflower meadow area to attract pollinators and insects. DMBC have said that they put in the compost heap with no contract to maintain it. Funding personnel will email when the bidding process re-opens.
- ix. The next task on Open Spaces is to improve the land up to the Church. Lots of daffodil bulbs have been donated.

11 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend Plans

- i. Permission was sought, on behalf of the Village Jubilee Committee, to close off the access road to Castle Hill Fold from the A635, to allow the village's street party to take place on Sunday 5 June. As street parties are a Government-led initiative, there is no need to seek insurance cover.
- ii. Hickleton Hall owners have offered use of their front lawned area for a village picnic on Saturday 4 June from 2 – 4 pm. Interested villagers have to taken their own picnic and seating and will not be given access to facilities.

12 Any Other Business

- i. GW explained that the Parish Council leases two areas from Halifax Estates, Winston Churchill Memorial Garden and the former cricket field on Barnburgh Lane. A local football club, the Hickleton Harriers, have been given free use of the cricket field, along with an archery club. They have put in a request to incorporate two dugouts, constructed from breeze blocks, on the land, to give shelter in the winter months. As we are unable to give such permission, GW will submit their plans to David Lord at Halifax Estates to see if there are any objections.
- ii. GW explained that the Parish Council are Custodial Trustees of the Village Hall/Club but require a covenant to run it. The terms of the new lease for the building have now been given to GW and he will pass it onto a local resident who is also a solicitor for his professional opinion.
- iii. Cllr Bluff reported on recent Doncaster City Status and said that there would be events to mark this award. He also updated the meeting on a number of local events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend, the main one being the lighting of a ceremonial beacon at Cusworth Hall at the end of the festivities being held there on Thursday 2 June (6 – 10 pm).

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 23 June 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall when the main agenda item will be to sign and minute the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns.