**Minutes of the Hickleton Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 in Hickleton Village Hall**

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

In attendance:

Eric Williams, Gordon Wordsworth, Margaret Marsh, Margaret Goddard, Jean Dickinson

Apologies: Cllr Glenn Bluff, DMBC Sprotborough Ward

**2 Declaration of Personal Interest**

None.

**3 Adjournment for Parishioners’ Questions or Statements**

No adjournment was taken.

**4 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8 November 2023**

1. The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by GW and seconded by MM.

**5 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes not covered by Agenda Items**

1. The draft letter to DMBC regarding the road development and the work to the trees under the care of the Parish Council were to be covered later in the meeting.
2. The informal meeting held with Cllr Bluff and villagers from both Hickleton and Marr has taken place in which DMBC’s proposal to build an Askern Road/Hickleton bypass were discussed.

**6 Treasurer’s Report**

1. GW presented Receipts and Payments for 2023/2024 to date.
2. All spendings are listed and include payment of £40 for a wreath for Remembrance Sunday, £150 for the Christmas tree and the bill for the soft washing of the war memorial which amounted to £660. The Parish Council gave a donation of £200 towards the Childrens’ Christmas Party, as in previous years. GW also explained the Wind Farm Grant to the VHMC of £210 which was the result of his bid for funding on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. This was to further sponsor the Children’s Party, to pay for the DJ and the presents, and also provide some electrical work to vent excess heat into the hall.
3. With two months of the financial year to go, the bank balance stands at £6,777.82, which means that some money could be spent around the village.
4. The VAT of £110 arising from the bill to overhaul the war memorial will be reclaimed.
5. All precepts have been received and the proposal for the Hickleton Village Precept has been accepted by DMBC. It represents a rise of 4% on the previous year. The minutes of the Precept Meeting held on 20 December 2023 were then duly approved.
6. A question was raised about any precept payable by Hickleton Hall – GW will enquire of DMBC.
7. The accounts were then proposed by EW and seconded by JD.

**7 Payments for Authorisation**

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| 1 | Gardener: Christmas Tree | £150 | Approved by EW | Seconded by GW |
| 2 | Bank charges Nov/Dec | £15.10 | Approved by EW | Seconded by GW |
| 3 | Donation to Village Hall Childrens’ Christmas party | £200 | Approved by EW | Seconded by GW |
| 4 | Wind Farm Party Grant | £210.00 | Approved by EW | Seconded by GW |
| 5 | Room hire: PC Meeting | £20.00 | Approved by EW | Seconded by GW |

**8 Open Spaces**

1. Phil Hobert, the new DMBC officer in charge of trees, wanted Gloaming Tree Surgery to submit a new planning request to remove two trees from the crossroads triangle. Combined with that, Gloaming carried out a full Tree Survey of the trees which come under the jurisdiction of the PC, which cost £300 + VAT (which will be claimed back) and which was authorised by EW in the absence of GW.
2. A cherry tree within the Winston Churchill Memorial Garden which was in a dangerous state and would have fallen on the road in the recent storms was taken out by Gloaming, on their advice. GW suggested asking Gloaming if a retrospective planning application was necessary in this case.
3. The compost heap area is not being used and is now being left to go wild.
4. DMBC has cleared the pavements on both sides of the village, but not the central reservations, as they come under the jurisdiction of Highways.
5. With regard to the paths on Lady Mary Walk, DMBC do not have the resources to redo them but have suggested that, if Hickleton PC purchase ‘not good quality’ gravel, they will be able to relay it. It was agreed that the paths need to be re-laid and GW will look into getting it done by a third party.
6. It was agreed that, nearer to Christmas 2024, villagers will again be asked for their views on a Christmas tree in the war memorial triangle.

**9 NHW Report**

1. No incidents have been reported to JD since the last meeting.
2. A person was suspected to be sleeping in the bus stop and a different man was in there for a couple of hours with his bike, seemingly busy on his telephone. It was agreed to keep an eye out for future incidents.
3. It was also reported that Police have been meeting up in the village, presumably prior to some plan of action.

**10 D-Day 80th Anniversary Plan**

1. Staff at Hickleton Golf Club have been asked if, in partnership with the village, they would agree the siting of a beacon on their land, as part of a country-wide celebration of the D-Day Anniversary. There has been no response.
2. Hickleton Village Club is to host a Fancy Dress D-Day Party: all welcome.

**11 Any Other Business**

1. GW sent a letter to Cavendish Consulting, the company dealing with the development of the land around Goldthorpe, detailing concerns about increased traffic flow and associated pollution. They have suggested a Zoom meeting between the PC and some of their personnel, for which they will send a link. GW will advise them of the date of the next PC meeting.
2. In mitigation of the scheme, £500,000 will be available to be used to deal with issues of pollution, noise and road safety. It has been reported that this money has been earmarked by DMBC for consultation planning and report on the proposed Askern Road/Hickleton bypass.
3. Joshua Daniels, an historian and filmmaker, has contacted GW with a view to making a film for use by villagers and prospective tourists, including walks and talks about the village. It was agreed that GW would let him know that this was not of interest.

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.