

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th
December 2020 – 7PM (Zoom Meeting)**

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Dickens, P Scott, L Antonini, A Rose.

Clerk: C Underhay

154: To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr D Coleman, R Capstick, M Versallion (CBC)

155: Declarations of Interest:

None received.

156: Approval of Minutes from 9th November 2020:

The Minutes were signed as a true reflection of the meeting.

157: Public Forum:

A resident noted that rats had been spotted in the ground adjacent to Woburn Road and the A5. There is also an empty property there. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact CBC over this matter.

A resident noted that the Leighton Bypass (outside of the Parish) had a build up of rubbish on the verges. The Chair asked the clerk to contact CBC and copy in Cllr Versallion.

158: Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Versallion report:

No report

159: Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the

Agenda:

The Chair noted the following:

Park/Community Grant – The Clerk has written to local Parish Councils to find out who they use for park equipment so we can get some comparable quotes. He has also written to Cllr Versallion for advice about other grants available – this will be an item for January Agenda.

The Clerk has written to CBC regarding our frustration (re school speed limit).

Churchyard Memorial test carried out on 21st November 2020 – no issues.

Hockliffe Herald – has been produced and should have now been delivered.

The Chair recorded his thanks to the team regarding the Santa float – it was very well received.

160. Neighbourhood Plan:

The Chair advised the Council of his intention to arrange a training session for Councillors. This would be a session to upskill and educate Councillors/Clerk on what a Neighbourhood Plan is. No decisions would be made – it is for education purposes only. Clerk to circulate some dates in January for this session. Cllr Dickens will arrange for Tom Price (CBC) to attend for part of the meeting.

161: Finance:

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

The Chair invited the Clerk to speak.

It was resolved that the following payments could be made (retrospective):

Cheque	Amount	Payee	For
1781	£200	M J Humphries	Christmas tree (already in budget)



Hockliffe Parish Council

"Serving the local community"

1782 £80 M J Humphries Christmas tree delivery

Due to COVID restrictions it was not possible to collect the Christmas tree. The amount above for delivery is within the remit of "emergency payment". Both of the above cheques were written out on 11th November 2020.

It was resolved that the following payments could be made – dated 14th December 2020:

Cheque	Amount	Payee	For
1783	£44.88	C Underhay	Clerk expenses
1784	£249.60	C Underhay	Clerk salary
1785	£62.40	HMRC	Clerk tax
1786	£176.19	P Edwards	Santa event
1787	£537.00	Village Garden	Gardening
1788	£25.16	B Simpson	Form building software
1789	£216.00	Village Garden	Park clearance
1790	£24.00	M Underhay	Santa event

The following credits received in November 2020 were noted:

Interest – 29p and a £50 donation towards presents for the Santa event (received 23rd November 2020)

2. Account Balances & Budget:

November reconciliation presented to the meeting. This reconciled our balances to:

Current account - £39,798.95

Savings account - £33,595.57

The spend against budget year to date was also presented to the meeting, and this shows a 70% spend against budget (against 66% of the year passed) – however, the Clerk has also noted that expected spend between now and the end of March should bring us within budget.

The Clerk noted that CBC had accepted our 2021/22 Precept request.

3. 2021/22 Budget:

This was presented. A discussion was held and a change was proposed by Cllr Dickens (from the proposed budget) to transfer £1000 from the budget figure for village maintenance to tree and hedge maintenance.

The Chair asked if the Clerk could get some quotations for a professional to come and look at our trees, to ensure they are healthy, and advise of any work that may need to be done.

The Chair asked the Blooming Hockliffe to account for their budget line. They have said that they require £1000 for planters and £1000 for soil and plants. They have plans to raise funds independently for expenditure over and above the budget agreed by the Parish Council.

The Chair noted that the budget allows for an increase in the working hours for the Clerk (from 20 to 25 per month). We do not have a Cemetery Clerk – so the historic budget (£600 this year) is not used. The Parish Clerk also carries out the duties of the Cemetery Clerk.

Cllr Antonini spoke about the Hockliffe Herald as she thought printing costs were high. There was general agreement. Cllr Antonini will see if she can find a better proposition and report back to the Council.

Cllr Dickens proposed that the 2021/22 budget was accepted, and Cllr R Scott seconded the motion. It was then unanimously resolved by Council members present at the meeting that the Budget proposal is accepted.

162: Christmas 2020:

Christmas tree – The Chair reported that a Christmas tree was ordered within the budget agreed last year. The company is now VAT registered, so we will be able to reclaim the VAT. This had to be delivered – due to COVID restrictions (primarily, it would need 3/4 people to carry it – car sharing issues would have meant we would have to take 4 cars to the farm (Bedford) – it was more cost effective and easier to have it delivered).

Santa Event – The Chair noted that this was held on 13th December 2020. It was very well received with many positive comments from residents. The Chair noted that the most rewarding outcome was seeing the smiles on children's faces – this, in itself, made the event worthwhile.

From a budget perspective – the Council agreed (last month) a raise from the already agreed £100 to £150 – a £50 donation was also received – so that totals £200. The total spend against this was £200.19. It was resolved by the Council that letters (emails) of thanks are sent to both Santa and the driver of the vehicle that drove Santa around. A token gift will be presented to both, and it was resolved by the Council that the cost of this will be via Clerk Expenses. £35 budget.

163: Planning – Applications Received:

CB/20/03489 – Hockliffe House. – update from the last meeting – no decision made yet (by CBC).

CB/20/04303 – The Limes – The Council resolved that they were happy with whatever recommendation the CBC Conservation Officer made.

164: A5/Speedwatch:

No report this month.

165: Blooming Hockliffe:

No report this month.

166: Matter concerning a telegraph pole at the top of Leighton Road:

A photograph had been supplied to Councillors. The Chair noted that the telegraph pole appeared "wonky". He asked the Clerk to contact Openreach concerning this.

167: Handyman:

No report this month.

168: Cemetery Verge:

The Chair noted that the Clerk has written to Paul Salmon at CBC Highways (recommended by Cllr Versallion). This is to request a site meeting so we can discuss what actually can be done. This has been chased, and no reply has been received. The Chair noted that the Clerk will now contact Cllr Versallion for further assistance.

169: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The Chair noted that he had received correspondence from a resident. This involved a development at the south end of the village, that maybe on "green belt" land. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact CBC Planning regarding this.

The Clerk also noted that he had received one item of correspondence from a resident regarding several matters. He is still to deal with this.

170: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

The Park

171: Date & place of the next Parish Council Meeting:

This will be held on Monday 11th January 2021 via Zoom, commencing at 7pm.

The Meeting was closed at 8.02pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 19th December 2020

Signed as a true record.....Rob Scott (chair) 11th January 2021