

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4th May 2021 – 7.05PM (Zoom Meeting)

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Dickens, P Scott, R Capstick, D Coleman (late) & M Versallion (CBC)

Clerk: C Underhay

15: To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr's A Rose & L Antonini.

16: Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were received.

17: A5 – Highways England & Power On:

The Chair welcomed guests from Highways England (Tony Barrow, Chris Brean & Steve Thulborn) and PowerOn (John Brennan). A number of concerns were raised regarding the work being carried out on the A5 (power cable being laid beneath it).

Mr Brennan advised that they were using "traditional methods" to lay the cable (and dig the road), and that after they have finished the road will be reinstated as close as possible to the condition it was in before work was started.

Issues noted were: Why a four-way set of lights could not be reinstated to stop traffic issues at the A5/A4012/Woburn Road junction; at our previous parish Council Meeting, Highways England said that only a horizontal trench would be used (so outside of "tyre line") – however, vertical trenches have been dug and this causes disturbance; lack of signage (temporary road surface, for example); continuing volume of traffic causing continuing rumbling; traffic lines to the temporary lights take 40 minutes during the day; no traffic signs at each roundabout coming into Hockliffe advising of major disruption and giving alternative route.

Cllr Versallion asked Highways England if they could not have insisted on a less intrusive way of conducting the work – as this matter is about people's homes – was it discussed amongst "experts"- this would help reassure residents.

An onsite meeting was arranged for the next morning (5th May 2021) between John Brennan, representatives of Highways England and any resident of Hockliffe.

18: Solar Farm south of Hockliffe:

The invited guests representing the Development made a late apology for absence, and therefore this item was cancelled.

19: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion reported as follows:

There is no longer any ringfenced funds held by CBC to pay for reducing the speed limit outside the school, so other avenues are now being looked at.

There is another Solar Farm proposal at Trinity Farm south of Hockliffe (the Council are aware of this).

The Chair asked about the Kilby Road garage site and possible changes to it (development wise)– Cllr Versallion said he has not been in touch with anyone yet about this matter. This matter was discussed – particularly the impact of parking in an already crowded road if property development was put forward.

The Chair asked about 20mph signs at the start of all of the side roads leading off of a road with a higher speed limit – Cllr Versallion said he would ask about this.

20: Approval of Minutes from 12th April 2021:

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

21: Public Forum:

The only point was raised by Richard Alexander (as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group) – a questionnaire for residents is in the process of being arranged/produced.

22: Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the

Agenda:

There were no additional matters.

23: Councillor Vacancy:

The Chair advised the meeting that Cllr Rose has resigned from the Parish Council (with effect from today) for personal reasons. A vote of thanks to Cllr Rose was proposed by the Chair – it was also proposed by the Chair that the Clerk buy a small gift (flowers) for Cllr Rose, and this was resolved unanimously.

The Clerk advised that he will now follow the correct process for a Councillor resignation, and advertise that we have a vacancy once this process has been completed.

24: Update regarding future Parish Council Meetings:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

The Clerk advised Councillors that this will be the last Zoom meeting as after 7th May 2021 we have to legally hold meetings in "person" as opposed to virtually. Councillors have been provided with the legal ruling regarding this. This brings several problems for us as COVID restrictions have not been lifted to allow unrestricted meetings – the earliest date this will happen is 21st June 2021. The Clerk will keep Councillors apprised of further developments

Various options were discussed on how to proceed. However, one issue is the lack of local premises that will be open before 21st June 2021 – even if one could be found, the COVID risk assessment is extensive and prohibitive – so it is best to wait until restrictions are lifted. The Clerk shared the procedure for a proposed use of delegated authority and this document was discussed by Councillors.

The Clerk will attempt to find suitable place for a meeting in July (as long as the 21st June date is adhered to).

It was unanimously resolved the June Parish Council Meeting will be cancelled.

25: Delegation of Powers for Emergency Use:

This document was reviewed by the Council.

The Resolution – this policy is adopted and activated for use from the close of this meeting until the next full Parish Council Meeting. It was proposed by the Chair (Cllr R Scott) and seconded by Cllr D Coleman. It was then unanimously agreed by all Councillors.

26:A5/Speedwatch:

The only additional point (to the points made above) from Cllr Capstick was that PC Ryan had been in touch, and that he considers speed cameras a priority.

27: Dog Fouling:

This was discussed. The Chair asked the Clerk to investigate what can be done and advise Counsellors.

28: Neighbourhood Plan:

No report (other than noted in Matters Arising above).

29: Finance:

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

The Chair invited the Clerk to speak.

It was resolved that the following cheques could be paid:

Cheques to authorise (all dated 4th May 2021) –(b) means budgeted item

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Reason
1831	£249.60	C Underhay	Clerk Salary (b)
1832	£62.40	HMRC	Clerk Tax (b)
1833	£100.38	C Underhay	Clerk Expenses (b)
1834	£267.00	Kallkwick	Hockliffe Herald Printing (b)
1835	£450.00	Robert Yates	Tree Survey
1836	£599.55	Goldleaf	Grounds Maintenance (b)

2. Account Balances & Budget:

The auditor still has our "books" so no update could be given. It was also too early for the April bank statements to be produced.

30: The Park:

The Chair reported the Health & Safety risk of some of the equipment in the park (referring to last year's ROSPA report) means that work has to be carried out. None of the equipment was noted a high risk – but work does need to be done. The difficulty has been in obtaining quotes (other than the one we have from Fenland). The Chair proposed that we repair what we have to form a Health & Safety perspective, this was seconded by Cllr Capstick. The Clerk will now arrange a meeting with Fenland (and the Council – Chair/Clerk), in conjunction with the ROSPA report that is due, and report back to Councillors.

31: Freedom of Information Act policy renewal:

The Chair presented the above Policy for renewal. Renewal was proposed for a period of one year (to May 2022). This was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Capstick and unanimously passed by Councillors.

32: Tree Survey:

The Chair presented the tree survey for discussion. There is some work to do on land that the Parish Council Own. Some of the land is within a Conservation Area (for example the Cemetery), and the Clerk has already approached CBC for permission to carry out the work. It was resolved that the Clerk will provide quotations for the Council to consider at our next meeting.

33: Planning – Applications Received:

CB/20/03489 – bought forward from November 2020 meeting – this application has been withdrawn

CB/21/01571 – The Council resolved to support this application.

34: Blooming Hockliffe:

Cllr Coleman asked for a map of where all the planters are that the Parish Council now own. The Blooming Hockliffe team said they would provide this. The Blooming Hockliffe team also spoke about the watering schedule that has been set up.

35: Handyman:

No Report

36: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The Chair noted that there was no additional correspondence to discuss.

37: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

There were no additional items other than those minuted.

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

As noted, the meeting in June is cancelled. The Clerk will keep Councillors updated, and in conjunction with the Chair arrange the next Parish Council meeting when it is safe to do so.

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 15th May 2021

Signed as a true record Rob Scott (chair) 13th September 2021

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