

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th
November 2022**

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Scott & D Coleman

Clerk: C Underhay

Guest: Cllr M Versallion (CBC Ward Councillor)

79: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Dickens apologised for his absence.

80: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

**81: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 10th
October 2022:**

It was resolved by all Councillors present that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022 were correct.

82: Parish Councillor Vacancies:

The Chair announced that Lisa Antonini has resigned as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk has advised CBC as per procedures. We therefore have three vacancies – two can be filled now via Co-option. Two residents present at the meeting advised that they would like to be considered to fill these places (Richard Alexander & Rebecca Reyland). They both spoke to the Council to advise why they wish to be considered. It was then proposed by the Chair that they be Co-opted, to start from the next meeting (12th December 2022). This was seconded by Cllr Coleman and resolved by all Councillors present. The Chair directed the Clerk to complete all the appropriate documentation.

83: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion advised the meeting of the following:

There has been no meaningful update regarding reducing the speed limit outside of the school.

Updates are still waiting re: Bull Farm & Allison's Brook.

Cllr Versallion reminded the Council that funds are available under the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme (£3k).

84: Public Forum:

A resident noted that the Remembrance display was "fantastic".

A resident asked about the park and future use – Cllr P Scott suggested we could form a Working Group – and asked for this to be included on the next Agenda. The Chair noted that the Village Hall "committee" is being changed to a charity. The Clerk noted that we hold Parish Funds "earmarked" towards the building of a village hall, and he would check the viability of us transferring funds to a charity when and if a village hall is ever constructed. The Chair asked for this to be included on the next Agenda.

85: Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda:

The Chair noted that the school will be available again from December – it was resolved by all Councillors that we will return to the school moving forward.

86: Cemetery Parking:

Cllr Dickens was due to report – however, he is not present, so this item is to be included on the next agenda.

87: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised there were no new planning applications.

88: Christmas:

The Chair noted the following quotes had been obtained for a Christmas Tree (16ft):

Real Christmas Trees - £390 plus delivery of £70

Forestry England - £420 (including delivery)

Badger Hill - £360 (including delivery)

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr P Scott that we use Badger Hill – they have been used previously and we have always been happy. This was then resolved by all Councillors present.

The Chair noted that the Christmas Tree lighting event will be held on 4th December 2022 at the Harvester. Santa will be present to give presents to the Children. These presents will be purchased using the agreed budget amount.

89: Review of policies:

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr P Scott and resolved by all Councillors present that the following policies are renewed for a further 12 months:

Financial Regulations

Safeguarding & Child Protection

Village Green Infringement

Website Management

90: A5:

Cllr P Scott is going to draft a letter to National Highways from the Parish Council regarding the A5.

91: Issue with a tree on our land:

The Chair noted that we have been approached by a resident in Clifford Close. A tree from our land – that appears dead – has impacted a fence at the rear of their garden. It was decided that this tree should be removed. Quotes provided:

All Trees and Hedges - £360

Tree Surgeon - £430

Eden - £360

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr P Scott and resolved by all Councillors to use All Trees and Hedges. They have completed work for us previously and been very happy.

92: Storage Options:

The Council agreed that this conversation should be discontinued pending the outcome of a village hall outcome.

93: Neighbourhood Plan:

Mr Alexander advised that with only 40 responses to the recent questionnaire, we cannot go forward – this would be because any plan would not be supported by more than 50% of the households that live here.

94: Handyman

It was noted that the issue with the Cemetery gate was that one of the posts is rotten. It has been temporarily fixed by the Handyman - and we are pending a fuller report from him.

95: Blooming Hockliffe:

No update.

96: HM The King's Coronation:

The Chair advised that we will do some form of event – this item will be discussed further over the coming months.

97: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:



Hockliffe Parish Council

"Serving the local community"

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid (some payments below are retrospectively authorised – they were all within agreed budget lines):

Chq No	Amount	To
1993	£266.90	C Underhay – salary
1994	£177.60	HMRC – Clerk Tax
1995	£30.00	St Nicholas Church – Hire charge (October)
1996	£315.59	C Underhay – remembrance
1997	£617.53	Goldleaf Groundcare – November Maintenance
1998	£5.44	C Underhay – postage costs
1999	£360.00	Mr M J Humphries – Christmas Tree
2000	£360.00	All Trees & Hedges – Tree removal
2001	£599.55	Goldleaf Groundcare – April 2021 maintenance
2002	£40.00	Hockliffe Lower School – Grant
2003	£20,000	Hockliffe Parish Council

Cheque 2001 – a reconciliation has been performed by Goldleaf – and a payment due in April 2021 has not been paid. This has been accepted by the Clerk – and accepted by Goldleaf that the invoice had not been sent. However, the funds are due, and so paid.

Cheque 1996 – This was agreed last month – the Tommy was £175 (and added to our asset register) – however, the lamp post poppies were not sold in units of 15 – either 10 or 25 (with a discount) – so 25 purchased (£111.99) – these have been added to our asset register – postage was also £28.60 – total £315.59.

Cheque 2002 – The Chair noted that we had been approached by the school for a grant towards their Christmas tree. The Chair proposed we grant this – this was seconded by Cllr D Coleman and proposed by all Councillors present.

Cheque 2003 – The Chair noted that as interest rates had increased, it would be worth transferring excess funds to our savings account. The Clerk noted that the Council is due £11,560.63 from the VAT reclaim – this has been

submitted and payment will be received in the next few weeks. This will make the current account balance in the region of £40,000. The Chair proposed £20,000 is transferred – this was seconded by Cllr P Scott and resolved by all Councillors present.

An amount of £26 was also paid to the Clerk for the working at home allowance (via standing order).

An interest credit of £4.87 was received on 31st October 2022

2. Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:

A full bank reconciliation was provided to the Council by the Clerk. As at 31st October 2022 the Current account balance was £26,199.71 & the savings account £14,930.83.

Spend against budget shows that with 58% of the year gone, the council have only spent 36% of budget.

The External audit now completed and statutory notice published.

3. PreCept:

The Clerk noted to the Council that he expects a general raise in our expenses next year, specifically inflation is just over 10% at present. The Clerk also noted that we still do not spend the Budget amount every year – and this year is likely to be the same.

It was proposed by the Chair that the PreCept remained the same (@ £56.80 for Band D property) – this was seconded by Cllr Coleman and resolved by all Councillors present.

This will allow the Clerk to work on the Budget for 2023/24, for presentation at December's meeting.

98: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The chair noted that no items had been received.

99: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:



The Chair has noted that Cllr Dickens had asked for Hockliffe Herald to be added to the next Agenda

The meeting closed at 9pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 26th November 2022

Signed as a true copy.....Rob Scott 12th December 2022