

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held from 7.00pm on 28 March 2022 in the village hall.

(A signed notice of the meeting and agenda had been displayed on the two village notice boards from 21 March and an email summons of attendance had been issued to all Councillors on the same day. A copy of the notice and agenda had been entered on the Parish Council website from 21 March.)

PRESENT: Councillors: Janet Ormond (JO) (Chairman), Ian Durham (ID) and Philip Tustian (PT)
Parish Clerk: Maurice Cole (MC)
Public: David Wright

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FOR ABSENCE: 2022/41: John Clouston (JC) and Emlyn Lilly (EL)

COUNCILLORS' NON-STATUTORY DISCLOSURES AND DISCLOSURE OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO THE AGENDA NOT COVERED BY DISPENSATION: 2022/42: None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

2022/43: The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2022 (draft distributed earlier) were confirmed as correct and the Chairman was authorised to sign approval.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:

2022/44: ABANDONED VEHICLE (2022/24) JO would still endeavour to contact the occupants of the related house.

2022/45: THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS (2022/18): Councillors were not aware of any new developments.

2022/46: ASBESTOS FLY TIPPING (2022/39a): JO had recently chased the West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) regarding the long outstanding clearance of the roadside, asbestos fly tipping on Banbury Road.

2022/47: WATER ON ROAD SURFACE (2022/39b): JO had reported the problem to the WNC who advised they would investigate the position.

FINANCE

2022/48: CASH BOOK: The cashbook was produced showing a balance of £7,090.66 including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund of £3,863.51 (2019/12). The balance reflected the receipt of a grant of £211.70 in respect of the asset mapping project. (2022/15). The Parish Council's banking arrangements had been transferred to the Unity Trust Bank on 2 March 2022 (2022/28) and the initial bank statement to 4 March 2022 was produced, being in agreement with the cash book.

2022/49 BANK PAYMENTS: The following recurring payments had been paid since the last meeting: HSBC final bank charges £10, Clerk's net salary (quarter to 31 March 2022) £240, PAYE £60, contribution to the Clerk's expenses (year ending 31 March 2022) £75 and village hall hire to 31 March, £60. MC referred to the new bank incorrectly only requiring one councillor to authorise online payments, not two (2021/147). Councillors signed an application for the position to be remedied.

2022/50: INTERNAL AUDIT: Geraint Gregory had indicated that he would be prepared to undertake this task again. Councillors approved the appointment, expressing thanks.

2022/51: FIDELITY GUARANTEE INSURANCE: In accordance with recommended good practice, Councillors considered the level of employee dishonesty insurance cover and confirmed the current limit of £150,000 to be adequate.

UTILITIES ETC:

2022/52: ELECTRICITY INVOICE ERROR (2022/9): The Clerk still had not received any further communication from NPower about the calculation error in their December invoice. It remained unpaid.

2022/53: FAILED STREET LANTERN: (2021/167 & 2022/10): JO summarised Balfour Beatty's recent offer to replace all 11 street lanterns without charge, as detailed to councillors by email. This was accepted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2022/54: None.

HS2:

2022/55: EXTENSION OF HS2 WORKING HOURS: The parish council had been requested to provide a quick comment on HS2's proposal to extend its working hours beyond the core hours prescribed in the HS2 Code of Construction Practice. HS2 were considering extending weekday work by 90 minutes, Saturday work by 5 hours 30 minutes and commencing Sunday work for 10 hours. Requests for comments from parishioners had been placed on the parish council website and the two noticeboards. No comments had been received. JO had consulted with Councillors before issuing a response firmly opposing the proposal. Copies had been sent to the WNC and Dame Andrea Leadsom MP. The meeting endorsed JO's response.

2022/56: HS2 GROUP LIASON MEETING: The Clerk had attended the online meeting on 10 March. No items of consequence had arisen in respect of the parish

2022/57: HS2 COMPOUND LIGHTING: JO had complained to an HS2 Community Engagement Manager regarding the apparently excessive lighting at the works compounds when supposedly a lighting reduction policy had been introduced.

NCALC'S ASSET MAPPING PROJECT:

2022/58 (2002/35): JO advised that the project had been completed. The meeting approved the final position. A related grant of £211.70 had been received, as mentioned above (2022/48).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS:

2022/59: It was agreed that the meeting would be scheduled for 25 April 2022 at 7.00pm in the village hall. It was noted that a police representative intended to attend. The invitation of various representatives was discussed with the Clerk to take action. A promotional flier would be distributed in the village

CORRESPONDENCE OF CONSEQUENCE:

2022/60: DOG WASTE: An email had been received from Jeremy Greenhalgh on 3 March complaining about discarded dog waste bags being left in the parish, enquiring if there was a plan to deal with this problem. JO had replied, referring to the councillors' considerations last year (2021/149) and a proposed review at the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors considered the proposal that a response should be issued to the WNC's current undertaking a survey regarding dog waste concerns. JO was authorised to register concerns. The survey was being promoted on the Parish Council website and noticeboard.

2022/61: VILLAGE HALL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Councillors noted with thanks the receipt of the Village Hall financial statements for 2021.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

2022/62: VEHICLE SPEEDING CONCERNS (2022/36): JO thanked David Wright for his work liaising with the police. It was understood that the police had cautioned two owners of vehicles.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK:

2022/63: WNC'S INTRODUCTION OF A GREEN WASTE COLLECTION CHARGE (2021/165): The Clerk had contacted district councillor Alison Eastwood expressing concern about the apparent lack of WNC communication to parishioners. The position was being reviewed by the WNC. Details had been on the Parish Council website since 24 November 2021 and on the two noticeboards from 25 March.

NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

2022/64: The next meeting, the annual meeting, was provisionally scheduled for Monday 30 May 2022 at 7.00pm, in the village hall.

MEETING CLOSED 7.45pm