

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at Lower Moor Village Hall

Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs T. Betteridge (Chairman), P. Jeanes, Mrs A. Jeanes and Mrs P. Stone, D. Nuttall and D. Saunders

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; County Cllr D. Boatright (arrived at 7.25pm); District Cllr L. Tucker; 2 members of the public

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies had been received from County Cllr D. Boatright for late arrival.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

*The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time
Notes can be found at the end of these minutes.*

- 3. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd December 2021:**
It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 2nd December 2021 were a true and accurate record.

- 4. District Councillors report:** Cllr Tucker reported that the planning application at Barlwyth Cottage was not straightforward due to the parking arrangements. Although Worcestershire County Council had not objected, the District Council were seeking clarity from them. She reported that the next PACT meeting was scheduled for the 31st January.

SWDP: neighbouring parishes Pinvin and Wyre were concerned about the loss of the significant gaps at their boundaries to development. She recommended that if Hill and Moor parish was also concerned in this way they should make this known to Wychavon.

Boundary Commission changes: there had been no change to the to the boundary for Hill and Moor parish.

- 5. County Councillors report:** Cllr Boatright reported that the County Council would be providing funds for jubilee events. Road closures would be free of charge.
 - An additional liaison officer had been appointed to cope with the workload.
 - The county council would increase council tax by 3.94%, with a 3% increase on council tax for social care.
 - Cllr Boatright reported that the problem of non-functioning streetlights has been discussed at the county council. Alternative contractors had been discussed but did not seem to be performing any better than the current contractor. There were staffing issues, so the contractor was not getting round the streetlights quickly enough and a backlog had built up. The company were currently recruiting to try and solve the problem. It had been noted that parishes continue to pay for the electricity to the streetlights even though they were not working as the consumption was estimated. As the supply of the service was centralised, all of the parishes were having similar problems.

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6. Parish Councillors reports:

- Holly House had been sold subject to contract. As such it would be possible to talk to the new owners about works to the pipe that ran under the property. P. Jeanes and Cllr Betteridge offered to speak to the new owners about this. They had already had conversations with the drainage engineer who lived in the parish and who had been involved with improving the drainage on the playing field. The £10,000 grant could potentially be used. Cllr Tucker would find out if this would be possible, as originally the grant had been awarded to put towards a drainage survey.
- Cllr P. Jeanes reported that the mower was booked in for a service. They would monitor the appearance of the blades. The new trees would be planted in the near future.
- Cllr Stone had attempted to make contact the post office with limited success.
- A quotation from the grass cutting contractor for weedspraying had come out very expensive. Cllr Betteridge reported that Wychavon were moving away from using chemicals for weedspraying. A weed burner for the purpose would be investigated.
- Cllr P. Jeanes had circulated a layout and quote for a plaque for the WI. It was agreed to go ahead.

7. Progress reports

- a) Review of actions from previous meeting: The action points were reviewed.
- b) Playing Field and mowing: The handyman had spread more garlic around molehills to try and deter the moles.
- c) Play area: Nothing to report.
- d) Flood / Drainage: Nothing additional to report.
- e) Footpaths: The area opposite the Village Hall needed clearing.
- f) Village Hall and Events Group (VHEG): Cllr Stone reported that a meeting was planned for later in January. The group were making plans for the Jubilee weekend.
- g) Landfill Site: Nothing to report.
- h) Lengthsman: Nothing to report.
- i) Newsletter: The next newsletter would go out in April and would publicise the event on the Jubilee weekend.
- j) PACT: The next meeting would take place on the 31st January.
- k) Urgent Decisions Group: A small amount of additional work for the handyman had been authorised since the last meeting.
- l) SWDP: There was now more time to formulate a response as the SWDP had been delayed and timetables had slipped. Councillors at Bishampton Parish Council had drafted a letter to Wychavon which would be shared with neighbouring parish councils including Hill and Moor.

8. Planning

a) New planning applications:

W/22/00003/HP	Delamere House, Hill Furze, WR10 2NB	Construction of single storey side extension and stable
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The council had no objection to the application.

b) **To receive Decision Notices:** There were none.

c) **To note or discuss Planning Correspondence, Information and Issues:** Discussed at item 4.

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9. Finance:

a) To report on the financial situation of the Parish Council and to approve payments.

Income since last report			
Date	Received from	Details	Total £
09/12/2021	Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest Dec' 21	0.17
21/12/2021	WCC	Lengthsman reimbursement - Chapter 8 training	155.00

Payments for approval			
Inv. Date	Payee	Detail	£ inc VAT
31/10/2021	Smart Cut	Grass cutting 7 & 20/10/21	235.46
02/12/2021	Eon / NPower	Streetlighting elec 01/10/21 - 30/11/2021	188.51
01/12/2021	Eon Next	Playing field supply 01/11/21 - 30/11/21	13.84
31/12/2021	HMRC	PAYE Q3 2021/22	173.40
26/11/2021	Mrs P. Stone	Reimbursement for Christmas tree	95.00
07/12/2021	Upton Town Council	Grass reinforcing tiles x12	25.00
30/11/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	OS Maint.; Plant bulbs; Level molehills Put up Christmas tree (£90)	162.00
23/10/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	Lengthman 23/10/21	30.65
23/10/2021	Shaun Strange Gardens	Overspend on Lman work to be met by parish	30.75
31/12/2021	J. Adams	Salary Dec '21	231.31
31/12/2021	J. Adams	Phone/computer Dec '21	17.50
31/12/2021	WCC Pension Scheme	Pension contributions Dec '21	94.23
13/12/2021	BHGS	Garlic	84.00

Current account - Lloyds - A/c 01865441

Balance as at 06/01/22 18,376.85

Savings account - Lloyds - A/c 07578509

Balance as at 06/01/22 20,402.69

Total cash assets **38,779.54**

Ringfenced		
Flood alleviation		10,000.00
CIL		0.00
Grant funds	Village Hall improvements	4,730.00
Bonfire funds		2,095.60
Total Ringfenced		16,825.60

Earmarked Reserves	
Asset Maintenance / Replacement / Disposal	2,000.00

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Purchase Asset	0.00
Total Earmarked Reserves	2,000.00

General Reserve **19,953.94**

(Total cash assets less Ringfenced funds and Earmarked Reserves)

Lengthsman Expenditure to date including items on this document: £1,937 from a £1,937 budget.

Total of the **Open Spaces maintenance** items on this sheet: £211.75, which would make total expenditure for this budget £2,869.60 from an annual budget of £4000.

It was resolved to approve the items for online payment.

- b) To note the financial reports for the end of Q3 2021/22: The reports for Q3 were noted.
- c) To agree the draft budget for 2022/23: The council made changes to the budget compared to the previous year. These included an increase in the cost of pitch hire to £500 per season, cost of living rises for various expenditure budgets, including streetlighting electricity and electricity on the playing field, both of which had increased significantly. There would be a planned underspend of £1,000 which would be put into reserves to contribute towards a replacement mower in due course.
- d) To set the precept for 2022/23: The revisions to the budget resulted in a requirement for £15,518 from taxation, or a total precept of £16,403. This represented an increase from the previous year of 16p per month, or £1.95 annually for a Band D property. The taxbase had increased slightly which helped.

10. Defibrillator Update: The batteries of the defibrillator needed replacing. Cllr P. Jeanes had arranged this and would install them into the unit next week. He would also find out what the expected life of the unit itself was.

11. To discuss the proposal for purchase of a Vehicle Activated Sign

- a) To confirm locations: The proposed locations of Cherry Orchard Road and Salters Lane were agreed. The unit could not be placed on the A44 as it could only be deployed where the speed limit was 40mph or less, and on the A44 the 40mph turned into 50mph between Cherry Orchard Road and Salters Lane.
- b) To discuss an application to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund: It was agreed to make an application.

12. Correspondence for Information

The following correspondence had been received and circulated:

- Notification of a consultation into parks in Droitwich and Evesham.
- Notification of a campaign and petition to allow hybrid council meetings.

13. Clerk's report:

- The broken post at the top of Cherry Orchard Road had been reported.
- The footballers had been contacted about the ongoing mole problem. They were being vigilant and were raking the molehills down.
- Worcs CALC had released some more training dates.

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- The estimated start date for the path extension was late February or early March. The contractor had confirmed that the spoil would be removed from the site.

14. Summary of Councillors' agreed actions: Cllr A. Jeanes would circulate the list round in due course.

15. Date of next meeting and items for next agenda: Thursday 3rd March 2022.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

Public Questions

The question had been asked as to whether a resident of the holiday park The Springs could apply to become a councillor. Worcestershire CALC had said yes but there was still some uncertainty. The monitoring officer at Wychavon would be asked to clarify.

A discussion took place on the number of streetlights that were not working in the parish. These had been reported but not yet fixed. Cllr Boatright confirmed that it was a similar picture in other parishes but that the contractor was trying to catch up.

A resident of The Springs asked if the council would support a request that their 'closed season' be reduced from two months to one month per year. Cllr Betteridge replied that it was a planning issue and the owner of The Springs would have to apply for a modification to planning conditions.