

# H C P C

For And On Behalf Of  
Hill Croome Parish Council  
Clerk - Michael Brooks

Vine Cottage Baughton Earls Croome WR8 9DQ

**DRAFT**

## **THE MINUTES OF HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL** **Held at Earls Croome Parish Room AT 7.30PM ON 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Present:** Councillors P. Smith; Mrs K. Eaton; Mrs. J Coole; M. Brooks.

**In attendance:** Clerk, District Councillor Middlebrough; Mrs H. Smith; Mr M Tomkins; Mrs D. Brooks; Ms Alice Spearing (Guest speaker).

**Apologies:** Cllr. K Smith; County Councillor Owenson; Mr and Mrs Harcombe.

**Declarations of Interest** – Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Declarations of Interest.

Meeting was adjourned for Public question time, no matters arising.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were approved, subject to one amendment. The change made being to the timing of the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting from 19.00 to 18.30hrs.

**Guest Speaker:** Council was given an insight into the workings of St Richard's Hospice in Worcester, including the scope of the care provided in the community. A notice will be posted on the village board.

### **Progress reports:**

- 1. Highways** – since the last meeting Cllr Middlebrough has facilitated the provision of the 'Village Gates' which are currently on order. The locations for these are currently showing orange paint marks on the verges. The additional 30mph rondels are also on order. The thanks of the Council were extended to Cllr Middlebrough. Arrangements are in place for the Ash Lea pavement to be scraped of moss. The drainage outside The Stores is greatly improved although it has been noticed that the corner of Ash Lea is now subject to puddling around the drain. This will be monitored by the Clerk.
- 2. Purchase of scanner** – Clerk confirmed that an application has been submitted for an £80 contribution for the scanner for the Transparency Regulations through the Government funding scheme. Once received the scanner will be purchased.
- 3. Data Protection Regulations Update** – An update is still awaited as negotiations are ongoing at government level as to the needs for smaller councils. There will be a financial implication to satisfy the rules.
- 4. Defibrillator** – after speaking with Earls Croome Parish council it is noted that the costs of providing our own defibrillator would be prohibitive. However, the system at Earls Croome is a 'public' resource and in the event that there was an opportunity for its use then the code would be provided by the Ambulance service. It was agreed that when training for their device is next offered we would try and find volunteers to be trained.
- 5. Dog Waste Bin** – the Clerk provided the meeting with quotes for a bin – either plastic (£101.22 excl.VAT) or metal (£178.91 excl.VAT) from the 'Glasdon' company. After discussion it was decided to purchase the metal version in the interest of longevity. It is to be sited on the metal post at the entrance to the footpath next to Elmfield on Stanks Lane in the hope that the incidence of dog deposits along the lane and footpath will reduce.
- 6. Contribution to Grass Cutting from Worcs CC** – the Clerk reported that after consultation with the County Council we shall now receive an annual sum of £250 to assist with the grass cutting costs.

Chairman - Phillippe Smith    Vice Chairman – Michael Brooks  
Clerk - Michael Brooks

Contact Details: email - [hillcroomepc@btinternet.com](mailto:hillcroomepc@btinternet.com) Telephone: 01684 594471

# H C P C

For And On Behalf Of  
**Hill Croome Parish Council**  
Clerk - Michael Brooks  
Vine Cottage Baughton Earls Croome WR8 9DQ

**Planning:** No matters arising.

**Finance:**

1. Council provided with full disclosure of accounts including payments and receipts since last meeting and bank reconciliation.

**Payments**

08/11/2017	O/L	New Farm Oct	136.80
01/12/2017	O/L	M Tomkins Nov	105.00
03/12/2017	O/L	New Farm Nov	136.80
22/12/2017	O/L	CALC - training 7175	60.00
22/12/2017	O/L	CALC - training 7179	60.00
<b>2018</b>			
02/01/2018	O/L	M Tomkins Dec	87.00
23/01/2018	O/L	B+JM Swinbourne-path 551	50.00
01/02/2018	O/L	St Marys Church PCC	15.00

**Income**

05/12/17	Oct	WorcsCC Lengthsman	129.00
<b>2018</b>			
20/01/18	Dep A/C	Gross Interest	0.01

**Reconciliation as at 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Current Account £ 2306.57  
Deposit Account £ 405.01  
Cash in Hand £ 8.30

2. The Clerk provided Council with an updated 'Financial Compliance' Expectation document, including a Statement of Financial Controls. This was examined by Councillors and signed off by the Chairman for the records.

**Village Green Project** - The Clerk reported that he had been in consultation with the County Council Highways Department to discuss the possibility of amending our grass cutting regime on the village green. Earlier in the year a proposal had been put forward to allow the green to become a meadow in the expectation of encouraging wild flowers and other fauna. It was

from these initial discussions that the £250 / annum grant to help with grass cutting was offered. A site visit followed and the proposal was accepted as suitable for progress.

**Chairman - Phillippe Smith    Vice Chairman – Michael Brooks**  
Clerk - Michael Brooks

**Contact Details:** email - [hillcroomepc@btinternet.com](mailto:hillcroomepc@btinternet.com) Telephone: 01684 594471

# H C P C

For And On Behalf Of  
**Hill Croome Parish Council**  
Clerk - Michael Brooks  
Vine Cottage Baughton Earls Croome WR8 9DQ

The recent newsletter distributed to all householders included reference to this proposal.

Potential Benefits – significant financial saving on regular grass cutting and environmental / ecological improvement.

Potential Problems – visual impact of longer grass.

It is likely that this project will take a number of years to fully take effect, the fertility in the soil needing to reduce before some native plants could make an appearance.

After a full discussion it was decided that the plan should be progressed. The Clerk is tasked with updating our contractor to cancel cutting for this year and update the Highways Department with our decision. A newsletter will be sent out to confirm the plan for householders.

**Training for Councillors** – two Councillors have recently attended training and have agreed that it has enhanced their understanding of the role of Councillor. The Clerk has also taken advantage of training provided to cover the 'End of Year Accounting' (January 2018) and 'Publications' (due in February 2018)

**Annual Parish Meeting** – the legal requirements for the meeting were provided and the date confirmed for the meeting as Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 6.30pm. This will precede the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on the same evening. An advert will be posted for all electors asking for agenda items to be submitted prior to the meeting.

#### **County Councillor Report –**

1. Cllr Middlebrough reported that he is asking for representations regarding the proposal to site either traffic lights or traffic island(s) at the junction of the A38/A4104. Responses before the end of February.
2. The gravel extraction by the river is subject to a proposal for the building of a rowing lake once the gravel has been removed. This is a 7-yr process and if agreed would result in a national rowing facility.

**Lengthsman report** – Lengthsman reported a significant litter build up along a number of local lanes. Proposal made to organise a 'litter pick' asking for volunteers from the community to help. Clerk to investigate supply of bags/pickers etc., with a view to a date in mid-late March. A request made for the condition of Baughton Lane to be brought to the attention of Highways – edge of lane breaking down.

**Correspondence** - no additional items.

**Councillors reports** – no matters arising.

**Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30pm followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm.

**Signed: M. Brooks – Clerk to the Parish Council**

Chairman - Phillippe Smith    Vice Chairman – Michael Brooks  
Clerk - Michael Brooks

Contact Details: email - [hillcroomepc@btinternet.com](mailto:hillcroomepc@btinternet.com) Telephone: 01684 594471