



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

THE MINUTES OF HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Earls Croome Village Hall at 7.30PM on Tuesday 12th February 2019

Present: Councillors Smith, Brooks, Coole and Jarvis .

In attendance: Three members of the parish, one visitor, the Lengthsman and County Councillor

1. Apologies: Councillor Owenson (MHDC) and Cllr Eaton.

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

Meeting was adjourned for Public question time, the Chairman deciding to open the floor at the end of the meeting.

3. Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2018 were approved and signed.

4. Visiting speaker – Mr R Haynes, Traffic Management Advisor - Councillors were provided with an insight into the methods of the Safety Camera Partnership and the County Council when dealing with speed complaints. Recent activity has included a traffic survey and a review of signage within the village. Whilst the results do indicate an excess level of speed, enforcement is not possible due to the lack of view and safe locations. Additional engineering solutions may be the key, so further consideration of extra road markings is to be undertaken. Funding to assist with this may come from the County Councillors' allocation or the Crime Commissioner's Fund for Road Safety. The installation of the 'gates' is awaited in March in the hope that it help reduce overall speed and increase awareness. Heavy goods vehicles are seen to be the greatest threat, the chairman showing photographs of an incident in the past when a tipper vehicle crashed into Myrtle Cottage.

4a. Visiting Speaker – Rev. Jane Francis – the meeting was informed regarding the outcome of the recent survey of St Mary's church carried out by the Church of England. It has been identified that there are significant works required to ensure the ongoing safety of the building – some immediate and some medium term. The cost of the works is estimated at £25k. It was highlighted that whilst the church has a small, loyal and enthusiastic congregation the age profile of those who have provided voluntary help is mostly retired people and this is unsustainable.

There are a number of options open to the diocese and no decision has yet been taken. This might include denoting the church as a 'festival church' which would keep it open for major religious festivals, christenings, weddings and funerals without the need for regular services.

Chairman asked that we be updated with the nature of the works needed so that we can advise parishioners of the ongoing need for support and to determine what expertise or assistance may be available. Consideration is to be given to raising a maintenance team to provide voluntary support.

County Councillor reported that funding is available for assisting with church matters.

5. Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – discussion held relating to the purchase of a second speed sign. Clerk had prepared a comparison of three manufacturers, both battery and solar powered. After due consideration, it was proposed that the new sign should be a 'speed reminder' type and solar powered. The costing is in the region of £2600 + VAT, half of the cost to be met by our County Councillor.

The Clerk is to investigate the cost of a similar item from the company 'Westcotec' (the company who made the current sign) and then circulate the result to councillors before a final decision is made.

Chairman - Phillippe Smith
Clerk - Michael Brooks

Contact Details: email - hillcroomepc@btinternet.com Telephone: 01684 594471

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6. Progress reports

1. Highways – it was noted that the trees on the green have been cut back and the pavement in Ash Lea resurfaced. The 'gates' are due in March.
2. Internal Auditor - Clerk reported that the paperwork has not yet arrived but the auditor is happy that this does not preclude him from carrying out the role.
3. BT Manhole cover along A4104 – now mended and safe for pedestrians.
4. Laptop / technology – Clerk reminded council of the £163 provided for the update of technology by MHDC and the need to consider the best use of the monies.

7. Lengthsman – Chairman thanked Malcolm Tomkins for his service over the last few years, prior to his retirement in March. He has performed the duties 'over and beyond' on occasions and will be a hard act to follow. He was presented with a small gift to demonstrate our thanks for his hard work.

Contact has been made with a potential replacement and further information will appear in the next newsletter.

8. Planning - Council was made aware of two recent applications, one granted (Apple Meadows) and one subject to committee (Apple Tree Cottage)

9. Finance:

- A. Council provided with full disclosure of payments and receipts since last meeting.
- B. Full bank reconciliation provided for Councillors.
- C. Approval to move funds to facilitate purchase of speed sign not yet endorsed pending final decision on which system is to be purchased and the full cost being identified.
- D. Council advised of the purchase of an 'office chair' for the Clerk. Asset register updated.

Reconciliation as at 12th February 2019 Current Account £1471.86 Deposit Account £3911.06 Cash in Hand £ 9.06

10. Training for Councillors

Cllr Jarvis indicated a wish to undertake training following the upcoming elections. Due to changes of staff at CALC no dates are currently available. Clerk to monitor the situation.

11. County Councillor Report

Cllr Middlebrough reported the latest news regarding the library plans at Upton. Plans to make better use of the building are ongoing with suggestions that the police may move to the Fire Station freeing up space.

County Council highways' spending is retained and the proposal for an island at the A38/A4104 junction has the green light. This will involve a three-legged island. All traffic travelling towards Upton from Baughton on the A4104 will be made to turn left onto the A38 before using the island to either go south, west or north.

12. Elections – May 2019 – Clerk is attending a meeting at County Hall to familiarise with the Election procedures on 13th February, provided by the District Council election officers.

13. Correspondence – Clerk informed council of the opportunity to take part in the National 'Litter Pick' on Sunday 24th March 2019. It was agreed to enquire regarding equipment needed and to advertise the event in the next newsletter.

14. Councillors reports and items for future agenda - Chairman reminded the Clerk of the three manhole covers that have sunk creating significant road noise on the A4104. Clerk to progress.

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15. Date of next meetings – **Tuesday 16th April 2019** at 7.30pm at The Earls Croome Village Hall
(Meeting arranged to sign off accounts for the Annual Return)

Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 6.45pm at Earls Croome Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.30pm at Earls Croome Village Hall
Annual Parish Council Meeting

Signed: (Chairman)

Date

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Clerk - Michael Brooks

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