

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
Held on MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2005 in the MEMORIAL HALL

Cllrs present Mr Peter Millard (PM)- Chairman, Mrs Andrea Johnson (AJ), Mr Stewart Scothern (SS), Miss June Cohen-Kingsley (JC-K), Mrs Barbara Barber (BB)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes (DB)

Also present Mr Julian Newbold

Present for Open Forum- PC D Lowe, Mr J Sparks, City Cllr M Thomas, City Cllr S Rogerson, Mr A Leydon, Mr E Pike, Mr G VandeSande, Mrs M VandeSande, Mr Appleton, Mr K Senar, Mrs C Senar, Mr R Dootson, Mr J Stelfox, Mrs A Stelfox, Mr J Puckett, Mrs A Puckett, Mr R Jump, Mrs H Jump, Mrs M Brookes, Mr J L Robinson, Mrs Robinson, Mr D Ruddick, Mr C Knowles

669 Apologies

Cllr Stephen Jones

Standing orders were suspended

Open Forum

Police & Communities Together (PACT) meeting; Pc Lowe gave the police report- during the previous month 13 crimes had been recorded; several of these were autocrimes, theft of a vehicle, damage to vehicles, theft from vehicles and therefore priority is being given to increase patrols in the area; also there had been a theft from a shop, damage to the Memorial Hall and an assault. Several of the offenders were being dealt with. There had been reported 5 cases of anti-social behaviour and there had been a road accident at the Bottomdale Road/Manor Lane junction. It was also noted that a Landrover belonging to Slyne with Hest Football Club and parked on the field had been damaged and subsequently set on fire.

Mr John Sparks, representing the Heart of Lancashire Appeal and coordinator for the local First Responder Scheme explained the benefits of this scheme and the important work it does in helping to save the lives of heart attack victims. The First Responders are volunteers who are trained by Lancashire Ambulance Service and attend emergency heart related calls within their area to assist the patient until an ambulance arrives. Mr Sparks appealed for funding to train more volunteers and to buy important equipment.

Mr R Jump led a group of residents who were concerned and opposed to a planning application (05/01366/FUL) put forward by Kitchin Builders to demolish the former United Reformed Church and to build eight apartments on the site. The concerns included the increase in on-street parking leading to congestion on adjoining roads, increased traffic hazards near the entrance to the development, loss of light and privacy for neighbouring residents, increased light pollution in the evenings, the possible devastating consequences of deep excavations close to the canal, safety and nuisance during demolition and construction work and the capability of the sewerage system to deal with water and foul from eight additional properties. While many would like to see the original part of the present building preserved because of its associations with Mawson, the prominent local architect of the period, most were not averse to the development of the site provided that it is inkeeping with the area and the housing is of a lower density. It was also suggested that this was not a particularly suitable site for sheltered housing. Mr E Pike, representing Kitchin Builders, explained that the property contained traces of asbestos and this could cause some difficulty in converting it to housing, also there was damage to the roof and rot in part of the floor.

It was reported that Mr S Gardner, Lancaster City Council Conservation Officer had inspected the property with a view to considering conservation but much of the internal panelling had already been removed. One of the United Reformed Church elders explained that there was some severe structural damage to the building such that the expense of repair was prohibitive and the Church had felt that there was no justification for trying to perpetuate the building.

The residents were advised to write to Lancaster City Council Planning Department to make their protest. The application is likely to go before the Planning Committee and Cllr Thomas offered to make representation and put forward the issues raised.

Mr A Leydon, representing Slyne with Hest Bowling Club outlined two proposals for the construction of a new marking hut for the Club to replace one which was destroyed by fire. One was a prefabricated steel structure which would need to be lifted into place by a crane and the second an architect designed breeze block construction. A problem with the former proposal was the means of moving it into place

with potential damage to the ground. The second proposal was the more costly option. It was hoped that the insurance claim would go some way towards paying the cost. The Council will look at these. Also Mr Leydon was assured that he could go ahead to seek tenders for the green maintenance during the 2006 season, independent of the Council and in line with the proposed lease.

Mr C Knowles, representing Slyne with Hest Football Club apologised for the absence of Mr S Wright, the Club's solicitor, and other Committee members but explained that the Committee thought that the proposed rent of £500 was too high. In terms of value comparison could not be made with agricultural land, the Club had taken the land from a ploughed field to the pitch as it is now. The Council indicated that it was willing to discuss the figure. It was suggested that a way forward was for Mr Wright to personally contact Bannister Bates, the Council's solicitors and to discuss the terms of the lease which the Council was offering. Mr Knowles pointed out that, in order to fund the proposed developments at the football ground and to promote more youth football, the Club would be seeking to raise money through advertising and sponsorship.

After the visitors had left the meeting standing orders were reinstated.

670 Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposal to accept these as a true record made by AJ, seconded by JC-K and agreed.

671 Matters arising from the minutes

Following the reporting of the damage to Hatlex Lane bridge British Waterways had promised a reply in 20 working days.

Planters for the Marine Drive/Station Road area; JC-K had collected £50 sponsorship. She was thanked for this. Sponsors are to be sent a receipt and letter of thanks. Designs and costs are to be investigated.

S Hill and insecure gate near to 50 Coastal Road - fear of sheep escaping from the field on to the road; JC-K had spoken to him about this.

John Graham, land on foreshore; rent not received, a reminder is to be sent. In the meantime the lease document is not being sent to him.

672 Financial matters

A monthly receipts and payments report as presented.

Current Account £2800, Savings Account £21047.29

Resolution to add Stewart Scothern and Barbara Barber to the list of signatories on the Alliance and Leicester Accounts carried; proposal made by PM and seconded by AJ.

Purchase of wreaths and donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (S137/118); proposal to donate £50 made by AJ, seconded by SS and agreed. Expenses of £10 were paid to the bugler at the Remembrance Service. Mrs Berry and Mr and Mrs Nelson are to be thanked for their generosity in providing refreshments after the service.

Heart of Lancashire - First Responder Scheme (see above). Proposal to make a donation of £2000 under the powers of S137/118 made by PM, seconded by SS and agreed.

Mr Frank Foster had pointed out that the parish website seemed to be proving to be value for money because the numbers of 'hits' had increased significantly over the past twelve months.

673 Payment of accounts

Proposal to transfer £2500 from the Savings Account to the Current Account made by PM, seconded by AJ and agreed.

Proposal to pay the accounts as listed made by PM, seconded by AJ and agreed.

Chq No.

100784	Mayoh Press	76.38	printing compliment slips
100785	GL Sharpe & Son	1805.38	boulders for foreshore
100786	Hostway	93.41	website, annual subscription

100787	Lancaster City Council	364.25	bowling green maintenance
100788	Lancaster City Council	28.20	play equipment inspection
100789	Lancaster City Council	1023.26	grounds maintenance
100790	BT	176.36	phone bill
100791	Mrs D Brookes	605.28	clerk's salary & expenses
100792	Petty cash	42.53	sundry items
100793	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	50.00	donation (£137)

674 Bowling Club

The Council considered the two options put forward for a replacement making hut which had been put forward by Mr Leydon (see Open Forum). It was decided that the second option although more costly was preferable, being more inkeeping with the surroundings. It was resolved to make a donation of £1000 to the Bowling Club towards the cost of this hut. Proposal made by JC-K, seconded by BB and agreed.

The situation regarding the proposed new lease and financial arrangements with the Club was clarified; the present Council cannot commit itself or future Councils to provide funding for the Club each year. The Club may, if it wishes, make a submission to the Council for a grant and this will be considered by the Council and if agreed included in budget proposals. The Club will be expected to be wholly responsible for the letting of any of its contracts.

675 Football

Lease discussions -see Open Forum - ongoing

676 Open Spaces

Tennis Club Lease; the Club secretary had written conveying the committees detailed objections to the proposed rent of £150 in the first year with annual increases of £10 in the succeeding four years and a review after the five year period, rather than the Club's proposal of £100 per annum.

The Council considered the rent again but did not feel that the proposed additional £50 was excessive and decided to stay with its proposal. Alternatively, it was suggested, the Club may wish to revert back to paying a rent which is a percentage of its total membership fees for each year.

Dog waste bin at Sea View Drive- Mr Fish had met with JC-K and DB and explained that he was not only protesting about the placement of a bin on his land but also about other issues affecting his land and lack of communication by the Council and other Authorities. Lancaster City Council Environmental Health Department to be contacted and the situation explained and a request made to move the bin to a suitable place which is not on Mr Fish's land.

Recreation Field; improvement of area in north eastern corner- it was decided to accept the estimate given by Mr P Walton for the topping of a dead elm tree (£325) or its felling (£250), taking into account safety implications, and to fell other trees (£300) as discussed with Mr Steve Edwards, Countryside Officer, (see 659); proposal made by AJ, seconded by JC-K.

Information from Playdales about new play equipment was still awaited.

Christmas Trees; it was decided to erect Christmas trees again this year outside the Memorial Hall; proposal made by AJ, seconded by JC-K. M Ashton to be asked to arrange this.

677 Foreshore

Provision of Plaque; a meeting on site had been held with Mr McAvoy of Leander Architectural, JC-k, BB and DB attended, to discuss the options for a toposcope or viewpoint. Details and prices had been promised but were still awaited. BB to contact Rotary International regarding sponsorship.

A suggestion was made of an interpretive plaque for the presently exposed quay - to be passed on to members of the Local History Group for their thoughts.

Land for Dr & Mrs Pearson's garage; the Lancashire County Council had promised some information but this had not arrived to date.

678 Burial Ground

Work on kerbed graves; a quotation of £2000 +VAT had been supplied by City Contract Services for lime stone chippings inside kerbed graves and also between kerbed graves; for the removal of 5 kerbed graves

which are beyond repair and the resetting of 4 kerb sets which are loose. PM proposed the acceptance of this quotation, seconded by SS and agreed.

The testing of the memorials for stability is due to commence and a notice informing the public of this has been placed at the burial ground.

It had been seen that a person had attempted to enter the Burial Ground with a vehicle through the top gate, causing a traffic hazard. To improve safety, a notice is to be put in place prohibiting the use of this gate for vehicle access.

679 Planning Applications

Application No.

05/01366/FUL demolition of existing building and erection of eight sheltered housing units with integral garaging for Kitchin Builders, former Hest Bank Congregational Church, the Crescent, see Open Forum – the Council took into consideration the views and concerns voiced by the residents and gave its support

05/01353/FUL erection of a garage to replace existing garage for Charles and Marjorie Udall, 7 Hatlex Drive no comments

05/01367/FUL erection of extension to side and rear for Mr & Mrs E Livermore, 20 Hest Bank Lane no comments

05/01403/FUL erection of a single storey double garage for Mr P Edmondson, the Coach House, Beaumont Grange no comments

05/01409/FUL erection of single storey extension to rear Mr & Mrs J Edmondson, 58 Hest Bank Lane no comments

Also noted, a pre-application consultation had been received regarding the erection of a 'tree' mast at Dale Barn Farm – very close to boundary but actually in parish of Bolton-le-Sands.

Applications granted

05/01102/FUL Mr J Lamoury, Alice Springs, Hasty Brow Road

05/01213/FUL Mr & Mrs Angus, Green Acres, Hasty Brow Road

Refusal of consent

05/01110/ADV Mrs C Williams, VVV Health and Leisure, The Shore

TPO 155(1989) consent given to fell beech tree, 38 Peacock Lane

680 Highways

Parking on Hest Bank Lane near to the Hest Bank Hotel and the Peacock Lane junction; the clerk had written to Mr Clive Holt of Lancashire County Council with the suggestion of placing bollards on the pavements in these areas to cut down the parking hazards but a reply had not been received to date.

Lancashire County Council had decided not to provide a pedestrian refuge at the southerly end of Marine Drive as part of its improvement scheme for the A5105. The reasons are difficulties with access at 64 & 66 Marine Drive, the repositioning of a bus stop and the narrowing of lanes which could leave cyclists vulnerable.

Mr J Gilhooley had forwarded a copy of a letter which he had written to Lancashire County Council regarding traffic hazards on the A6 at the Bottomdale Road/Manor Lane junction. This was noted

681 Vacancy on the Council

Mr Julian Newbold gave a summary of his background outlined his interest in becoming a parish councillor.

The Council decided to invite him to become a member. Formal cooption will take place at the next meeting.

682 Correspondence

Heysham News, 2 issues; CPRE, Countrywise newsletter; Clerks and Councils Direct, 2 issues; Connexions, information; Victim Support Lancashire, information and appeal; Lancashire Constabulary, Newsbeat;

CVS, Streets Ahead, road safety information; Lancashire Sustainable Transport Forum, information and date of next meeting on 14 December; LAPTC; minutes of Lancaster Area Committee meeting; Lancashire County Council, Strengthening Local Democratic Decision Making in Lancashire-proposals for consultation; STILE, campaign regarding wind turbines in the Lune Valley -all above circulated.

683 Parish Plan

It was reported that the Plan had been sent to the printers and had been published on the website.

Mr John Stelfox was looking into the possibility of additional funding for the development of a Village Design Statement.

684 Matters introduced by members for future consideration

AJ reported on a meeting of the Morecambe Bay Partnership which she had attended. The main focus had been on the cockling issue. The Flookburgh and Pilling beds are being reopened and the Sea Fisheries Agency was looking at opening the local beds again next September, depending on the state of the cockle population. It seemed likely that the beds would be opened for a limited season, probably September to March.

AJ reported on a meeting of the Rural Sustainable Traffic Forum; attempts are being made to try to retain the Carnforth Connect bus service. The introduction of 20mph limits through villages is being looked at, especially in areas where there are few pavements- our village could possible qualify.

PM need to begin to consider next year's budget; date fixed for budget meeting on 9 January 2006 at 7.30pm.

685 Date of next meeting

Monday 19 December 2005 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.