

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2014 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors present Mr Stewart Scothern(SS)-Chairman, Mr Stephen Jones (SJ)
Miss June Cohen-Kingsley(JC-K), Mr Roland Stretch(RS)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

2076 To receive apologies for absence Cllr J Leeman (retrospectively)

Cllr M Hargest had decided to tender her resignation with immediate effect because of work commitments.

The Council is to send a letter thanking her for her support and work during her time with the Council. The vacancy caused by Ms Hargest's resignation will be referred to the Lancaster City Council Elections Officer.

Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned for the Open Forum -Standing Orders were suspended.

Present for the Open Forum: City Cllr M Thomas, City Cllr S Rogerson, Mrs S Drake (representing FROGS), Mrs J Bateman (representing FROGS)

- Cllr Thomas commented on the publication of the results of the Lancaster City Council's consultation on land allocation for housing development. The City Council is holding a Neighbourhood Planning Event to which parish councillors are invited.
- Cllr Thomas and Cllr Rogerson were informed about the exchange of messages with Mr Ian Sharp who lives on Highfield Drive and Mr Michael Macklin from Canal & River Trust about the toilet block on the canal bank at Hest Bank. Mr Sharp had made complaints about the poor state of the building and the misuse of it and the surrounding land. The clerk has been given to understand that Officials from Lancaster City Council have been surveying the toilet block with a mind to either demolishing it or refurbishing it depending on its condition and funds available.
- Cllr Thomas and Cllr Rogerson were given more information by Cllr Jones about the intention to try and have the Mawson bungalow (now Islay & Seaways) on the shore listed through English Heritage.
- Mrs Drake and Mrs Bateman reported on a meeting to discuss the setting up of 'FROGS', an action group for the development of recreational areas in the village, the promotion of events and for fund raising. Cllr Leeman had been present. A prime concern is the as yet incomplete recreation field improvement project. There has been considerable difficulty and delay in reaching the required standard of work on the recreation field. Mrs Drake said that through a contact with a representative from Costain, the contractors building the M6 to Heysham Link, help to drain and improve the field has been offered. This is to be followed up and the Council agreed to supply plans and an outline of what was intended to be done under the previous contract. It was suggested that FROGS should become a registered charity with a wide remit for the support of village activities.

The visitors left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated

2077 To record Declarations of Interest none

2078 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 September 2014 as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

2079 Progress Reports (for information only)

- Cllr Roland Stretch is confirmed as a signatory on the accounts.
- Lancashire Constabulary has confirmed that it will not always be possible for a member of the local policing team to attend meetings and they are promoting the website www.police.uk to access crime statistics.

- Parliamentary, City and Parish Elections will be held on 7 May 2015. Parliamentary results are expected on the Friday morning. The City Council count will be held on Saturday morning and the Parish Council count on Saturday afternoon.
- The May Fair Committee has been disbanded. The balance in the account is to be passed to the Council and will be held in reserve for any future similar organisations or events.
- Work on the gates and the fencing alongside the entrances to the recreation field has been finished and the large gates will be locked for security. Access will be through contact with the clerk or lengthsman.
- Trees on Shady Lane, on land between the lane and the service road; Lancashire County Council have claimed that maintenance of the trees is not their responsibility.
- Urban Saints, the Church Youth Group, have carried out work tidying up Bottomdale Wood and have asked for permission to cut back some small trees that are reducing light. This was agreed but it was suggested that they seek advice from Mr P Walton, tree specialist. The group would be willing to tidy up others area and the care of the pound was one suggestion put forward.
- The results of the Lancaster City Council's planning consultation have been published and are available through the planning policy consultation pages on the website. A summary is to be circulated to councillors.
- Registration of land at the Memorial Hall field with the Land Registry -a meeting has been held with the Council's solicitor and a Statement of Truth in support of an application for registration based upon adverse possession has been drawn up.

2080 Administration

Council vacancies -little interest has been shown so far and the Council has not been able to co-opt another councillor.

Review of the placement of the hut used by Preschool on Parish Council land at the back of the Memorial Hall (*minute ref. 1653*). A decision was taken in September 2010 to allow the Preschool to put the hut on the land but this was to be subject to annual review

Resolution: to agree to leave the hut for a further twelve months but to remind Preschool of their obligation to monitor the condition of the hut and to ensure that it is locked securely.

Consideration of improvements to the gates at the side of the Memorial Hall -this has been brought to the Council's attention by the Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall (SHMH) Committee. The gates need some improvement so that they can be fastened securely and they also need painting. It is the Council's opinion that the gates are the responsibility of the SHMH Committee as the land that they enclose is leased to the Committee or maintenance may be the responsibility of Preschool as they had some work done on them. This is to be checked.

Access to the Memorial Hall field from adjacent properties; it has been brought to the Council's attention that several new fences, some apparently with gates, have been erected adjacent to the field boundary. The Memorial Hall field is owned by the Parish Council and the land is designated as a public open space and subject to the Council's bye-laws. The Council welcomes the improvements to the appearance of the boundary. However it was decided to remind all householders whose land adjoins the field that they have no right of access to the field directly from their property and there is no right of way across the field for vehicles or pedestrians.

2081 Financial matters

Resolution: to accept the half year receipts and payments report presented by the clerk.

Current Account £2,843.78 Savings Account £57,917.78

Insurance premium paid to Zurich -it was confirmed that there was a slight reduction in the premium quoted, therefore a new cheque has been drawn up and the original scrapped.

2082 Open Spaces

Recreation field -as discussed at the Council's September meeting a letter has been sent to Groundwork Pennine Lancashire (formerly Newground), the project contractors, expressing the Council's concerns over the lack of action to get the problems solved and the project completed. A deadline of 31 October 2014 has been given for a satisfactory conclusion to be reached.

Copies of the letter have been sent to Ms Penny Bennett, Landscape Architect and Project Manager, Miss Julie Paton, Environmental Projects Officer at Lancashire County Council, County Cllr A P Jones, City Cllr J M Thomas, City Cllr S Rogerson and the Lancashire Association of Local Councils. A response is awaited. Consideration is to be given to arranging a meeting with the Council's solicitor with a view to sending a form to Penny Bennett and to Groundworks because it is felt that they have not fully filled their obligations.

Railings -an opportunity had arisen for the purchase of 16 panels of railings (used but good quality and in good condition) from Yealand Redmayne Parish Council. A price of £320 for the set had been negotiated. To obtain them at this price, agreement to purchase had to be decided quickly. Councillors were consulted. It is intended to buy posts and gates and to fix the railings round the children's play area. Prices for appropriate posts and matching gates are being investigated.

Resolution: to confirm the agreement to purchase the railings and to further consider the purchase of posts and gates.

Fixing of a new board for 3 plaques on the recreation field; the site has been inspected and a quotation of £125 for fixing has been received from Acorn Oak who are making the board.

Resolution: to accept the quotation to have the board fixed.

It was agreed that Cllr Stretch should purchase a sign for the litter bin on the children's play area requesting that plastic bags containing dog waste are not deposited in there.

A meeting with FROGS -action group has been held; see Open Forum above

Development of the pond and wetland area; it was felt that further work is needed on this area and that professional wetland landscapers should be contacted for advice and quotations. Cllr Jones has obtained some information through the internet and the clerk is also making enquiries.

Cutting back of the trees, bushes & vegetation and the laying of the hedge behind the play area and along the eastern edge of the recreation field. It was agreed to ask Mr Peter Walton, Tree Specialist to carry out some work and if necessary to employ a specialist hedge layer to attend to the hedge. Quotations for the latter will be required.

Request made by Slyne with Tennis Club for consideration to be given by the Council to the lease of land for a third tennis court; it was decided at this stage not to make any commitment but to wait until further ideas for the future development and use of the recreation field are discussed.

Grounds maintenance 2015 -the details of the work to be included in a schedule for the grass cutting on the parish council areas were agreed. On the basis of this quotations for the work in 2015 are to be sought.

2083 Burial Ground

New burial area -planting of a copper beech hedge alongside -Mr Walton has estimated that 70 trees will be required and a quotation of £261.80 + £52.36 VAT has been obtained from Weasdale Nurseries Ltd.

Resolution: to accept the quotation and to order the trees.

2084 Foreshore

The estimate for drainage & improvement work at the western end of the foreshore has now been received from Mr Cowperthwaite but too late for inclusion on the agenda and therefore deferred to the next meeting. In addition to this, it was suggested that, consideration should be given to tidying up other areas.

2085 Planning Applications

None received this month

Notification of permission granted

14/00783/FUL 44 Manor Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6JE

14/00846/FUL 2 Rosegarth, Slyne, LA2 6AT

Notification of applications withdrawn

14/00894/FUL Islay, The Shore, Hest Bank, LA2 6EQ

14/00906/FUL Seaways, The Shore, Hest Bank. LA2 6EQ

Support was given to Cllr Jones as he investigates the listing through English Heritage of the Mawson bungalow (now Islay & Seaways) on the shore because of its historic importance.

2086 Payment of Accounts

Resolution: to authorise the transfer of £2,000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account.

Resolution: to pay the accounts as listed

	DD	Eon	10.71	electricity bill -burial ground
Cheque	101740	Zurich Insurance	856.06	insurance premium
	101741	Travis Perkins Trading Co. Ltd	107.51	materials for open space maintenance
	101742	Printing Plus	257.61	printing village newsletter
	101743	Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance	26.77	OC Cleaning, bus shelter windows
	101744	Mr R McGuire	102.40	groundsman's pay
	101745	Mrs D Brookes	834.10	clerk's salary & expenses
	101746	Petty cash	10.08	postage
	101747	HMRC	504.96	NIC & PAYE
	101748	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council	320.00	purchase of railings

2087 Matters raised by members for future consideration

Further complaints about parking outside St Luke's School

Lack of toilet facilities in the village

Provision of new seats near to the tennis courts

2088 Date of next meeting Monday 17 November 2014 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm