

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 21 MAY 2012 in the MEMORIAL HALL
Annual Meeting of the Council

Councillors present Mr Peter Millard(PM) -Chairman, Miss June Cohen-Kingsley(JC-K)
 Mr Stephen Jones (SJ), Mr Stewart Scothern(SS), Mrs Joanne Leeman(JL)

Also present Ms M Hargest

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes(DB)

1740 **Election of Chairman**

Cllr P Millard was elected unopposed as chairman for the next twelve months.

1741 **To receive apologies for absence** none

Open Forum

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

Present for the Open Forum: County Cllr A P Jones, City Cllr M Thomas, PCSO L Jolly, PCSO S Brown, Mr R Greaves. Apologies for absence were received from PC I Nickson

- Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting: in the previous month, incidents reported included a neighbour dispute, the abandonment of two vehicles, two separate incidents of car tyres being slashed and a theft.
- County Cllr Jones provided information from Lancashire County Council about the expression of interest for work on Rights of Way in the revised lengthsman scheme.
 Cllr Jones explained that in the National Policy Planning Framework the presumption is in favour of sustainable development. Lancaster City Council has an up-to-date Local Plan. These will need to be borne in mind when the Council assesses planning applications and developments. A member of the Bridleways Society had complained that since its resurfacing the road surface on Hanging Green Lane/Manor Lane is slippery for horses and riders are having to use the pavement or verge. This was reported to Cllr Jones who suggested that the complainant contacted him and he would seek information.
- Ms Hargest reported that she has received some support and is still pursuing the issue of the closed footpaths paths which was discussed at the last meeting. Also she expressed an interest in becoming a councillor and was invited to attend the next meeting
- Mr Greaves was assured that the plans for the recreation field development had been made available for public discussion on several occasions. He enquired about the amount of money that has been spent on the play area over a number of years. The details will be sent to him in writing.

The visitors attending the Open Forum left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated

1742 **To record Declarations of Interest** none

Councillors were advised that the Standards Board Code of Conduct is being replaced by a new 'lighter touch' regime which is due to come into force on 1 July 2012.

1743 **Election of Deputy Chairman, Internal Reviewer of Accounts, Representatives on Memorial Hall Committee, Representative to attend LALC meetings**

The following were elected, without opposition, to serve for the next twelve months:

Deputy Chairman - Cllr S Jones,

Internal Reviewer of Accounts -Cllr P Millard,

Representative on Memorial Hall Committee -Cllr J Cohen-Kingsley

Representative to attend meetings of the Lancaster Branch of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils -Cllr P Millard

1744 **Appointment of the Responsible Financial Officer**

Resolution: to re-appoint the clerk, Mrs D Brookes, as the Responsible Financial Officer.

1745 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 April 2012 as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

1746 **Progress Reports** (for information only)

- Fields in Trust Deed of Dedication for the QE II field- because the parish does not have a parish seal, a modification of the document is needed and this will have to be signed. The new version is awaited.
- Burial Ground -all conditions attached to the granted planning application have been discharged. The line of the new wall has been marked and the building work is due to start soon. Further contact about the insurance claim is to be made.
- Flooding on Hanging Green Lane -remedial work is imminent but postponement has been requested until after the Jubilee lunch because of upset to the Memorial Hall field.
- The sunken boat in the canal beyond Occupation Bridge has been reported to British Waterways but so far nothing has been done.
- WW II memorial plaque -this was left in abeyance-further consideration is to be given to its erection
- Manor Road play area -a request has been made to Lancaster City Council for the promised seat and natural play features, however nothing can be promised but it will be reviewed in September.
- Green Partnership Awards presentation ceremony -Cllr Cohen-Kingsley and the clerk will attend.
- Report from the SLCC conference attended by the clerk - an item under discussion was a new power which is to be made available to Parish Councils. This is the Power of Competence. Eligible councils will be able to do anything that individuals can legally do and there will be less constraint on any spending required to fulfil actions under this power. At present this council is not eligible because it does not have sufficient elected members and the clerk has not obtained an additional qualification that is needed.

1747 **Administration**

Annual review and adoption of Standing Orders

Resolution: to re-adopt the Standing Orders of the Council without any amendment.

Amendment of the Financial Regulations;

Resolution: to abolish clause 6.6, as the lengthsman does not wish to hold petty cash, and to adopt the other regulations as they stand.

Lancashire County Council's revised lengthsman scheme; this includes a proposal for the payment of up to £200 to fund Rights of Way work on paths etc. in the parish that will be carried out by the lengthsman.

Resolution; to make a formal expression of interest in the scheme

Parish Council website and consideration of a suggestion to join social network sites; some advice had been obtained and it was felt that there is a need for some caution and awareness of responsibility and that there should be a person responsible for monitoring the content and comments. A decision was deferred.

Consultation on the Electoral Review for Lancaster; some information has been circulated to members and the clerk is to attend a meeting when the details of the review will be explained. At this stage no comments were forthcoming.

1748 **Financial matters**

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

Current Account £2,668.28 Savings Account £74,284.25

Audit 2012 - Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2012

Resolution (i): to approve the Statement of Accounts completed by the Responsible Financial Officer

Resolution (ii): to complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement.

It was noted that a letter had been received from the Audit Commission regarding consultation on the appointment of the external auditor for 2012/13 and future years. The external auditor that it is proposed to appoint for this parish is BDO LLP. There does not seem to be any reason to object to this appointment.

1749 **Payment of accounts**

Resolution: to authorise the transfer of £1,000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account. This will be done by letter signed by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Resolution: to pay the accounts as listed:

	DD	Eon	5.42	electricity bill -burial ground
Cheque no.	101498	United Utilities Water	107.18	water bill -burial ground
	101499	Lancaster City Council	523.72	grass cutting -April invoice
	101500	Mrs F Truscott	24.00	drawings for alterations at burial ground
	101501	Mr R McGuire	131.20	groundsman's pay
	101502	Mrs D Brookes	782.07	clerk's salary
	101503	Petty cash	9.87	postage
	101504	Mr M Ashton	303.74	various open spaces maintenance work
	101505	Mr M Ashton	86.99	construction of base for seat -cemetery

1750 **Open spaces**

Recreation Field Project -tenders have been received from Ashlea Ltd, Barton Grange Landscapes and Groundwork Pennine Lancashire. Mrs Bennett, landscape architect and project designer, has produced an analysis of the figures supplied. The lowest tender from Groundwork at £93,303 is well over the budget of £65,000. A meeting has been held with Mrs Bennett to discuss some of the possible ways that the costs can be reduced by possibly making changes in the methods and materials or moving some of the items into a second phase which would come under 'sports provision' along with the MUGA. It has been suggested that contingencies should be reduced from 10% to 5%. Mrs Bennett is to discuss the cost reductions with Groundwork and negotiate a reduced cost for the preliminaries with the aim to bring the cost closer to the £65,000.

Use of the Memorial Hall field by Preschool; Slyne with Hest Preschool have made a request for the consideration of the erection of fencing along the front edge of the Memorial Hall field to enhance safety when the field is used by Preschool for children's play. This is council-owned land used as public open space. It was decided that it should remain as open space and the idea of fencing was rejected.

1751 **Planning Applications**

Applications No.

12/00204/FUL	Belmont Farm, Hasty Brow Road, Slyne, LA2 6AG
12/00360/FUL	25 Prospect Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6HZ
11/01093/LB	2 Hanging Green Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6JB

No issues were raised on the above applications

12/00362/FUL	7 Highfield Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6DH
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It was felt that insufficient detail had been supplied by this applicant to enable a proper assessment to be made

Notification of planning permission granted

12/00025/FUL	10 Prospect Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6HX
12/00170/FUL	10 Peacock Crescent, Hest Bank, LA2 6EW
12/00242/FUL	15A Hatlex Hill, Hest Bank, LA2 6ET

1752 **Matters raised by members for future consideration**

SS -pothole outside 1 Shady Lane has still not been repaired
PM -consider a policy for advertising in the village newsletter

1753 **Date of next meeting**

Monday 18 June 2012 at 7.30pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

