

HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18 JUNE 2024 HELD IN HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

N Farnden	(NF) (Chair)
O Oldfield	(OO)
N Burdett	(NB)
S Mailer	(SM)
R Rowley-Smith	(RRS)
H Morris	(HM)

IN ATTENDANCE: CCC Cllr Ian Gardener, Sarah Milonas (New Clerk) and B Stoehr (Locum Clerk).

ACTION

240618 – 1 OPEN FORUM AND TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Chairman opened the meeting.

County Cllr Gardener reported that he had received a response from the LHI Team regarding the outstanding invoice. Before the invoice can be raised they need all suppliers to submit invoices to enable them to close the account.

The Fire Authority is meeting this week and will be voting on a new Chief Fire Officer. There is nothing on this month's agenda about the potential closure of fire stations.

LHI Bids – Officers have scored non-complex schemes for committee review in September. Complex schemes are being reviewed.

For future submissions, a red road surfaces and roundels would cost approximately £7,000 subject to the size/width of the road. The Council would probably struggle with reducing the B465 speed limit to 40 mph as it had only just been reduced to 50 mph. More information is available on the website. Options for a footpath on the B465 were discussed. SM arrived at 7.38 pm.

Speed reductions in Great Staughton were discussed.

Most HDC committee meetings, except planning, have been postponed until after the election.

Cllr Gardener gave his apologies for the next meeting as he has another meeting.

240618 – 2 RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from VB (Holiday) and from District Cllr Stephen Cawley (attending another meeting).

240618 - 3 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interests.

240618 - 4 APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES (21 MAY 2024)

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 May 2024.

240618 - 5 DISCUSS THE CLERK VACANCY

At 7.45 pm on a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is, employment matters, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. The member of the public and the County Councillor left the meeting. The Locum Clerk was invited to remain.

The meeting re-opened at 7.53 pm and the new Clerk re-joined the meeting. The Parish Councillors introduced themselves to the new Clerk and outlined their areas of responsibility. It was reported that the previous Clerk was willing to do a handover.

240618 – 6 PLANNING

The report from the Clerk was noted. There were no planning applications for decision this month.

240618 - 7 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

a. To approve account balances and bank reconciliation for May 2024

RESOLVED to approve the reconciliation and bank statements.

RESOLVED to approve Account balances:

Business Money Manager: £4,846.78

Community account: £52,287.18

TOTAL £57,133.96

b. To approve payments on finance reports: June 2024

June 2024 expenditure

Online Playgrounds	£749.00
Total Gas Energies	£45.06
P Baker	£373.08
T&S Groundsmaintenance	£580.00
J Abell (salary)	£143.54
HMRC Software	£100.00
HDC 6 Sessions	£280.90
Spikes for Swings + Fittings	£100.00
Pull up Bench	£400
Water	£12.08

RESOLVED to approve the above payments, plus the St Neots Museum donation £50.00.

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ACTION

- c.** To receive and consider the Annual Internal Auditor report
The Internal Auditor's report was noted.
- d.** To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024 –
Section 1
The Annual Governance Statement was considered and all
the questions 1-8 were answered "Yes" except for question 9
which was not applicable.
RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement (Section
2) be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- e.** To approve the Annual Accounting Statement 2024 – Section
2
RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement (Section
2) be approved and signed by the Chairman.

240618 - 8 MEMBERS' UPDATES

Communications and Website - OO reported that there were
no updates.

RESOLVED that the Chairman would like to look at producing
an annual Parish Council report in three months' time. This is
to be discussed further in July.

HM – no updates.

Crime/Safety and Environment - SM reported that she had
contacted HDC about electric recycling bins which should
be available to all parishes. She had also contacted an
ecologist about the Biodiversity survey.

Community Involvement - NB provided an update on the
Village Plans discussed at the last meeting.

The Oil Buying Group had spoken to Lionel Thatcher from
Kimbolton Parish Council. The Kimbolton scheme is no longer
operating as they had not managed to find a new supplier.
It was agreed that it is not feasible to continue investigations.
RESOLVED that the Parish Council should publicise the
information in the report and recommend smaller local
groups around the village.

NB

NB

Street lighting – The County Council has confirmed their
lighting policy for dimming lights. RESOLVED that the Parish
Council should take no further action on the CCC lights, but
a similar arrangement for the Parish Council lights could be
investigated. A list of the PC owned lights is to be obtained.

NB

Listing of groups on the website - NB has begun to compile
the list and will continue with this and ask OO to publish on
the website when ready.

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ACTION

- I Table tennis table – Three companies have been approached. The Parish Council's preference is for a metal table (Cornilleau 510) anchored into the ground at a cost of £832.00 +VAT, plus £225.00 +VAT for an anchorage kit
RESOLVED that it was understood that the Fete proceeds could fund this, but the Parish Council is to fund it if not.
Grant funding may be available from Table Tennis England which is to be investigated. **NB, Clerk**
- Open Space checks and trees – RRS reported that the RoSPA recommendations were almost complete, and the remaining items were in hand. 32 feet were required at approximately £5.00 each. HM agreed to purchase these if her trade discount could be used. **RRS &HM**
- Timber seat and sit up bench – the seat work had been completed and the repairs to the sit up bench were expected to be a lower cost than expected.
RESOLVED to note the RoSPA report.
- The bin by the bandstand was in order but the one outside was rather full.
- Trees in the Garden of Rest were covered in caterpillars.
RESOLVED that RRS should investigate further. **RRS**
- NF – No updates.
- 240618 - 9** CONSIDER ANY COMMUNICATION RECEIVED THAT REQUIRES FORMAL NOTING OR DECISION BY PC
- a. The letter from the Museum was noted. A donation of £50.00 had been granted.
- b. The Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan was noted.
CCC weed regime – The CCC response, that they were re-instating the previous regime, was noted. Brambles near the Hail Weston House are encroaching onto the highway.
- c. RESOLVED that NF should discuss this with the landowner.
Footpaths – Images from the Parish WhatsApp were considered.
- d. RESOLVED that NF should raise issues with the landowners
- 240618-10** MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA **NF**
- None. NB asked about the notice board keys for the fete poster. These are held by the Clerk.
- There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.38 pm. **NF, Clerk**