



Minutes of a meeting of Hilldale Parish Council

Thursday 7th March 2024, 7.00pm

at Hilldale Village Hall

Participants: Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr S Ashcroft (Vice Chairman), Cllr I Bell, Cllr D Whittington, and Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk) & 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence** - None

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

- a. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors in relation to items on the agenda
 - b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests
 - c. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
- None received

3. **Public Participation:** The meeting was adjourned for a period of public participation.

Due to a curling kit not being available John advised a sample boule had been tested out on the village hall floor; Cllr Bell expressed concern as Parish Councillors had requested site of the equipment prior to use on the floor. The sample was circulated to Parish Councillors at the meeting.

John requested an update on the 'calendar on the website'. The Clerk liaised with the website provider following the last meeting to incorporate the calendar onto the website, the Clerk populated the information onto calendar a week ago.

The maintenance of the gravel path on the field perimeter was highlighted as it is wearing away in parts. Parish Councillors agreed a long-term improvement plan is needed to make it fully accessible. The Clerk to investigate grant funding opportunities.

Lissy attended the meeting and offered to undertake a regular litter pick day in the village, she enquired if other residents would be interested in attending. She has contacted WLBC who have offered to supply bags; tools and hi vis. The Chairman advised that litter picks are undertaken by the HCA and that this ties in well with the monthly coffee mornings. An agenda item will be put on the next meeting to discuss further.

On behalf of a resident the Clerk raised concerns regarding the increase in dog fouling on the playing field and whether a 'dogs must be on leads' could be instigated as a temporary measure to see if lessened the amount of fouling. It was confirmed that the Parish Council provide dog bag dispensers at both ends of the field and a requirement for dogs on leads would not be possible to police and enforce. A reminder to 'clean up after your dog' will be placed in the next newsletter.

4. **To consider a request from Hilldale Community Association to financially support cultural performances at the Hilldale Fair and Fun Dog Show 2024.** It was ratified that the Parish Council will be building up reserves next year and unfortunately do not have budget

provision to financially support the HCA. John (HCA) thanked the Parish Council for their consideration.

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting - to resolve to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 04.01.24** – it was resolved to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 04.01.24, proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Whittington.
6. **Parish Clerks Report (previously circulated).** The Clerk was thanked for the report, the content of which was noted. The Clerk highlighted that EON had e mailed to advise that the smart meter in the village hall is no longer working and a new meter is required. Due to EON being unable to provide a time slot to replace the meter and concerns if a new meter would work it was ratified the Clerk should take actual meter readings and forward these to EON.
7. **To receive an update on the hall decoration.** The Clerk reported she had contacted the decorator to advise of the flaking paintwork, he will attend site to rectify tomorrow.
8. **Items for information - reports from outside bodies.** None to report
9. **To receive an update on the lamppost locations for the SPID.** The Clerk discussed the updated information from LCC regarding the SPID options and locations. It was ratified to place the project on hold until later in the year.
10. **To receive an update on the Tree Consultancy report.** Following a discussion the Clerk had with the Tree Consultant the invoice was withdrawn.
11. **To receive an update on the Lancashire Environmental Fund tree and bulb project.** The Clerk advised of the success of the bulb and tree planting; the final task is to add a bark mulch around the trees. Once all the invoices have been paid the Clerk to complete a report for LEF in order to source the agreed grant funding.
12. **To discuss the coppicing schedule for the hazels and agree a way forward.** As agreed via e mail the first hazel has been coppiced to the specification determined by the tree consultant; additional hazels will be coppiced on a rolling programme. Provision of fencing around the pruned hazel will be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman up to a maximum budget of £200.00 utilising stock fencing of 1 metre height.
13. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to planning applications together with any received after the agenda is published.** None
14. **To agree the dates of the Parish Council meetings 2024/25.** The meeting dates were confirmed and will be displayed on noticeboards and the website; It was noted the June meeting will focus on the audit only.
15. **To receive an update on this year’s applications for capital grant from WLBC.** The Clerk has submitted 2 applications - one for the disabled bay markings on the car park and one for the purchase of new chairs and stand for the hall.
16. **To confirm the precept for the 2024/25 financial year has been forwarded to WLBC –** this was acknowledged.
17. **To pass a resolution to agree the Parish Council standing orders** - approved
18. **To pass a resolution to agree financial regulations** - approved
19. **To pass a resolution to agree risk management policy statement** - approved
20. **To pass a resolution to agree the internal auditor and fee** - Heelis & Lodge; fees as below plus delivery - approved.

Income/Expenditure banding of Council	Year end inspection only
£15,001 – £25,000	£170
£25,001 – £50,000	£220

21. **To pass a resolution to agree the risk management register – approved**
22. **To pass a resolution to agree the parish council asset register - approved**
23. **To receive the budget monitoring report receipts payments summary for quarter three (2023/24) for members to note – approved**
24. **To consider and resolve the Year End Health Check service offered by Scribe at a cost of £49.00 – approved**
25. **To consider and approve the schedule of accounts for payment - approved.**
26. **Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments - approved.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.15

Clerk: Trish Grimshaw

E mail: Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk

SignedG Ward.....

G WARD, CHAIRMAN, Dated 09.05.24.....