



Minutes of a meeting of Hilledale Parish Council

Thursday 2nd November 2023, 7.00pm

at Hilledale Village Hall

Participants: Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr I Bell, Cllr D Whittington and Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr S Ashcroft (Vice Chairman)
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 appropriateNone received

3. **Public Participation:** To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation.

Any member of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes within the overall time allocated. Please note that any representation or matter raised does not require any response from the Council and should not be debated since no decision can lawfully be made during this time. A member of the public is any person present other than a member or official of the Council. A member or official of the Council may (after the meeting) request a future agenda item be placed setting out what it is the Council is being asked to consider and decide upon.

A member of the public enquired as to the progress with the village plan. The Chairman explained good feedback had been received from residents however this has not progressed further due to changes at WLBC.

It was highlighted that the waste bin had been removed – this is covered on the agenda; item 10

Progress with the SpID was requested - this is covered on the agenda; item 15.

HCA suggested applying for a Whitemoss grant in respect of the play area – the play area is covered on the agenda; item 13.

The Clerk raised a request on behalf of a member of the public who wished to make a donation towards the tree work which has recently been undertaken at the rear of his property. Parish Councillors were extremely grateful of the offer, it was ratified to accept (£200).

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - Minutes of the meeting held on 29.09.23 were approved, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Cllr Bell.
5. **Parish Clerk's Report** – the Clerk provided a summary of her report (previously circulated) which was noted.

6. **To discuss the feedback from the Architect re the emergency fire door and communications with the contractor.** The Architect confirmed 'Fire doors can either open with a push bar or have another type of panic ironmongery – such as a turn button release system. The main thing is that it needs to be openable in case of fire, in the direction of travel, without using a key. The cheapest option is likely to be what has been installed.' The Clerk advised she has requested the contractor attends site to resolve the issue of the door not closing correctly.
7. **To discuss the kind donation to the Parish Council of £200 received and identify the most appropriate use of the donation allocating to a specific budget code.** The Parish Councillors accepted the kind donation. It was ratified to obtain a quotation for a replacement picnic bench to replace the circular bench which has rotted.
8. **To receive a quotation for a stage curtain for the village hall and agree a way forward.** It was ratified to go ahead and order the curtain, this to include fitting.
9. **To receive a quotation for the decoration of the hall and agree a way forward.** A further decorator is meeting the Clerk to provide a quotation.
10. **To receive an update on the waste bins on the playing field.** It was ratified a location across the bridge would be the most suitable, the Clerk requested the exact position is identified to enable WLBC to install the bin.
11. **Items for information - reports from outside bodies.** None to report.
12. **To receive an update on the grant funding to the National Lottery for the new play area.** The Clerk was delighted to announce her grant funding application for £10,000 has been successful. Parish Councillors acknowledged this was an excellent result which will enable the project to move forward.
13. **To receive an updated quotation of play equipment.** The Clerk presented an up-to-date quotation for play equipment based on the feedback from the two primary schools; overall cost £15,930 plus VAT. This included overlay and extension to the wet pour base and installation of 3 new pieces of equipment. The £10,000 grant, £2,000 earmarked reserves and the predicted increase in hall income against budget has enabled the first stage of the play area to be affordable. It was ratified to explore the availability of a taller slide of 1.8 meters and subsequent extension of wet pour and upon receiving the revised quotation the Chairman and Vice Chairman being delegated to make the final decision dependent upon budget constraints.
14. **To discuss and agree other ways of raising finances for the play area including fund raising.** The Clerk confirmed Parish Councils are permitted to fundraise.
15. **To receive an update from Paul Connell from Lancashire County Council (Road Safety) regarding potential locations for the SPID on existing lampposts.** There has been no further communication from LCC. It was ratified to seek a quotation for a non-solar powered SpID that will fit onto an existing lamppost and explore up to 6 lampposts sites. The final decision being delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
16. **To receive an update on the Tree Consultancy report.** The Clerk reported she had contacted Andrew McLoughlin from Treestyle Consultancy Ltd for an up-to-date review of the trees on the field. Andrew has acknowledged the e mail and we are awaiting a date.
17. **To receive an update on the Clerk's application to the Lancashire Environmental Fund.** A decision is due in mid-December
18. **To receive an update on new website.** The website is progressing well with links of progress to date being circulated to Parish councillors to view and provide feedback.

19. **To discuss items for the winter newsletter and agree distribution, printing and date of issue.** It was ratified a spring newsletter will be distributed with news of the successful bids enabling a new village hall floor/improvement and play area.
20. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to planning applications together with any received after the agenda is published – none received.**
21. **To receive the budget monitoring report/receipts and payments summary to the end of quarter two (2023/24 – July to September) for members to note.** The Clerk provided an overview of the financial position to end September, noting the increase in utility costs, however this should be absorbed with the increase in hall bookings and a VAT refund. Parish Councillors accepted the report.
22. **To consider and approve the schedule of accounts for payment - approved.**
23. **Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments - approved.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45

Clerk: Trish Grimshaw

E mail: Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.com

SignedG Ward.....

G WARD, CHAIRMAN

Dated 06.12.23