



Minutes of a meeting of Hilledale Parish Council

Thursday 11th May 2023, 8.00pm

at Hilledale Village Hall

Participants: Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr S Ashcroft (Vice Chairman) Cllr I Bell, Cllr D Whittington and Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk), County Councillor R Bailey and Councillor K Jukes

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
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.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** on 02.03.23 were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Ashcroft and seconded by Cllr Bell.
5. **Parish Clerks Report** – the Clerk provided a summary of her report (previously circulated).
6. **To receive an update on the Whitemoss Community Fund Grant application in respect of the village hall floor and make a decision on the way forward following the receipt of quotations (previously circulated).** The Parish Councillors discussed the quotations recognising that only one quotation met the Architects specification which would provide a long-lasting solution. However, it was recognised this quotation was well in excess of the budget which comprised of the Whitemoss grant and a contribution from the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to approach Whitemoss with an update and establish if any further funding was available.
7. **To receive an update on the sink hole on the playing field following several reports and telephone calls with United Utilities.** The Clerk advised that following the report to United Utilities of the danger the sink hole posed to a dog or child it was repaired. Investigations as to the source of the problem are ongoing.
8. **Items for information** - reports from outside bodies – none to report.
9. **To receive an update on the replacement of the Multi Activity Play Area** – the Clerk reported of the recent damage to the surface of the play area which had been speedily repaired by Laurence prior to the Coronation Event. It will be late June before the Parish Council is advised if the application to Reaching Communities National Lottery has been

successful in progressing to Stage 2. Meanwhile it was ratified the Clerk contacts the local primary schools to request ideas for a new play area.

10. **To request articles from Parish Councillors for the Hilldale Parish Council newsletter, confirm the date of issue and method of distribution.** It was ratified to produce a newsletter in June with articles/ideas from Parish Councillors required by the end of May. Distribution method to be confirmed.
11. **To receive an update on the work the Handyman is undertaking.** The Clerk confirmed the lock on the ladies toilet had been repaired, new plaques secured on the field benches and some work undertaken on levelling flags at the front of the hall.
12. **To receive an update on the capital funding application to WLBC.** The Clerk reported of the successful application to WLBC for a solar powered SPID. The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the new Road Safety Officer from LCC (Paul Connell) to discuss the most suitable locations.
13. **To receive an update on the Local Government Elections held on 4th May 2023.** The hall was once again hired to hold the elections which went well.
14. **To receive an update on the tree work which SMN trees have been authorised to undertake (on the playing field located at the rear of 15 Beechfield).** The Clerk has contacted SMN on 3 occasions to undertake the work at the rear of 15 Beechfield, however to date has not received a response of when this will be undertaken. Cllr Bell to try to obtain contact.
15. **To provide an update following an enquiry with WLBC Arborist department (Russell Critchley) regarding the TPO status of the tree at the rear of 7 Springmount.** It was confirmed by R Critchley there is no TPO on the tree. It was ratified to obtain a surveyors advice to define who is responsible for the land the tree is located on.
16. **To resolve that the clerk seek information and appropriate advice on the operation of a village hall as a charitable trust with the Parish Council as sole trustee.** The Clerk had obtained advise from SLCC (previously circulated) which stated *'The Parish Council can set up a Charitable Trust which would take over the running of the hall. We normally advise that if the Hall is at present owned by the Council as local authority, it is lease to the Charity. This ensures that if anything should go wrong, the ownership of the Hall reverts to the local authority as otherwise in the event of a disposal of the hall, the proceeds could only pass to another charity. We would advise creating a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as the Charity. Members of the Parish Council could be Trustees but it would also give flexibility to enable users or other persons to become Trustees. Any lease would have to be for at least 25 years to qualify for grants'*. It was ratified to seek further legal advice from WLBC and Community Leisure Trust -UK.
17. **To resolve to finalise the Parish Council's financial sponsorship contribution in respect of the HCA Coronation event.** It was ratified to provide a grant of £500 (of which £218.00 has already been paid for the portaloos)
18. **Planning Matters** – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to the following planning application together with any received after the agenda is published. Notice of Appeal; Broom Cottage, Bannister Lane, Bispham – erection of a single residential dwelling. The appeal was noted, Parish Councillors resolved to support the opinion of WLBC.
19. **Ratification and bank reconciliation of the financial year end 2022/23 and subsequent documents to be submitted to the internal auditor** – it was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation and documents for submitting to the internal auditor.
20. **The Clerk confirmed the VAT return for year ending 31.03.23** had been submitted and a refund of £1011.23 was paid into the Parish Council account on 26.04.23
21. **To consider and approve the schedule of accounts for payment** - approved.

22. Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments - approved.

In view of the confidential nature of item 23, members of the public are excluded at this point.

23. To notify the Councillors of the CiLCA result and to request the recommended related increment in addition to the annual spinal column point increment due on 1 April 2023 as per the Clerk’s contract of employment. It was ratified to approve the CiLCA increment and spinal column point progression.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.25

Clerk: Trish Grimshaw

E mail: Clerk@hilledaleparishcouncil.com

Signed

G WARD, CHAIRMAN

Dated06.07.23.....