**Minutes of the Hoton Parish Council Meeting**

**Held in Hoton Village Hall on Monday 27th June 2022 at 7.45pm**

**In attendance**: Cllr Cassell (Chair), Cllr Doherty, Cllr Girgis, Cllr Dargie, Cllr Rathod, Cty Cllr R Shepherd and Victoria Webster (Parish Clerk)

*The meeting commenced at 7.49pm*

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| 1. | **To receive apologies for absence**  No apologies were received. |
| 2. | **Declarations of interests: disclosable pecuniary interests; personal interests; or personal interests that may lead to bias, by parish councillors to items on the agenda.**  Cllr Dargie and Cllr Rathod declared an interest in point 9f. as they live on Vinetree Terrace. |
| 3. | **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th May 2022** The minutes were accepted as true and accurate and were proposed by Cllr Dargie and seconded by Cllr Rathod. |
| 4. | **Questions and comments from members of the public (10 minutes)**  Two members of the public attended the meeting to discuss the ongoing smell from the lagoon. The smell omitted is a sweet, chemical smell and it has been disputed if it is coming from the pools at all. The smell has been really bad most of the weekend and more and more people have been complaining. They also took the opportunity to ask about the gate that was installed on Wymeswold Lane last year as lots of cars and a building can been seen beyond the gate which haven’t always been there and the village hasn’t seen any planning permission for either of these.  One last question raised was the frequency of transport lorries turning into Prestwold Lane off the A60 to enter the racing track. These vehicles often find it difficult to turn sharply into the lane and consistently hold up traffic occasionally reversing to navigate this corner.  It would be nice to know what is going on. The estate manager of Prestwold Hall attended the meeting and answered these questions during this section below. |
| 5. | **Police Report and Correspondence**  The police reports for April and May had been received since the previous meeting. These were distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. |
| 6. | **Borough Councillors Report**  Biodiversity is becoming more of a focus at Charnwood Borough Council. Grass verges and open spaces will not be cut as frequently i.e., round abouts, verges etc will be left to grow wild.  Any planning application, even for one house will now have to demonstrate net gain and has to be +10% of what the plot was prior to the application.  Public examination of the new plan starts tomorrow for 3- 4 weeks with a different topic being examined each week. The topics are advertised on the website. The plan will give a 5-year supply of new houses. Anyone can attend these sessions. |
| 7. | **County Councillors Reports**  Members Highway Fund. Cllr Shepherd gave some suggestions for our proposal. Priorities need be defined. Better to be broader with our proposal than too specific. Speeding is an issue but the broader aspect of this is safety. People’s perception of an issue is an important aspect and should be used. The experts will then review the issues in the village and make suggestions. Seek professional advice and request broad costings also. Cllr Shepherd would like to submit final agreed proposal to LCC officers within 7 days of this meeting. The proposal should finally come from the Clerk. The deadline to get the proposal to Cllr Shepherd is noon next Monday. Cllr Shepherd will submit the proposal to the lead engineer and they will consult their team and ask for their feedback/advice which will take time. Cllr Shepherd to ask the team to provide us with the information, including costs prior to our meeting in September to allow us to make a formal proposal at that meeting. |
| 8. | **Co-option of Councillor**  None. |
| 9. | **Business**   * 1. To approve the new Sickness Absence Policy   Approved and agreed to adopt.   * 1. To discuss and agree the Members Highway Funds and what we will be requesting   Parish Councillors agreed the main areas of concern are speeding, lack of usable and safe pedestrian walkways and inappropriate wide vehicle access to Vinetree Terrace and Old Parsonage Lane,  **Action: The Clerk to put the proposal together and submit to Cllr Shepherd.**   * 1. To discuss proposal for the request for funding for raised beds   The PFC made the decision to renovate the raised beds. The bricks are beyond repair and it was suggested to wrap the bricks with sleepers. Following further inspection this is not achievable and the bricks will need to be removed. Cllr Rathod has put some costs together. The costings for the larger bed is £2220 which includes material costs, disposing of the bricks and the hire of a mini digger. The small beds will cost £240 each, which is just for material costs and the village doing the labour. The beds are becoming dangerous and safety is an issue. This is what the committee feels is the best course of action. This is for information only at this stage.   * 1. Consider and agree use of poster by Cllr Dargie for the Playing Field Volunteer Day   The poster talks about the trim trail and informs residents it has been condemned. There is a desire to seek agreement to remove it and work on a replacement. Volunteers will remove it as long as our insurance cover allows this. All agreed the trim trail can be removed once the leaflet has been distributed. The leaflet explains that moles have had to be removed from the playing field due to safety reasons. The poster also talks about jobs that need to be carried out, both regularly and one offs and asks for villagers help/skills and that specific tasks can be allocated to villagers with specific skills/preferences. Cllr Dargie has kindly offered to cover the cost of the leaflet. It was proposed a leaflet is produced and distributed twice a year. All agreed.   * 1. To approve the use of the new Code of Conduct   All agreed to adopt.   * 1. Consider response to correspondence regarding Vinetree Terrace signage   Members Highway Fund discussion covers this. Professional advice is going to be sought.   * 1. To receive an update on the review of the Strategic Plan   There is a section that falls within the PFC which Cllr Dargie is to update. Cllr Doherty to update the speeding working group information.   * 1. To discuss complaints from residents about the Lagoon smell   The Estate Manager for Prestwold Hall, Hamish Byers attended the meeting.  An apology was given and Hamish confirmed that the estate shares the frustration over the lagoon smell. These have been in place nearly 10 years and they are let out under a lease to Whites Recycle who have a contract with Refreshco. Whites hold a licence for waste drinks which is either spread on agricultural land as waste soft drinks with high nitrogen content can be used in place of fertiliser or put into the lagoon. The estate is deeply frustrated and are attending to the issues and doing all they can within their power to address the situation. The lease expires in November 2023. The estate had a meeting last week with Whites and another this week but they are unable to discuss what is happening. An official apology was given.  Cllr Girgis asked if there were any temporary solutions that could be used. Hamish confirmed the estate are considering all the options open to them and are currently trying a method with includes balls on top of the lagoon which has little evidence to support it. Hamish is happy for us to contact him as often as we like about the smell.  The gate on to the airfield. Hamish confirmed there has always been a gate there but the estate has been experiencing issues with theft so a better gate was installed and has been designed so that agricultural traffic can fit through it. There are no current intentions to use the gate. If/ when this gate comes under full utilisation then planning permission will be submitted.  Car storage. Cars have been stored on the estate since October and no planning application has been submitted. An apology was given for this and Hamish confirmed the estate will shortly be submitting an application following an official visit and request. The cars are coming in from Coalville and are ex mobility cars. There is no public access and no events will be held. Hamish was open to receiving suggestions prior to the application being submitted on how best to manage highways impact.  The two members of the public asked which direction the car transporter will access the estate from? The transport company have been told to turn after Cotes Mill and come in that way but they are nervous about low bridge at Loughborough. The estate is working with the transport company on this. Hamish confirmed they will be instructing a highways report, car survey, speed survey etc. to fully understand the situation prior to the application and they are happy to hold a public consultation on this.  Every man racing Event. Hamish offered an apology about the event that took place recently as it was very noisy and a full enquiry is to take place by the company who host these. The noise was from squealing tyres. A member of staff has been suspended for a week for this as they did not carry out essential tasks that would have partly prevented the noise.  The bund planning application. Hamish offered an apology as no prior warning was given about the application. The bund will be noise sanitation around Wymeswold like the one in Hoton to mitigate the noise of the Every Man racing events. The estate has seen an increase in these activities since covid. This will affect Hoton with lorries transporting materials but the estate is hoping it will be minimal disruption. It is likely that the majority of material will come from Melton and they are intending for the lorries to come via the estates industrial estate and miss Hoton altogether. They hope to build it as quickly as possible to minimise disruption. The environmental application survey has stipulated that building work can only commence after 8am, not during the weekend and with a suggested a maximum weight for lorries.  Children’s nursery. Planning permission has been granted for a children’s nursery up to the age of 7 on the estate, which will have a maximum attachment area.  Environmental project. The estate is in the second phase of their environmental project and are allowing the grass to grow in certain areas to attract bumble bees and sky larks. A footpath has been cut into the grass for walkers. A rare bird has been spotted in the area and there are mandarin ducks nesting in a tree.  450 trees have been planted for the queen’s jubilee across the estate.  The Parish Council want the estate to share their news as they also have positive things to share and feel local residents will be more understanding of the estate. Hamish is happy to look at hosting an open event for the villages to share estate information/projects.  Cllr Doherty asked how the estate communicate information to the community?  Hamish said the estate do very little and are trying to work on this but need to continue to build on this. Hamish is happy for the Parish Council to write to him with issues that are raised and to attend our meetings.  It was suggested that the estate and the Parish Council could potentially hold joint fund-raising events together. Hamish thought this was a good idea. The estate donates around £5000 a year to the air ambulance, DNRC and the Wildlife Trust, as well as hosting 2-3 runs a year without making profit.  Cllr Girgis asked if the estate is aware of the wall that is down along the side of the road? The estate is aware. As the wall is listed a skilled stone mason is required. One has been instructed 6 months ago to fix the wall but there have been some issues due to workload and illness to come to site. A safety inspection is carried out annually.  How are we as a Parish Council going to inform the village about the estate’s updates?  **Action: Investigate our best methods of how we intend to get the information out more widely.**  Cllr Boker was asked about the circulation of The Link and how well received it is? Donations remain healthy so it is felt it is still read by many locals. The next link is September and the cut off for content is the 8th August. There is the space for more coverage if needed.   * 1. To discuss what should happen with the Parish Council scanner and projector   It was agreed we should sell the projector if this is permitted and dispose of the scanner.  **Action: Find out if/how we can do this.** |
| 10. | **To Receive Reports from Councillors**  None. |
| 11. | **To make comments and agree action on the following planning applications:**  *(Italics is for information only)*   * P/22/0782/2. Formation of acoustic bund to edge of car track - Wymeswold Airfield. Import of inert materials from off-site for formation.   An explanation has been received at tonight’s meeting from Hamish which has clarified a number of questions. The Parish Council have no objections to the scheme itself but want to ensure work is carried out during the stipulated working times.   * *P/21/2408/2 - Formation of first floor terrace/balcony to rear and access door, provision of roof glazing above kitchen and insertion of ground floor window to end gable of detached dwelling* |
| 12. | **Correspondence – Discuss and Agree Response to the following:**   1. Useful Links Page Inclusion Request   All agreed this wouldn’t be useful content for the website.   1. Footpath Queries 2. Grass has now been cut where the majority of the issue was. 2. **Action: Clerk to report this on Fix My Street**. 3. **Action: Ask for clarification about the tankers**. 4. Discussed during today’s meeting. 5. Footpaths are not our jurisdiction and please refer to maps. |
| 13. | **To Receive the Clerks Report**  This was distributed prior to the meeting and there were no questions or queries. |
| 14. | **Finance**   1. To review and sign the AGAR paperwork for 2021/22   The paperwork was reviewed and signed.   1. Financial update - The Cash Book & Bank Statement to be reviewed and signed off   The paperwork was reviewed and agreed.   1. To agree payments due for the month (Schedule of Payments to be signed by the Chair)   The payments were reviewed and signed off.   1. To discuss and agree the continued use of the HMRC app for payroll   All agreed it was best practice to continue using the HMRC app as LRALC do not suggest a preferred use to process payroll.   1. Hoton Playing Field Committee Expenditure   This was approved and the cheque was signed. |
| 15. | **To agree items for the Press Release**  Playing Field Committee  Hamish, constructive discussion, see the minutes. Thank you to residents and Hamish. |
| 16. | **To receive agenda items for the next meeting**  None |

*The meeting closed at 10.03*

These minutes are signed as a true and accurate record.

Chairman Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_