**Minutes of the Hoton Parish Council Meeting**

**Held in Hoton Village Hall on Monday 6th February 2023 at 7.45pm**

**In attendance**: Cllr Girgis (Chair), Cllr Rathod, Cllr Doherty, Cllr Dargie, Cllr Boker (left at 8.25pm) and Victoria Webster (Parish Clerk)

*The meeting commenced at 7.49pm*

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| 1. | **To receive apologies for absence**  Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Cassell and Cty Cllr Shepherd. |
| 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 declared an interest in item 9b as she lives on Vinetree Terrace. |
| 3. | **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd January 2023** The minutes were accepted as true and accurate and were proposed by Cllr Doherty and seconded by Cllr Girgis. |
| 4. | **Questions and comments from members of the public (10 minutes)**  No members of the public attended the meeting. |
| 5. | **Police Report and Correspondence**  The police report for November had been received since the previous meeting. This was distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. No questions or queries were raised.  The clerk also brought to attention the December and January police reports which had been received earlier in the day as these identified 3 thefts and 1 car crime within the village and it was felt that Councillors should be made aware. |
| 6. | **Borough Councillors Report**  There will be a public examination on the new Local Plan which will resume tomorrow until the 23rd February. This has taken time to get to this stage as there were a number of queries relating to the housing overspill from Leicester City. The Council has been assured this won’t affect the Borough. Cllr Boker confirmed there are no identified sites in the Wolds to build in the next 25 years but the plan is reviewed every 5 years. The basis for new areas to be identified to build on is a need and it can’t suddenly be decided there is a need. The plan will not reach full Council until September. |
| 7. | **County Councillors Reports**  The following report was sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting.  Please may I draw attention to three items of news, links to which on the County Council’s website I have recently circulated.    The first one I circulated on 26th January. The headline is “We need to reform the system - now”, council leaders tell Government.  I circulated links to items two and three on 3rd February. The headlines are “Budget supports public services during tough economic times” and “Plotting the future of public transport amid challenging times”.    **Matters particular to Hoton:**    Members Highways Fund. LCC have suggested a mains powered SID would be possible for Hoton. The Parish Council would have to take ownership of this following installation which includes the running and maintenance costs.  The Parish Councillors discussed this. Clarification is needed if the Parish Council are expected to contribute to the cost of the SID and installation, what the suggested location is and what ‘looking after’ means. Councillors agreed to contribute up to a maximum of £10,000 if requested. The asset maintenance budget the Parish Council have in place should be adequate to cover the maintenance costs of an SID. Councillors all agreed to proceed with the proposed suggestion of the SID providing the required contribution is below the agreed amount.    Item 9b on the agenda – Vinetree Terrace. Please see below for comments.    Minute 9f on Minutes of the PC meeting on 12th December 2022: “…the Parish Council have not been supported appropriately by LCC during the application period”. I am concerned about this and should like to follow it up with LCC officers. I should be grateful if I could have some further details.  **Action: Cllr Doherty to reply to Cllr Shepherd.** |
| 8. | **Co-option of a Councillor**  It was felt the Parish Council need to advertise for the vacancies in different ways and generally be more proactive in this area. It was suggested the vacancies could be advertised at the same time as publishing the photos of what the Parish Council have done in and around the village. These could be displayed on a noticeboard in the village hall.  **Action: The Clerk to produce posters for the notice boards and advertise more details about the Parish Council and what being a Councillor entails.** |
| 9. | **Business**   * 1. To discuss the recent playground inspection and approve any work to be carried out   The inspection was carried out in November with no major repairs required but a couple of points noted. It was reported that the Trim Trail was in poor condition. This has now been removed. There are broken and missing foot holds on the climbing wall. There is a pinching hazard on the pedestrian gate. Cllr Dargie has spoken to Wicksteed who installed this and have confirmed that is how the gate is and no repairs are necessary. There is now more space around the play equipment at the crown on the tree’s has been heightened. A general upgrade within the play area is needed and the Parish Council will seek funding for this. The report will be discussed at the next Playing Field Committee meeting.   * 1. To discuss the ongoing issues with Vinetree Terrace   This item was brought forward and was discussed after agenda item 6.  The issues were listed for Cllr Boker i.e. speeding, inappropriate vehicle size, lack of pedestrian walkways etc. and they were discussed. The Clerk read Cllr Shepherds report in relation to Vinetree Terrace where he wondered if a one-way system for the road has been considered. It was felt this could cause traffic to increase their speed further knowing there is no oncoming traffic. Old Parsonage Lane is a single-track road with pull ins to enable cars to pass one another but it is not identified adequately as such. There is a road sign at the beginning of the road identifying this and that the road isn’t suitable for heavy good vehicles but it is located in the wrong position and can’t be seen appropriately. It was suggested we request this be moved to a better location or two signs, one on each side.  **Action: The Clerk to speak to Cllr Shepherd about movement and addition of signage.**   * 1. To discuss/receive an update on Planning Application P/22/2163/2   Councillors visited the site, where they were shown around. Councillors discussed the volume of traffic on the site with the owner of the auction group. Access to the site was discussed. It was concluded by Councillors that the auction group would be better to use the access point situation on the industrial estate side of the site. This observation was included in the comments the Parish Council submitted as a response to the planning application.   * 1. To discuss the Strategic Plan   No further comments.   * 1. To discuss how the Parish Council can get residents more involved with identifying issues and contributing to planning   It was felt that full details of any new planning applications should be made easily available on the Parish Council website and then advertise it on Facebook and WhatsApp to enable residents to clearly see the applications and be able to contribute more freely.   * 1. To receive an update on the progress made with the village bus shelters   The shelters are now free of vegetation. One shelter now has a new bench and is looking lovely and one has a missing back panel. Cllr Doherty and Cllr Rathod will review this and get fixed as there are funds still available in this year’s budget.   * 1. To discuss the Parish Councils/Village relationship with the Prestwold Estate   All agreed that whilst Hamish has assisted the Parish Council with queries as and when they arise, it was felt it would be beneficial to have more regular consistent contact with him. It was suggested we invite Hamish to the Parish Council meetings. It was also suggested we could do the same with the DNRC.  **Action: VW to write to Hamish and the DNRC and invite them to the Parish Council meetings. Dates will be provided and they will be asked to advise if they can attend.** |
| 10. | **To Receive Reports from Councillors**  No reports were given. |
| 11. | **To make comments and agree action on the following planning applications:**   * P/22/1777/2. 7 Rempstone Road, Hoton. Tree and vegetation removal to area identified on map in red, and also to remove all trees and vegetation to create access track for works to be completed shown edged. No decision has been made. * P/22/1603/2. 40 Loughborough Road, Hoton. Construction of 4 dwellings with associated parking, hard surfacing and landscaping. No decision has been made. * P/22/1967/2. Falcon House, 38 Loughborough Road, Hoton. Proposed replacement of windows to side and rear of property. This has been granted conditionally. * P/22/1762/2. Harts Farm, 70 Loughborough Road, Hoton. Erection of porch extension to front of house. This has been granted conditionally. * P/22/2163/2. Land off Prestwold Lane. Part change of use of airfield runway to Storage and Distribution of motor vehicles (Class B8) with associated infrastructure (Retrospective Application). No decision has been made. * P/22/2288/2. 23 Hollytree Close. Erection of single storey rear extension. No decision has been made.   Councillors agreed that conditions of planning applications should be recorded on the minutes as these may need to be monitored. |
| 12. | **Correspondence – Discuss and Agree Response to the following:**   1. Wymeswold Road Traffic   Wymeswold Road is restricted to 7.5 tons and below but a villager has contacted the Parish Council with concerns that a number of vehicles are ignoring this.  Cllr Boker confirmed that to enable the Parish Council to take this matter further to LCC, we would need to record the registration numbers of vehicles ignoring the 7.5 ton limit. This should be advertised in The Link. We should ask villagers to check their ring doorbells also. The issue with the 7.5 tons using this road is that they are permitted to do so if it is for access. |
| 13. | **To Receive the Clerks Report**  The Clerk talked through the updates on the report. |
| 14. | **Finance**   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. Review the Laptop Security Renewal   All Councillors agreed the security should continue with Norton. |
| 15. | **To agree items for the Press Release**  Villagers to collect number plate registrations and report them to the Parish Council  The Parish Council have 2 Councillor vacancies |
| 16. | **To receive agenda items for the next meeting**  Quarterly playground inspection  Maintenance of the defibrillator |

*The meeting closed at 9.25pm*

These minutes are signed as a true and accurate record.

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

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