**Minutes of the Hoton Parish Council Meeting**

**Held in Hoton Village Hall on Monday 24th October 2022 at 7.45pm**

**In attendance**: Cllr Cassell (Chair), Cllr Doherty, Cllr Girgis, Cllr Dargie, Cllr Rathod, Cllr Bokor (arrived 7.50pm and left 8.10pm) and Victoria Webster (Parish Clerk)

*The meeting commenced at 7.45pm*

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| 1. | **To receive apologies for absence**  Apologies were received and approved from Cty Cllr Richard 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.**  No declarations of interest were made. |
| 3. | **To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 26th September 2022** The minutes were accepted as true and accurate and were proposed by Cllr Girgis and seconded by Cllr Cassell. |
| 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 September had been received since the previous meeting. This was distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. No questions or queries were raised. |
| 6. | **Borough Councillors Report**  Cllr Bokor has received confirmation that no sites have been identified in the Wolds area in the Charnwood Borough Council Local Plan to build on in the next 20 years. However, the plan is reviewed every 5 years.  Cllr Doherty asked Cllr Bokor if she had any information on the height of the new railway bridge that is being rebuilt on the road that runs from Loughborough and through Hoton. The height hasn’t been provided but it is believed it will be a little higher than the previous bridge. The height of the bridge has an effect on what vehicles use the A60 through the village  The question was raised about countryside crime and what Cllr Bokors impression of this is. All the village Police reports that Cllr Bokor has seen recently state no incidents. However, crime does tend to increase during the winter months due to the early darkness. |
| 7. | **County Councillors Reports**  Cllr Shepherd asked for the following to be reported.  Members Highway Fund. Cllr Shepherd would like to record his thanks to Cllr Doherty for her help in determining the best feasible use of the MHF for Hoton. Following further discussions with Cllr Doherty, Cllr Shepherd now intends to apply for the Village Gateway. The cost of the Gateway scheme is estimated at £12,000, which includes traffic management for its installation. This sum is nearly half of the total allocation Cllr Shepherd has. Cllr Shepherd is grateful to the Parish Council for kindly agreeing to joint funding of the Gateway if Cllr Shepherds allocation is exceeded. The Parish Council are willing to contribute up to £2,000 and is also willing for Cllr Shepherd to request a larger sum if that should become necessary.  Cllr Shepherd asked that Councillors attention was drawn to the information circulated headed ‘Stepping up support as cost-of-living hits’.  Cllr Doherty confirmed that the Environment and Transport Department at LCC confirmed that neither the fixed VAS or mobile VASs are feasible due to the number of signs on the approach to the village and locations of the signs. This therefore leaves option 3, the Gateway. However, it is believed that we may have the same issue when applying for the Gateway. It was therefore suggested the Parish Council ask for advice from the Environment and Transport Department when applying for the Gateway. Cllr Cassell thanked Cllr Doherty for on work with this.  **Action: VW to submit an updated proposal to Cllr Shepherd for the MHF asking for a Village Gateway but also asking the Environment and Transport Department to make suggestions as to what traffic calming measures the village could potentially install in the village if the Gateway isn’t feasible like the VAS and mobile VAS because despite all the signs etc. being in situ, speeding is still a big issue for the village.** |
| 8. | **Co-option of Councillor**  None. |
| 9. | **Business**   * 1. To receive an update on the Members Highway Funds and discuss and agree any alterations that may be required   See above.   * 1. To discuss the quarterly playing field inspection   Cllr Dargie provided the update. The online weekly checklist has now been updated. A quote is to be obtained for a composet replacement of the flower beds and the site access bollard as it is broken. The fence at the entrance to the park is wobbly which Cllr Dargie will ask Hamish to look at as he has previously offered to carry out such small tasks. A quote is needed for the roof of the toddler multi play. The slide needs cleaning. Cllr Dargie has taken photos of the orchard when in full leaf so when it comes to trimming them, they can see where this needs to be done. The cricket nets were not put up this year as birds nested in them in their storage location so they couldn’t be moved. We will ask for the nets to be stored elsewhere.  A meeting is being scheduled with M&BG to discuss the first 6 months catch up. One area that remains outstanding with M&BG is the wild flower meadow but believe this will be a winter cut. Cllr Dargie will also discuss the blackberry bush situation with Wayne at M&BG.  A village day is being planned for November with a suggested date of the 20th November.  Cllr Dargie to contact Stamford Hall about supporting a village project, i.e., trim trail.  Cllr Cassell expressed his thanks to Cllr Darige for the work she does on the playing field.  Linking in with the playing field, a discussion ensued about how to engage villagers to find out what they want to see happen within the village. Both a white board in the village hall asking villagers to leave their comments/suggestions etc. and a suggestion box was put forward. Permission will need to be sought from the village hall.  **Action: Cllr Cassel to seek permission regarding the village hall**  **Action: VW to check when tree survey is due by the Council**   * 1. To discuss the ongoing energy crisis and if the Parish Council want/can offer support to any parishioners who may need help   It was agreed the villagers will be sign posted to where support can be obtained on the website, Facebook page and village noticeboards.   * 1. To discuss and make a decision if the Parish Council want to sign up to the Civility and Respect Project proposed by NALC   All agreed that the Parish Council should pledge. |
| 10. | **To Receive Reports from Councillors**  Nothing to report. |
| 11. | **To make comments and agree action on the following planning applications:**   * P/22/0782/2. Formation of acoustic bund to edge of car track - Wymeswold Airfield. Import of inert materials from off-site for formation. This has been approved. * P/22/1362/2- Conversion of part of existing building into offices (Use Class E (g)(i) and associated fenestration alterations. Provision of additional car parking area to courtyard. Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission P/21/1546/2 under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (change to approved plans to revise access and landscaping). This has been approved. |
| 12. | **Correspondence – Discuss and Agree Response to the following:**   1. Hedgehog Highway Project   All agreed not to pursue this.   1. East Midlands Ambulance Service   All agreed this would be of benefit to villagers but the village hall would need to be consulted as the venue host.  **Action: VW to liaise with the village hall** |
| 13. | **To Receive the Clerks Report**  This was distributed prior to the meeting and there were no questions or queries. |
| 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. Arbitrary Finance Check   The check was conducted by Cllr Doherty. It was suggested that the interest rate used to convert payments from dollars to sterling is printed and attached to the paperwork. |
| 15. | **To agree items for the Press Release**  Playing field day, 20th November 2022, 12 – 3.30pm. |
| 16. | **To receive agenda items for the next meeting**  Budget |

*The meeting closed at 8.40pm*

These minutes are signed as a true and accurate record.

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

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