**Draft Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 10th May 2023, at Walmer Bridge Village Hall**

**In attendance:**

Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), D Owen, J Rainsbury, S Rainsbury, C Foster, S Evald
Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - None
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg held on 10th April 2023**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th April 2023 were accepted as a true record and agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest**Cllr declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she is a member of the Walmer Bridge Village Hall Committee.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes***Parking outside Little Hoole Primary School (LHPS) (item 4 & 5 of last month’s minutes refer) –* The Chair stated that he had reported the faded zig zag road markings to Lancashire County Council (LCC) but as yet had heard nothing back. The Clerk reported that he had, as agreed at the previous meeting, emailed the Head Teacher at LHPS. The Head Teacher’s positive response was read to all those present; the response outlined the continued effort that LHPS is making to address parking concerns.

*Access to bank account* *(item 14 of last month’s minutes refer)* – Cllr Owen confirmed that he does have access to the parish council’s online bank account, in accordance with agreed procedures.
5. **Public Time - matters raised by member of public**The meeting was adjourned for public participation. One member of the public was in attendance and raised the following matter:
*Circular Planters –* The Parish Council was congratulated on the work undertaken by Cllr Dryden in tidying up the planters.

*Pathway not a Bridleway* The member of the public reported that a horse rider had been seen going through the park even though the path was not a bridleway. Cllr Dryden agreed to contact SRBC and Clllr Foster agreed to raise in her role with Walmer Bridge Village Hall (WBVH) as the pathway passes through WBVH land.

Updates were requested on the following:
*Faulty Piece of Gym Equipment on Park* – still awaiting a response from SRBC / Proludic Ltd. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to SRBC.
*Flooding to road & pavement* near bus stop at Walmer Bridge Inn. A report from LCC is still awaited.
*Road Sign for Gill Lane* – the member of public had reported this to SRBC on the 31st Aug 2022 yet the sign has still to be replaced. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to SRBC.
6. **Planning Applications**
	* 07/2023/00232/FUL, Avondale Dob Lane Walmer Bridge, Erection of 4no. detached dwellings and associated infrastructure following the demolition of existing former agricultural buildings.
	* 07/2023/00327/HOH, 7 Liverpool Old Road Walmer Bridge, Side extension and front dormer
	The planning applications were noted and **it was resolved** that no representation would be made.
7. **To approve payments transacted through the bank Apr 2023**

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| **Current a/c Apr 2023** |
| 3-Apr-23 | EASYWEBSITES-8GW6E |  £ 27.60  | Monthly website charge |
| 12-Apr-23 | Lostock Skips |  £ 205.00  | Skip for community garden |
| 20-Apr-23 | CLERK&RFO |  £ 5.40  | March Mileage Expenses (Clerk) |
| 20-Apr-23 | 2324135 LHPC |  £ 416.93  | LALC/NALC Annual Subscription |
| 20-Apr-23 | 120PN027909802312 |  £ 38.20  | HMRC PAYE Tax (Clerk) re Feb Pay |
| 20-Apr-23 | CLERK&RFO |  £ 207.88  | March Net Pay (Clerk) |
| 20-Apr-23 | 120PN027909802311 |  £ 34.00  | HMRC PAYE Tax (Clerk) re Jan Pay |
| **Instant Access a/c Apr 2023** |
| Nil Transactions |

**It was resolved** that the above payments be approved.

1. **Payments for approval**

**It was resolved** that the Clerk’s claim for Apr 2023 of 18.94 hours and expenses of £4.10 be approved**.**

1. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted** - None
2. **Financial Statement as at 30th April 2023**A detailed financial statement was presented to the Parish Council showing the following balances as at the 30 April 2023:
 current account balance of £40,494.86
 deposit account balance of £18,808.88

Gross expenditure for the year is forecast to be in line with the agreed budget of £30,724.
Gross Income for the is forecast to be in line with the agreed budget of £20,250.00.

Currently, there are no forecast variations from budget.

The forecast net expenditure of £10,474 (£30,724 less £20,250) will result in a forecast closing balance of £48,829.74 as at 31 March 2024.

**It was resolved** that the financial statement be approved.
3. **Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2022/23**The council reviewed and agreed section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23. **It was resolved** that section 1 of the return, as presented by the Clerk, be agreed and signed by the Chair & Clerk.
4. **Parish Council Insurance Renewal**The Parish Council insurance is due for renewal as from 1 June 2023. The current insurer (Zurich) had quoted £424.67 for 2023/24, a 18.68% increase on 2022/23. The Clerk reported that he had queried this, a new quote from Zurich had been received of £396.00, a 10.67% increase on 2022/23. BHIB Council Insurance had quoted £777.36. Further quotes are in the process of being obtained. **It was resolved** that the Clerk be given delegated power to renew the insurance based on the best quote available and to report the outcome to the next meeting.
5. **Community Garden Update**Cllr Dryden proposed that up to £1,000 be allocated for spend on plants for the community garden and the purchase of 10 barrel planters. This was seconded by Cllr Owen and agreed unanimously. **It was resolved,** therefore, that up to £1,000 be allocated for the purchase of plants. Some of the planters are to be located where the old parish council notice board outside Spar was located subject to confirmation that Kevin Hunt (Spar) is in agreement with this and subject to satisfactory confirmation as to who owns this strip of land.
6. **Request for funding re Mill Pond at Old Mill Court**A request for funding has been received from Antonietta Broadhurst, resident of Old Mill Court, to help restore the pond and fountain which is a remnant of the factory that once stood on the location of Old Mill Court. Cllr Dryden reported that New Progress Housing (Owners of Old Mill Court) have agreed to liaise with the parish council on this matter. It was agreed no decision, as yet, would be made on providing any funding until further discussion had taken place between the parish council and New Progress Housing.
7. **Future Projects**
	* *Community Garden:* section 13 refers
	* *CIL monies:* no update
	* *Children’s Summer Activities:* It was agreed that quotes would be sought for the climbing wall and bouncy castle. A further suggestion to be explored was the possibility of increasing the range of play equipment and incorporating the event, with for example a couple of “picnic days”, rather than just having two items of play equipment over say six days.
	* *Feature to Entrance to Dob Lane Park:* Little Hoole Primary School has indicated its willingness to involve pupils in the design of the feature. The use of engaging the artist, as used by SRBC, to work with the pupils’ design was discussed
	* *Refresh/Refurbishment of Bridge:* No update.
	* *Wild Flowers, Dob Lane Park :* No update
8. **Correspondence –** an email had been received from Graham Smith covering a number of issues, most of which relate to Road Safety. It was agreed to include these on next month’s agenda and to invite Mr Smith to attend the meeting.
9. **Date & Time of Next Meeting**Monday 12th June 2023, 7pm, The Lounge, Walmer Bridge Village Hall.