

Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council

Council Meeting Minutes

1st April 2003 – 31st March 2004

COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR

Councillor C Iain Ashcroft

Councillor Raymond C Ball

Councillor Brian Birkby (Resigned July 2003)

Councillor Christine Farrington (Elected October 2003)

Councillor J Robert Foster

Councillor Norma M Goodier

Councillor John Hunter

Councillor Rev'd Richard Plant

Councillor Antony P Murphy

Councillor Paul J A Sergeant

Councillor Lesley Standish-Gore

Councillor Hilary J Tompkins

CLERK & R.F.O.

Mr Rodney Sears (Dismissed August 2003)

Mr Ian T Cropper (Appointed December 2003)

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 1 May 2003 in the Methodist Church Hall,
Hesketh Bank at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor R C Ball (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs N Goodier; Mrs L Standish-Gore and Mrs H Tompkins

Councillors I Ashcroft; J R Foster; A P Murphy; R Plant; and PJ A
Sergeant

Apologies were received from Councillors B Birkby and J Hunter and
there were over thirty members of the press and public present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman stated that he was withdrawing this item from the agenda, when questioned why he informed the council that publication 2/86 was required. When Council members protested, the Chairman closed the meeting without the Council's consent.

The Clerk was requested to carry on with the meeting and for the Vice Chairman to take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

At 7.39 pm The Chairman, Councillors Mrs L Standish-Gore; Mrs H Tompkins and J R Foster left the meeting. The clerk also left the meeting after being requested to remain.

The meeting was adjourned while advice on whether the meeting should continue was sought by telephone from the County Advisor of LAPTC.

As there were 5 Council members willing to continue, the meeting re-convened at 7.55 pm. Councillor A P Murphy took the Chair.

Vote Of No Confidence In The Chairman

RESOLVED: This resolution was approved unanimously.

TREE FELLING ON THE FOOTBALL GROUND

Several members expressed concern with the problem of payment, they believed that the contractor thought he was doing this in good faith and perhaps payment should be settled on condition that the mess be cleared and the land re-instated.

RESOLVED: To instruct the clerk to write to the contractor to re-instate the ground, before consideration is given to settling the account.

This resolution was approved unanimously.



The Football Club had received a letter dated 11 February 2003, requesting a suitable date for a meeting with the Parish Council.

It was agreed for Councillor A P Murphy to liaise with the Chairman of the Football Club for suitable dates for a meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that no action be taken on any proposals to replace the Conifers until after this meeting.

DATES OF MEETINGS

Concern was expressed that the dates for meetings agreed by the Parish Council in May and December 2002 had not been adhered to. The Parish Council meeting that should have taken place on Monday 7 April 2003 was completely ignored by the Clerk. It was noted that this was the same date that Tarleton Parish Council held their Annual Assembly.

RESOLVED: The meeting on Monday 12 May should commence at 7 pm to elect officers for the Parish Council. At 8 pm the meeting be suspended to allow the AGM; if time allows reconvene the Parish Council Meeting.

This resolution was approved unanimously

Councillor I Ashcroft said he would obtain the dates of the District Council's planning meetings to enable the Council to set future Parish Council dates.

STANDING ORDERS

There had been a misunderstanding as to what set of Standing Orders the Council should be working to.

In July 2000 Resolution 64/2000 was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to make recommendations to the full Council for amendments and changes to the Standing Orders.

In June 2001 Resolution 54/2001 resolved that the recommendations of the sub-committee be accepted and the revised Standing Orders (dated April 2001) be adopted.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council has been working to the Standing Orders (dated April 2001) and will continue to do so until any new Standing Orders be accepted by the Council.

Councillor Murphy (acting as Chairman) suggested that as there were so many members of the public present the Council should allow public participation. The Council agreed.

The following issues were discussed:

Misuse of public funds with regards to the removal of the conifers on the football field and the mess that has been left.

Drainage problem on Delta Park, it was suggested inviting a representative from Environmental to a future Parish Council meeting. The Council will inform the resident from Delta Park.



Dates and venues of future Parish Council meetings.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and members of the public excluded from meeting.

CLERK'S DUTIES RE; PARISH COUNCILLORS

A long discussion took place regarding the clerk's impartiality, the misleading way he advised members with regards to Agenda items, not including items in the minutes when a Councillor had specifically asked for the item to be minuted; all of which is not what is expected from an experienced Clerk. It was also agreed that the clerk had jeopardised his position by leaving this meeting

RESOLVED: The Council to write to the Clerk advising him of the above.



Handwritten signature and date: 20/5/03.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:- Cllr.R.Ball (Chair)
Cllr.Mrs.L.Standish-Gore
Cllrs.I.Ashcroft, B.Birkby, J.R.Foster, Mrs.N.Goodier, J.Hunter,
A.Murphy, R.Plant, P.Sergeant, Mrs.H.Tompkins.

There were approx. 19 members of the public present at the meeting.

001/2003 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

002/2003 Election of Chair

Cllr.Murphy was proposed by Cllr.Ashcroft, and seconded by Cllr.Hunter. There being no other nominations Cllr.Murphy was appointed as Chair, by 6 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions. He duly signed his acceptance of office.

At this point of the meeting (7.33pm) Cllr.Hunter complained that as this was a 'closed' meeting he objected to members of the public video-recording the procedures. The Clerk's advice was that this was a public meeting and the recording was lawful, provided that the recording was not being carried out by Members of the Council. A vote was taken regarding whether the recording should be discontinued, and this was agreed by 6 votes to 4. When the member of the public refused to stop recording it was ordered by the Chair that the Police should be called. Cllr.Ashcroft duly left the meeting, presumably to contact the Police.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.02pm, the Chair stating that under 1908 legislation the Police had no powers to intervene, unless the member of the public became disruptive. The member of the public promised not to be disruptive and the meeting continued.

003/2003 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr.Sergeant was proposed by Cllr.Plant and seconded by Cllr.Mrs.Goodier. There being no other nominations Cllr.Sergeant was appointed as Vice-Chair, by 6 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Plant, Hunter, Ashcroft, and Mrs.Goodier) to 2 (Cllrs. Mrs.Tompkins, Ball) with 2 abstentions (Cllrs.Foster and Mrs.Standish-Gore). He duly signed his acceptance of office.

004/2003 Election of other officers/representatives on outside bodies

Hesketh-with- Beconsall CE School
LAPTC
Hesketh Village Institute
Lancs.Playing Fields Assoc.

Cllr.Mrs.Goodier
Chair, Vice-Chair, Cllr.Ashcroft
Cllr.Sergeant
Cllr.Sergeant



CPRE	Cllr.Plant
West Lincs.Env.Network-	Cllr.Foster
West Lincs.Right of Way & Access Forum	Cllr.Foster
Layfield Charity	Cllr.Mrs.Goodier
Tree Warden	Cllr.Hunter
Tarleton High School Sports Committee	Cllr.Murphy
Local Agenda 21 – Northern Parishes Public Transport and Road Issues Focus Groups	
– to be nominated on an ad hoc basis.	

005/2003 Appointment of sub-committees

Recreation – Chair, Cllrs. Mrs.Goodier, Ashcroft, Birkby, Sergeant.
Allotments – Chair, Cllrs. Foster, Hunter, Sergeant.
Footpaths, Tree Wardens, and Environmental Issues – Chair, Cllrs.Mrs.Tompkins,
Foster, Hunter.
Centenary Sports Ground – Chair, Cllrs.Mrs.Goodier, Birkby, Ashcroft.

006/2003 Statutory meetings

It was agreed that future Council meetings be held as far as possible on the Monday of each month prior to West Lincs.District Council's Planning Committee. The Chair proposed 23rd June, 6th October, 12th January, and 17th May as the four statutory meetings. The Clerk was asked to prepare a timetable for the remaining meetings.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank, following the AGM.

PRESENT:- Cllr.A.Murphy (Chair)
Cllr.P.Sergeant
Cllrs.I.Ashcroft, R.Ball, B.Birkby, J.R.Foster, J.Hunter,
Mrs.N.Goodier, R.Plant, Mrs.L.Standish-Gore, Mrs.H.Tompkins.

There were approx. 19 members of the public present at the meeting.

007/2003 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

008/2003 Declarations of Interest

Cllr.Mrs.L.Standish-Gore declared a personal interest in Planning Application No.8/2003/0285.

009/2003 Minutes of meetings held on 10, 31 March, 1 May 2003

The minutes of the meeting of 10 March were signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the amendments made at the meeting on 31 March.

The minutes of the meeting of 31 March were signed by the Chair as a correct record after taking into account the following amendments:-

Minutes of Meeting 10 March, 2nd para – delete the remainder of the paragraph after “meeting” on 2nd line. This was agreed by 5 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Plant, Ashcroft, Mrs.Goodier) to 2 votes (Cllrs.Ball, Mrs.Tompkins). Cllr.Foster abstained.

4th paragraph to be deleted in its entirety. This was agreed by 5 votes to 2 (same named voting as above).

Final paragraph to read, “The Chair closed the meeting at 7.38pm”. This was agreed by 5 votes to 2 (same named voting as above).

It was proposed by the Chair that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 May produced by the Clerk be totally disregarded and be replaced by the minutes produced and distributed by Cllr.Mrs.Goodier. This was agreed by Cllrs. Murphy, Sergeant, Plant, Ashcroft and Mrs.Goodier. Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins did not wish to be involved in this debate as she was seeking independent advice on the matter. Cllr.Mrs.Goodier stated that these substituted minutes had already been approved by LAPTC. They were agreed as a correct record by Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Plant, Ashcroft, and Mrs.Goodier and duly signed by the Chair.



010/2003 Matters arising from minutes

There were no items raised under this heading.

011/2003 Correspondence

The Council considered the following items of correspondence, which required a decision:-

A National Playing Fields Technical Advisory Notice outlining NPFA Risk Assessment methodology for inspections of Children's Playgrounds. It was agreed that the Council was covered by the monthly inspections carried out by Yates.

The Clerk mentioned the condition of the cricket ground, which had deteriorated due to football being played on the ground, especially in inclement weather on the day of a match. The Clerk was asked to write to the Cricket Club to clarify insurance in the case of an accident occurring on the cricket ground, which had been caused by other activities.

Letter from WLDC (Council Secretary & Solicitor) regarding correspondence from the Standards Board, and a suggestion that members seek extra training in how to best undertake the business of the Council and reduce inter-personal conflict with other Councils. The previous Clerk had already replied stating that the Council did not consider further training was necessary. It was now considered that extra training may be beneficial and the item was deferred until the July meeting.

Letter from WLDC (Planning & Development) regarding Design Guide for Shop Fronts in West Lancashire. No comments.

Letter from West Lancs. Crossroads Caring for Carers regarding financial assistance. Deferred until later in the year to be considered with other requests.

Letter from WLDC (Planning & Development) regarding caravans on land adjacent to Cedars, Boundary Meanygate, and the enforcement notice served on Mr. Baybutt. Noted.

Letter from LCC regarding Rural Transport Marketing, Services 306 & 361. It was agreed that the services could be publicised on the website and notice boards.

Letter from WLDC (Environmental Services) regarding discussion workshop on Street Cleansing. To be discussed at a future meeting.

Letter from LAPTC requesting which items would be of interest to our Council. Reply to include drinking bans, Quality Council, Quality Clerks, and anti-social behaviour orders.

Letter from Office of the Deputy Prime Minister detailing Amendments to the regional Assemblies (Preparations) Bill. Noted.

Letter from LAPTC enclosing copies of accounts for 2000/01 and 2001/02 and asking for our comments. No comments on the accounts, but Cllr.Plant commented from his experience on the success of training days.

The Council noted the following items of correspondence, which had been received for information:-

Various agenda and Members' updates from WLDC.

Letter from Inn Court – change of licence at 85 Station Road.

Letter from WLDC (Planning & Development) – List of Locally Important Buildings, reply to our letter.

Letter from the Information Commissioner – Freedom of Information Act, adoption of the Parish Council Model Scheme.

Letter from WLDC (Planning & Development) – Residential developments, supplementary planning guidance.

Letter from Home Office – Immigrant Workers

3 letters from local residents regarding removal of trees.

Letter from WLDC (ACE) – Review of the Citizens' Panel and Area Consultative Forums.

Letter from DEFRA – Licensing Bill as it affects rural areas.

Letter from WLDC enclosing Register of Electors, and advice to Parish Councillors on disclosing any information.

Letter from WLDC (Housing) – Best Value Reports Leisure and Street Cleansing.

Letter from DEFRA – Quality Town and Parish Council Initiative.

Letter from HLB AV Audit (via LAPTC) indicating where additional work may be required when completing annual returns.

CPRE Newsletter.

Letter from Environment Agency – Review of BNFL's authorisations for their Springfields site. The Clerk had replied that the Council wished to remain on the list of consultees.

Letter from LCC – Summary of the Constitution.

Letter from Road Issues Focus Group – Details of meeting.

Letter from LAPTC – Details of meeting of Area Committee.

Letter from WLDC (Solicitor) – Parish Register of Financial and Other Interests, reminding Members to take care to register correctly. The Clerk reported that Members had already been notified, and none had requested a Form LGA3 for changing details.

Letter from LAPTC – Appointment of Primary School Governors.

Letter from WLDC (Deputy Chief Executive) – Use of land as touring caravan site, 140 Station Road. WLDC will undertake further investigations.

LCC – Copy of Lancashire County Handbook.

Letter from Victim Support – Recruitment Poster.

Letter from LAPTC – Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, and details of Quality Parish Council Scheme.

012/2003 Finance

The Council considered a list of accounts for payment, some of which had been paid prior to the meeting.

A debate ensued regarding whether the account for tree felling (L.Crabtree) should have been paid. Advice had been sought from LAPTC, and the meeting was adjourned from 9.40pm to 9.55pm to allow Cllr.Ashcroft to return home for a copy of the letter.

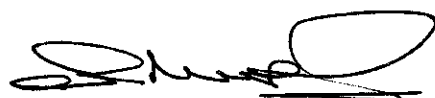
The Clerk detailed all cheques, which had already been paid, including dates. It was noted that not all cheque stubs had been signed by two signatories. Cllr.Mrs.Goodier asked how many more cheques there were which Members did not know about and stated that there was a case for “fraud”. The Clerk replied that details of all cheques were on the list, which had been circulated to Members. Cllr.Mrs.Goodier queried whether all cheques were actually being sent to the name on the cheque, mentioning specifically the Inland Revenue.

At 10pm the Chair closed the meeting on a vote of 6 (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Hunter, Plant, Ashcroft, and Mrs.Goodier) to nil, the remaining Members abstaining.

The Chair demanded that the chequebook be handed over to him. The Clerk reluctantly obliged.

It was agreed that the next meeting should commence at 7pm (23 June) to allow for the adjourned business to be concluded.

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23/6/03.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting held on Monday 16 June 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank, at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:- Cllr.A.Murphy (Chair)
Cllr.P.Sergeant (Vice-chair)
Cllrs.R.Ashcroft, R.Ball, B.Birkby, J.R.Foster, J.Hunter,
Mrs.N.Goodier, Mrs.L.Standish-Gore, Mrs.H.Tompkins.

There were approx. 18 members of the public present at the meeting.

The Chair stated that Mr.Watson (County Advisor from LAPTC) was present as his guest, and with the approval of LAPTC. Mr.Watson took his place next to the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of business Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins queried why details of the meeting had been posted on the website before Members of the Council were informed. The Chair denied any knowledge of this as he had been on leave for a week.

013/2003 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr.R.Plant.

014/2003 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

015/2003 Parish Council Bank Accounts – Change of Signatories

It was agreed, by 8 votes to nil with 2 abstentions, that the Chair, Vice-Chair, Cllr.I.Ashcroft, and Cllr.J.Hunter, be the four nominated to sign cheques. Any 2 from these four allowed to sign.

016/2003 Finance

Accounts already paid prior to May meeting

It was noted that the following accounts had been paid between meetings, signed by a combination of the three authorised signatories, Cllr.R.Ball, Cllr.Mrs.L.Standish-Gore, or Cllr.I.Ashcroft. This was in accordance with Standing Order 35 (b).

291	WLDC	Civic Dinner	32.00
292	R.P.Sears	Clerk's salary (Feb)	219.83
293	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted	62.00
294	Southern's	Filing Cabinet	163.91
295	Lancs.BKV	Entry fee	10.00
296	Ken Linford Gardencare	Tree maint.	9.64
297	R.P.Sears	Clerk's salary (Mar)	219.83

298	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted	62.00
299	L.Crabtree	Tree felling	2350.00

Cllr.Mrs.N.Goodier queried why Cheque No.300 had been cancelled. The Clerk explained that a cancelled cheque had to be sent to the Public Works Loan Board for identification purposes when applying for a loan.

Regarding cheque No.291 it was agreed by 5 votes to 4, with one abstention, that Cllr.R.Ball be invoiced for £32 for representing the Parish Council at West Lancs.District Council's Civic Dinner. Cllr.Ball had initially stated that he would not be attending, but had later changed his mind. It was not, therefore, minuted regarding payment. Cllr.Mrs.Goodier stated that she had paid her own expenses etc. when representing the Council at Buckingham Palace.

It was also agreed by 6 votes to 4 that the Parish Council would not fund Members representing the Parish Council at future functions.

A debate ensued regarding the payment of Cheque No 299 (L.Crabtree) and whether proper procedures had been followed. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed by 6 votes to 3, with 1 abstention that this item be deferred to Part II.

Disputed account – D.Rowell for Drainage Work

After discussing previous minutes and correspondence it was agreed that the outstanding invoice in the sum of £15,513.13 be paid. All in favour of this proposal except Cllr.Hunter who abstained.

It was also agreed that the interest charges be not paid due to the fact that the Contractor had not submitted estimates as requested, and no Terms and Conditions of Trading had previously been supplied.

Cllr.Birkby proposed, and it was agreed, that our Insurers be approached regarding a possible claim being submitted.

Accounts for payment

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

501	LAPTC	Annual subs	441.95
502	Yates	Inspection/repairs	526.40
503	R.P.Sears	Clerk's salary (Apr)	219.83
504	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted	62.00
505	Yates	Inspections	77.55
506	Allianz Cornhill Ins	Insurance premium	574.71
507	B.W.Rimmer	Clerk's expenses	202.61
508	David Ward Cleaning	Bus shelter cleaning	210.00
509	LPFA	Annual subs	11.00
510	Ribble Catchment Cons	Annual subs	15.00
511	Hesketh Bank Chapel	Hire of hall	20.00
512	Tarleton Parish Council	Traffic Assessment survey	1250.00 -

513	Yates	Inspections	77.55
514	North Meols Parish Council	Photocopying services	13.23
515	R.P.Sears	Petty Cash (Feb-Mar)	65.10
516	R.P.Sears	Clerk's salary (May)	219.83
517	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted	62.00

Regarding Cheque No 512 the Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of the Traffic and Transport Analysis report from Tarleton Parish Council.

Items of Income

The following items of income were noted:-

Hesketh Bank CC	Annual rental	222.00
Hesketh Bank Bowling Club	Annual rental	447.00
Whiteside	Allotments	36.00
WLDC	Precept (1 st half)	14900.00
Chadwick	Allotments	24.00
WLDC	Concurrent (1 st half)	2362.74

PWLB – Application for Government Loan

The Chair brought Members up-to-date on this item, referring to a letter he had received from the Clerk. In accordance with Min.No. 144/2002 application for borrowing approval had been made via LAPTC on 14 April. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister gave borrowing approval on 1st May. Loan application was made to the Public Works Loan Board on 8 May. The loan of £100,000 was received on 19 May and the contribution of £50,000 passed to LCC regarding the Tarleton High School project on the understanding that the contribution was made on the basis of public access being available. A working group would be formed to compile a constitution and a Member of our Council would be invited to attend subsequent meetings. A letter to this effect had been received from the High School.

The Chair stated that again proper procedures had not been followed, and £50,000 of tax-payers' money had been "given away". He referred to the Minute, which stated that the resolution was subject to further negotiation with interested parties and this had not taken place. All residents should be consulted before this project went ahead. Cllr.Mrs.Goodier complained that the necessary Forms had not been brought before the Council before being submitted. Cllr.Ashcroft proposed, and it was agreed, that in future all Forms are agreed by the Council. Regarding the £50,000 for the purchase of land for outside sports facilities there was currently no specific plot of land in mind.

It was agreed that this Council seek further advice from LCC concerning the payment of £50,000 to LCC (Tarleton High School, and secondly the repayment of £50,000 to the PWLB. This was agreed by 6 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Ashcroft, Birkby, Hunter, and Mrs.Goodier) to 2 votes (Cllrs.Ball and Mrs.Standish-Gore) with 2 abstentions (Cllrs. Foster and Mrs. Tompkins).

During this debate the Chair, acting under Standing Order 28, warned Cllr.Ball regarding his misconduct.

Tarleton High School – Application for financial assistance for new sports hall.

This item was covered under the previous item.

It was agreed by 7 votes to 3 that the following item be taken under Part II and the press and the public should be excluded. Cllr.Ball stated that as Mr.Watson was a member of the public he should be asked to leave.

It was also agreed by 6 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Hunter, Birkby, Ashcroft, and Mrs.Goodier) to 2 (Cllr.Foster and Ball) that Mr.Watson should remain in the meeting. Cllrs. Mrs.Tompkins and Mrs.Standish-Gore abstained.

016/2003 Clerk to the Council R.P.Sears

Contract of Employment

The Clerk reported that he had received a Contract of Employment from the Chair, via the previous Clerk. This had been signed before the Council meeting on 10 March, subject to a few minor amendments. The amendments had not been formally agreed by the Council. The Clerk was unaware that this should have been signed and agreed in the presence of the Members of the Council.

It was agreed by all Members that the following amendments to the Clerk's Contract of Employment be authorised:-

Paragraph 5 – Remuneration – to read, “to be paid at monthly intervals, one month in arrears”.

It was agreed by all Members that the following amendments to the Clerk's Job Description be authorised:-

Item 4 – Preparation of agenda for Council meetings etc. should be done in consultation with the Chair.

Item 9 – Not required as there are no other employees.

Item 13 – This is covered in Item 4.

Item 16 – The Council's budget is prepared by the Council. The Clerk would assist in the preparation by providing necessary expenditure figures.

Inland Revenue – Taxation on Earnings

The Chair had contacted the Inland Revenue and he confirmed that the Clerk's taxation arrangements were in order.

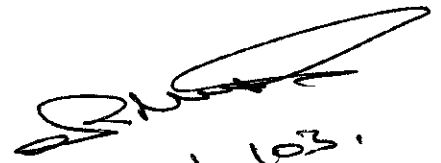
Clarifications of duties and responsibilities to the Council and its Members.

The Chair stated that the Clerk should be aware of his duties towards all Members of the Council. The Clerk replied that he was quite clear regarding his duties.

Cllrs.Ashcroft and Mrs.Goodier reported various allegations and complaints against the Clerk. The Clerk stated that he was not prepared to answer any of these remarks at this meeting. Any complaints should be put in writing to the Chair in accordance with the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins stated that the Clerk had been appointed by a sub-committee set up for that purpose, and also recommended by the previous Clerk. There had not been a full meeting since his appointment, and she felt that he had been continually harassed by certain Members.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm


23/6/03.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 23 June 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank, commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:- Cllr.A.Murphy (Chair)
Cllr.P.Sergeant
Cllrs.I.Ashcroft, R.Ball, B.Birkby, J.R.Foster, J.Hunter,
Mrs.N.Goodier, R.Plant, Mrs.L.Standish-Gore, Mrs.H.Tompkins.

There were approx. 15 members of the public present at the meeting.

018/2003 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

019/2003 Declarations of Interest

Cllr.Mrs.L.Standish-Gore declared a personal interest in Planning Application No.8/2003/0285.

Cllr.Foster declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 8/2002/0144.

Cllrs. Murphy, Ashcroft, Plant, and Mrs.Goodier declared a personal interest in Planning Application No.8/2003/0706

020/2003 Minutes of meetings held on 20 May, 16 June 2003

The minutes of the meetings of 20 May were signed by the Chair as a correct record, after taking into account the following amendments:-

AGM – Min.No. 005/2003 – Footpaths, Tree Wardens, and Environmental Issues – delete Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins. This was agreed unanimously.

Parish Council Meeting – 20 May - Min.No. 009/2003

Final paragraph – 1st line – Delete “the Chair” and replace with “Cllr.Plant”.

2nd line – Delete “and distributed”. After Mrs.Goodier add “and taken by Council Members. At the meeting the Clerk had been requested to remain, therefore the minutes taken by the Councillors who had continued the meeting be accepted as a true and correct record”.

6th line – Delete “substituted”. Delete “approved by LAPTC” and add “sent for approval to LAPTC”.

Min.012/2003 – 2nd paragraph – After LAPTC – delete the remainder of the paragraph and substitute with “The Clerk was asked about the letter from LAPTC. In reply he said it was an oversight and did not have the letter with him. The meeting was adjourned at 9.40pm to allow Cllr.Ashcroft to return home for a copy of the letter. The meeting was reconvened at 9.55pm”.

3rd paragraph – 4th line – delete “was”, replace with “could be”.

3rd paragraph – Delete last sentence as Cllr.Mrs.Goodier stated that these remarks were made during the adjournment and were not, therefore, part of the meeting.



These amendments were agreed by 6 votes (Cllrs. Murphy, Sergeant, Plant, Hunter, Ashcroft, and Mrs. Goodier) to 4 (Cllrs. Ball, Foster, Mrs. Standish-Gore, Mrs. Tompkins), with 1 abstention (Cllr. Birkby).

Cllr. Mrs. Tompkins asked that the Chair submit a report on the findings emanating from his possession of cheque books etc.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 June were signed by the Chair as a correct record after taking into account the following amendments:-

Min. No. 016/2003 – At end of 1st paragraph add “but contrary to Standing Order 46” p.9 PWLB – Application for Government Loan – 2nd paragraph – 5th line – delete “complained” replace with “stated”.

Min. No. 017/2003 – Clerk to the Council – 1st paragraph – 2nd line – Delete “before” and add “prior to”.

Final paragraph – Add “The previous Clerk’s taxation arrangements were also in order”.

These amendments were agreed by 7 votes (Cllrs. Murphy, Foster, Sergeant, Hunter, Mrs. Goodier, Ashcroft, Birkby) to 3 (Cllrs. Ball, Mrs. Tompkins, Mrs. Standish-Gore).

021/2003 Matters arising from minutes

The Clerk reported that he had obtained a copy of the Traffic and Transport Analysis report from Tarleton Parish Council. Copies of the relevant sections to be made available to Members.

022/2003 Finance

Internal Auditor’s report

The provisional findings of the internal auditor and the Council’s responses are as follows:-

Item 1. The spreadsheet for the accounts was not up-to-date as late as October, when missing statements were requested from the Bank. There was no evidence of regular reconciliation. It was noted that the previous Clerk had since resigned, and the new Clerk was now operating a Ledger Book for all payments and receipts.

Item 2. There had been competitive purchasing although no evidence of proper tender opening procedures, thereby creating the opportunity for improper actions. VAT had not been reclaimed, possibly since 1998/99. It was agreed to review Standing Orders and provide a set of Financial Regulations. There had previously not been any Financial Regulations.

Item 3. There was no risk assessment available, no documented internal financial controls, and an unusual Minute regarding the Clerk’s gratuity. It was noted that risk assessment on the Children’s Play Areas was carried out by Yates Playgrounds, and by Hesketh Bank AFC on the Centenary Sports Ground. It was reported by the Chair that the Clerk’s gratuity was in order.

Item 7. The Council had not operated a proper employer PAYE system and was in breach of the requirements of the Inland Revenue. It was reported by the Chair that the Inland Revenue arrangements were in fact correct.

Item 9. A sum of £5,000 transferred to the current account in October 2001. It was agreed that this was a proper transaction.

Item 11. The address in Land Registry documents is the address of the Clerk to the Council. This was agreed as correct.

Item 12. It had previously been agreed that the Clerk to register with the Bank for payment of interest gross. This had so far not been done. It was agreed that this be done as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr. Rimmer for an explanation of the VAT, and also ask for the whereabouts of accounts and minutes for the years prior to 2001/02.

Cllr. Ball stated that this report should serve as a lesson to all Members.

Annual Tenders

The Clerk reported that there were no annual tendering procedures in place for this financial year.

Brian Parkinson had submitted a quotation for grass cutting at £200 per visit for 4 visits. It was proposed by Cllr. Ashcroft, and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Goodier that this quotation be accepted, but for 3 visits only to the end of this financial year. This was agreed by 7 votes (Cllr. Ashcroft, Mrs. Goodier, Murphy, Foster, Sergeant, Hunter, Birkby) to 2 (Cllrs. Plant and Ball) with 2 abstentions (Cllrs. Mrs. Tompkins, Mrs. Standish-Gore).

It was agreed that the tenders for bus shelter cleaning and playground inspections should be advertised. Those interested in tendering should write to the Council in the first instance.

Standing Orders/Financial Regulations

It was agreed that the new version of Standing Orders/Financial Regulations published by NALC in 2002 be ordered from LAPTC at a cost of £6.

Accounts for payment

There were no further accounts for payment.

£36 had been received from S. Trippier for allotment rental.



023/2003 REAL Project – Update

Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins gave a summary of the Hesketh Bank Community Audit, which highlighted the issues as Traffic and Road Safety, Local Sports and facilities, Facilities for young people, Crime and safety. Also mentioned were Health and health services, Housing & Development, Village Environment, Local Schooling and Public Transport. The problems of the elderly were added to this list. This was only the start, and action groups needed to be formed.. Group leaders were required, and Cllr.Tompkins asked for volunteers from those present. There was a lack of response from those present.

The Chair read out a personal letter from CVS asking for our thoughts on how we could move this process forward. The Chair to reply to this letter.

Concern was expressed by several of the public present why £50,000 earmarked for local sports facilities was likely to be returned to the PWLB, and why the Council had seemingly reversed its original decision.

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr.Tompkins for all her hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm for public participation.

024/2003 Public participation

The Chair proposed that local residents be heard before John Hodson (Tarleton). Issues raised were lack of facilities for young people, and fear of the elderly, who should be afforded the dignity they deserved. It was felt that the contribution made to the Tarleton High School project should be honoured.

J.Hodson reiterated the benefits of the partnership working with Tarleton High School, saying it would be a disaster for the residents of Hesketh Bank if the money was withdrawn. Financially they would be participating in a £1.3M project, with no annual maintenance costs.

It was felt that local residents should be consulted, but it was pointed out that this consultation had already taken place in the Community Audit, which highlighted the lack of facilities for the young people.

One female member of the public had intimated that she wished to speak throughout public participation. On a vote taken to allow her to speak, there were 5 for, and 5 against. On the Chair's casting vote public participation was brought to a close.

The meeting was reconvened at 9.30pm.



025/2003 Correspondence

The Council considered the following items of correspondence, which required a decision:-

A letter from 'a disgusted resident' regarding the conduct of Members and the condition of the footpath in Shore Road. As this was an anonymous letter the contents were ignored.

A letter from CLAREN (Cumbria and Lancashire Community Renewables) regarding the Extent of the Gas Network in Lancashire. It was agreed that the questionnaire be completed with advice from the Chair.

A letter from WLDC regarding the Parish Liaison Committee and an informal discussion meeting, which Cllr. Ashcroft had already attended on behalf of the Parish Council. He reported on a proposed closer working relationship between the District and Parish Councils.

A letter from the Army Cadet Force Trust Fund regarding their Appeal. This item was deferred until later in the year.

A letter from the Boundary Committee regarding the draft recommendations of the periodic electoral review of LCC. This consultation may be put on hold in the event that the region is selected to have a referendum on Regional Assemblies. This item was noted.

A letter from WLDC regarding the Parish Allowances Scheme under the new regulations. Further information would be required before making any response.

A letter from HLB AV Audit regarding the overdue audit for year ending 31 March 2002. This item was dealt with under Min. No.022/2003.

An important notice from LAPTC making Members aware that all enquiries should be made through the office during office hours. LAPTC are not insured should any incorrect advice be given outside these hours.

A letter from Community Futures regarding The Village Retail Services Association. It was agreed that the questionnaire be sent to all local retailers.

A letter from DALY International regarding the proposed Vodafone Base Station at Henry Alty, Station Road. No comments.

A letter from WLDC regarding their self-assessment. When the questionnaire is completed, mention should be made under Item 4 (services to be improved) of the Street Cleansing Service. It was noted that the 'blue bag' scheme and the 'green bins', funded by DEFRA, had improved the service.

A letter from Community Futures regarding the Parish Plan Grant. This item had been dealt with under Min.No.023/2003



The Council noted the following items of correspondence, which had been received for information:-

Various agenda and Members' updates from WLDC.

Letters from the Lancashire and Merseyside County Training Partnership, and DEFRA, mentioning the "Good Councillor's Guide".

A letter from West Lancashire CHC – An invitation to the Celebration of the Work of West Lancashire CHC 1974-2003, 7 July at Skelmersdale CC.

A letter from LCC regarding the School Governance Regulations, Reconstitution of Governing Bodies, and including a Code of Practice on LEA School Governor Appointments.

LAPTC – Newsletter.

Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety – Poster campaign.

A letter from the Post Office regarding the Carry on Collecting Initiative.

Notification of the West Lincs.Environmental Network AGM 19 August.

026/2003 Financial Assistance for Organisations

The Clerk submitted a list of those organisations, which had applied for financial assistance. They were Douglas Cardiac Trust, North West Air Ambulance, Mere Brow Youth Club, Kidzone, Victim Support, Childline North West, and CPRE. It was agreed by 8 votes to nil, with 2 abstentions, to make a donation of £100 to the Douglas Cardiac Trust.

027/2003 Allocation of Golden Jubilee medals

This item was deferred to enable Members to bring suggestions to the next meeting.

028/2003 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

It was reported that the Parish Council had entered this Competition, and judging was currently taking place.

029/2003 Parish Council Website

The Chair reported on the possibility of setting up a new Parish Council website. To be discussed at a future meeting. This website to contain details of agenda and planning applications.



030/2003 CSG – Proposed Plaque etc

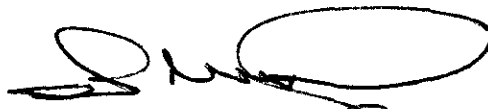
Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins reported on a meeting with Mrs.Dawson regarding a suitable plaque. Her thoughts had been appreciated.

031/2003 CSG – Meeting with Hesketh Bank AFC

The Chair reported on a Centenary Sports Ground sub-committee meeting with Hesketh Bank AFC. (Minutes to be made available).

032/2003 Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting should commence at 7pm on 21 July 2003.



24/7/03.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting held on Wednesday 16th July 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT - Councillor A Murphy (Chairman), Councillor P Sergeant (Vice Chairman), Councillors: B Birkby, J R Foster, J Hunter and Mrs N Goodier.

This was not a public meeting therefore there where no members of the Press or Public present.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor I Ashcroft and Councillor R Plant
The Chairman was informed prior to the meeting by Councillor H Tompkins that she thought the meeting was not legal and that she would not be attending.

The Chairman took advance from Mr L Watson of LAPTC prior to the meeting and was told that the meeting met all required procedures.

The Chairman read out a letter received that day from the Clerk stating that he had not received a reply from the alleged complaints and therefore would not be attending the meeting. He also included advice that the proposed meeting was unlawful.

As per Clerks Contract of Employment a written list of complaints was read out by the Chairman - a discussion took place regarding these complaints and it was proposed by Councillor N Goodier and Seconded by the Chairman that

Members of the Council are dissatisfied with the way the Clerk has performed his duties since being appointed.

A named vote was taken:

FOR Cllrs A Murphy, P Sergeant, J Hunter and Mrs N Goodier

AGAINST Cllr J R Foster

ABSTAINED Cllr B Birkby

Further discussions took place to the Councils next course of action (at this point Cllr J Hunter left the meeting at 8.40pm) it was then proposed by the Chairman and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Goodier that an item should be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the complaints against the Clerk also that a copy of these complaints should be forwarded to the Clerk prior to this meeting.

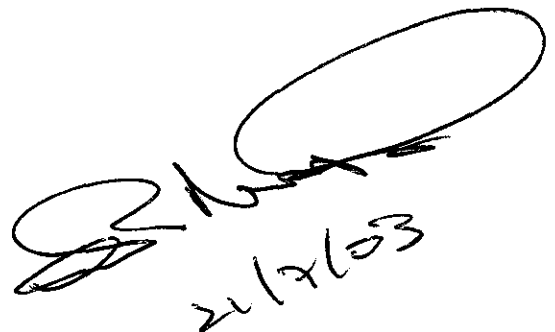
A named vote was taken:

FOR Cllrs A Murphy, P Sergeant, J R Foster and Mrs N Goodier

AGAINST None

ABSTAINED Cllr B Birkby

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.00pm.



Handwritten signature and date: 21/7/03

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 21 July 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank, commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT:- Cllr.A.Murphy (Chair)
Cllr.P.Sergeant
Cllrs.L.Ashcroft (arrived 7.30) R.Ball, J.R.Foster (arrived 7.22),
J.Hunter, Mrs.N.Goodier, R.Plant (arrived 7.40), Mrs.L.Standish-Gore, Mrs.H.Tompkins.

There were approx.8 members of the public present at the meeting.

035/2003 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

036/2003 Declarations of Interest

Cllr.Mrs.L.Standish-Gore declared a personal interest in Planning Application No.8/2003/0285.

Cllr.Foster declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 8/2002/0144.

Cllrs. Murphy, Ashcroft, Plant, and Mrs.Goodier declared a personal interest in Planning Application No.8/2003/0706

037/2003 Minutes of meetings held on 23 June, 16 July 2003

The minutes of the meeting of 23 June were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The minutes of the meeting of 16 July were agreed by 4 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Hunter, Mrs.Goodier) to none, the remainder of Members abstaining, and signed by the Chair as a correct record after taking into account the following amendment:-

Under the heading "Apologies", 2nd para – delete "advance", add "advice".

038/2003 Matters arising from minutes

Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins requested a written report from the Chair stating the Council's and his own position in regard to the comments made in public by Cllr.Mrs.Goodier alleging "possible fraud" which by implication was aimed at the former Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Clerk to the Council, Mr.R.Sears. Furthermore she asked if the Chair could give a written report on the reason why he took possession of the Council chequebooks, accounts, and financial records from the Responsible Financial Officer, Mr.R.Sears.

20



The Chair stated that a verbal explanation was sufficient, and he made no apologies for taking possession of the chequebooks, which he had done to safeguard any further illegal expenditure.

Following a debate on this issue it was agreed not to pursue the proposal of having the cheques returned from the Bank. It was agreed, however, that the Police should be called in to investigate the Council's accounts, possibly going back over the last few years.

The Clerk reported that he had sent a draft advert to the Chair for approval regarding cleaning of bus shelters, and inspection/repairs to children's play area equipment. The Chair stated that it was not usual practice to advertise in the press and it was agreed that WLDC be approached for their select list of contractors. Local contractors could then be added to the list.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the previous Clerk regarding the outstanding VAT, but had not received a response. The Chair also had not been able to contact him, but said he would continue trying to contact him.

039/2003 Meeting with Hesketh Bank AFC

The Chair reported on a CSG sub-committee meeting with Hesketh Bank AFC (Minutes to be made available) with the following recommendations:-

- a) Continue the concrete fence (2m) behind hawthorns;
- b) Provide temporary safety measures, i.e. sports netting;
- c) Provide trees behind goals to a proposed height.

Cllr.Ball voiced his concerns that these proposals would again lead to drug-related activities. He stated that the Clerk had been shown by a neighbour of the Sports Ground where these activities were taking place. These comments were dismissed by Cllr.Hunter as 'hearsay'.

It was agreed by 5 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Hunter, Ashcroft, Plant, Mrs.Goodier) to 2 (Cllrs.Ball, Foster) with the remaining Members abstaining, that these recommendations are accepted and tenders be obtained for the work. The Clerk reported that he had already written to three companies for quotes for the netting.

040/2003 Allotments

Cllr.Foster reported that the ditches and drains around the allotments needed clearing. This work to be carried out in February after obtaining 3 quotes. It was also reported that the hedge on the W.side was overhanging and P.Bannister to be informed.

041/2003 Alty's Boatyard – Danger to Wildlife

Cllr.Ball reported the existence of razor wire on top of the bank, which was a danger to wildlife, and also to children. It was agreed to write to Alty's stating that this was unacceptable, and should be removed immediately.

042/2003 Attendance of County Advisor at a previous meeting

Cllr.Ball raised the issue of Mr. Watson attending a Parish Council meeting as an advisor without any resolution being passed by the Council. The Chair stated that he had been present as his guest, and had attended the meeting with the approval of LAPTC.

043/2003 Planning Matters

The following planning applications had been received since the meeting in March when planning issues were last discussed. As the response dates had passed and many of these applications had now been determined it was agreed that the Council would make no comments.

8/2003/0158 – Siting of portacabin at rear for use as offices at 7/9 Station Road (renewal of planning permission).
8/2003/0221 – Outline – Erection of 6 detached dwellings (including details of siting and means of access) on land at 92 Station Road.
8/2003/0303 – Retention of 3 portacabins for religious/education purposes (renewal of planning permission 8/98/0128) at Hesketh Bank Christian Fellowship, Moss Lane.
8/2003/0285 – Two storey and first floor side extension at 6 Foxglove Close.
8/2003/0288 – Conservatory to rear of Bedouin, Boundary Meanygate.
8/2003/0387 – Reserved matters – Erection of 3 detached houses with garages (included amended siting – land adjacent 197 and rear of 209-215 Chapel Road.
8/2003/0397 – Extensions and alterations including elongation of main building and raising/alteration to main roof (amendment to planning permission 8/2003/0031)- Mill Farm, Mill Lane.
8/2003/0411 – Erection of detached dwelling house – Land adjacent 217 Chapel Road.
8/2003/0632 – Extension to existing agricultural storage building – 467 Moss Lane.
8/2003/0634 – Reserved matters – detached dwelling - Land adj.to 11b Shore Road.
8/2003/0657 – Modification of Condition No.5 imposed in planning permission 8/2002/0251 to allow produce from other than the holding to be stored and processed during November to June inclusive – 467 Moss Lane.
8/2003/0706 – Single storey classroom extension at rear, All Saints CE primary School, Shore Road.
(All above to be determined by Exec.Manager for Planning & Development Services).

8/2003/0599 – Removal of agricultural workers occupancy condition imposed on planning permission 8/6/12154 – Avondale, 332 Moss Lane.
8/2003/0631 – Use of land for the siting of 8 mobile units for seasonal agricultural workers – 467 Moss Lane.
(All above to be referred to the Planning Committee for consideration).

The following planning applications had been amended since the last meeting. There were no comments by the Parish Council.

8/2002/1203 – Two-storey side extension & single storey rear extension at 78 Chapel Road.



8/2002/0144 Erection of 13 detached houses with 6 detached garages, provision of new access road and landscaping scheme – Land at Moss Lane.

8/2001/0256 – Outline – Provision of an all-weather sports surface including changing facilities, members club house, community recreation hall and associated car parking in conjunction with existing football club and alterations to existing access (including details of siting, design, external appearance and means of access at 140 Station Road.

The following planning applications had been determined since the last meeting (taken from members Update WLDC):-

8/2002/1168 – Erection of replacement dwelling, The Bungalow, Boundary Meanygate (GRANTED)

8/2003/0020 – Two storey rear extension, 63 Chapel Road (GRANTED)

8/2003/0021 – First floor rear extension, 64 Chapel Road (GRANTED)

8/2002/1410 – Substitution of house type, Plot No.49, land adjacent 109 Station Road (GRANTED)

8/2003/0019 – two storey side extension, 8 Greenfields (GRANTED)

8/2003/0031- Extensions and alterations including elongation of main building and raising/alteration to main roof, Mill Farm, Mill Lane (GRANTED)

8/2002/1397 – Part single/part two storey extension at rear, 42 Shore Road, (GRANTED)

8/2003/0077 – Change of use from police office/residential to residential only, 57 Station Road (GRANTED)

8/2003/0221 – Outline – erection of 6 detached dwellings (including details of siting and means of access), Land at 92 Station Road (REFUSED)

8/2003/0288 – Conservatory to rear, Bedouin, Boundary Meanygate (GRANTED)

8/2003/0397 – Extensions and alterations including elongation of main building and raising/alteration to main roof (amendment to planning permission 8/2003/0031) (GRANTED)

8/2003/0387 – Reserved matters – erection of 3 detached houses with garages (including amended siting, Land adjacent 197 and rear of 209-215 Chapel Road (RESERVED MATTERS APPROVED)

8/2003/0564 – First floor rear extension (amendment to planning permission 8/2003/0021), 64 Chapel Road (GRANTED)



Alleged breach of planning control:-

Use of land as caravan site – 416 Moss Lane

044/2003 Highways Matters

Members were concerned about speeding along Shore Road, often by local residents. It was agreed to write to Ian Bell (LCC – Partnership for Road Safety) to enquire about possible speed cameras on Shore Road, and also to invite Ian Bell to a future meeting.

It was reported that some of the Council's bus shelters were in need of repair. It was agreed to send an order to Autocross to repair bus shelters at the following locations:-

- a) All Saint's Church
- b) Rankin Avenue
- c) Chapel Road/Shore Road
- d) Methodist Chapel

045/2003 Recreation Ground and Play Areas

Zurich – Playground Inspection Summary

The comments received on the Schedule Inspection Summary dated 6 March 2003 were noted, and read in conjunction with the Inspection Reports from Yates Playgrounds.

Yates – Quotations

The inspection reports on the three play areas for the last six months were noted and it was agreed to accept the quotation for repairs to equipment at Shore Road and Station Road in the sums of £47 and £12 respectively.

It was proposed that Public Participation be brought forward to enable members of the public to speak before Part II. This proposal was defeated by 6 votes (Cllr. Murphy, Sergeant, Hunter, Ashcroft, Plant, and Mrs. Goodier) to 4 (Cllrs. Ball, Foster, Mrs Tompkins, Mrs Standish-Gore).

The following item was taken under Part II (press and public excluded)

046/2003

Payment of Account – P. Crabtree

The Chair reported on a letter received from NALC (16 June) via LAPTC, which was in response to a letter he had sent to LAPTC (31 May). It stated that the Council are bound to pay the Contractor. The Council's remedy is to seek recompense from the Chairman. This would be the difference between the actual cost and the best of three quotations. It was agreed to seek further advice from LAPTC, as it was not possible to obtain quotes for a job that did not exist.



Regarding the payment of the account between meetings the Clerk referred to Standing Order 35(b), which in his opinion gave the necessary authority. It was agreed to ignore this advice by 6 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Hunter, Plant, Ashcroft, Mrs.Goodier) to none, with the remaining Members abstaining.

The Chair stated that the payment was contrary to Standing Order 46, which the Clerk stated had nothing to do with payment of accounts. Standing Order referred to pecuniary interests.

Complaints received regarding the Clerk, and Clerk's conduct.

Cllr.Mrs.Tompkins requested a written report from the Chair stating the Council's and his own position in regard to the events and reasons behind the current move to discredit the Clerk to the Council, Mr.Rod Sears.

The Clerk referred to the meeting called for the 16 July to discuss complaints received regarding the duties and actions of the Clerk since being appointed. He had written to the Chair asking for a detailed list of these alleged complaints. As the Chair had not responded by the date of the meeting he informed the Chair that he would not be attending the meeting.

The Chair read out a further letter from the Clerk, which said he had taken independent legal advice and had been notified that the Council had failed to comply with the Employment Rights Act, and the Employment Relations Act 1999 (Section 10) by not affording him reasonable notice to reply to these allegations (Alleged complaints are listed at Appendix 1 to these Minutes). He was unable to respond to these allegations, as he was only informed about them on the Thursday prior to this meeting. He again asked for more information on specific items, which had been highlighted, on the list of alleged complaints. This request was refused.

Cllr.Mrs.Goodier, who stated that the Minutes produced by the Clerk were biased and not written properly, proposed that the Clerk be dismissed with one month's notice. This proposal was seconded by the Chair, Cllr.Murphy, and agreed by 6 votes (Cllrs.Murphy, Sergeant, Ashcroft, Hunter, Plant, Mrs.Goodier) to 4 (Cllrs.Ball, Foster, Mrs.Standish-Gore, Mrs.Tompkins).

047/2003 Finance

Annual Tenders

This item was covered under "Matters Arising", Min.No.038/2003.

Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

			£
520	R.P.Sears	Clerk's salary (June)	219.83
521	Inland Revenue	Tax deducted	62.00
522	North Meols Parish Council	Photocopying services	30.39
523	Ken Linford Gardencare	Tree maintenance	19.27

524	Yates Playgrounds	Inspections	77.55
525	B.Parkinson	Grass cutting - £200.00	
		New manhole cover £ 40.00	240.00
526	Public Works Loan A/c	Loan repayments	1628.20

The Clerk reported that after receiving information from the Bowling Club via Cllr.Ball that a manhole cover had been broken by someone driving over it with a tractor he had contacted the Chair for approval to carry out remedial work. Brian Parkinson had supplied a new manhole cover but was unable to unblock the sewers.

An account from Zurich Municipal for £474.61 was held in abeyance until more information was obtained regarding what the Council was actually paying for.

It was agreed that an account for £146.87 from Rawsthorns Solicitors be not paid. The Chair stated that no-one gave the previous Chair authorisation to attend Rawsthorns. No-one was aware of the meeting until the invoice was produced. Cllr.Ball did not have the permission of the Council to attend and the meeting was nothing to do with the Council. Cllr.Ball stated that the new Clerk had to be brought up-to-date with leases, especially the Football Club lease which was not held on file. An ~~official~~ order had been sent from the Parish Council to Rawsthorns to cover this work.

Receipts

The Clerk reported that there had been no items of income received since the last meeting. There were outstanding items from Cllr.Ball, and Hesketh Bank AFC. The rental from Hesketh Bank AFC was several months overdue. It was agreed that the Clerk write to their Secretary, allowing them a further 30 days to settle the account. Cllr.Ball stated that he would not be paying to represent the Parish Council at a Civic Dinner.

Other matters raised during the meeting.

During the meeting a letter was received from Cllr.Brian Birkby tendering his resignation from the Council. He stated that due to the 'goings-on' during the last six months and the way that rules had been ignored he could no longer carry on as a Parish Councillor. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Brian Birkby thanking him for his services to the Council and the local community over the years. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy in the first instance on the Parish notice-boards.

Cllr.Mrs.Goodier wished it to be known that she sat at the top end of the table to get away from sitting opposite Cllr.Ball and having to endure his bad language.

The Chair asked Cllr.Ball to leave the meeting on several occasions.

~~Cllr.Ball stated that the Chair should not be uttering blasphemous remarks during the meeting and voiced his concerns regarding derogatory remarks made by Cllr.Mrs.Goodier to the Clerk.~~

The meeting closed at 10pm with remaining business adjourned to the next meeting.

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors Tony Murphy, Paul Sergeant, Iain Ashcroft, Norma Goodier, John Hunter and Richard Plant are dissatisfied with the Clerk, Rod Sears, in the way he has carried out his duties for Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council for the following reasons:

- On 10 March 2003 John Hunter proposed a vote of no confidence in the chair RB, who would not accept this – Clerk advised it would be on the next meeting's agenda.
- The above was not on Agenda 31 March. Richard Plant telephoned the Clerk for the reason it had not been put on the agenda; the Clerk informed Richard that it had to be in writing. Richard wrote to the Clerk requesting this item to be on the Agenda, Clerk acknowledged Richard's letter confirming.
- When the Chair RB closed the meeting (31/3/03) – Clerk did not advise council to continue. When challenged on this he stated 'he had sat there waiting for the councillors to continue'.
- At the meeting 1 May 2003 - Clerk informed the council could not have a vote of No Confidence re circular 2/86 (which is over 10 years out of date)
- The Clerk left the meeting with the RB, after being requested by 5 Councillors to remain.
- Letter dated 2 May sent to Clerk – never replied.
- Clerk kept stating SO working to even though several members point out they were the wrong SO.
- Clerk & Chairman changed dates of meetings without Council's consent.
- Minutes do not reflect true and correct record of meetings.
- Letter dated 9 June 2003, about receiving a communication, never circulated.
- LAPTC letter see Resolution (150/2002) when received did not inform members has never been on any agenda.
- Members, who request copies correspondence, have to remind Clerk 2/3 times for copies. When Councillors have specifically requested items to be minuted this has not happened.
- Writing cheques without prior consent of Council.
- Several members feel that the Clerk is not working for the whole council, councillors feel he has deliberately mislead them.



- Resolution 150/2002 – Quotes to be obtained from local contractors etc – this has not been carried out.
- Did not inform Chair (T Murphy) or Council of PWB application.
- Altered contract without prior approval of Council signed by Chairman without Councillors' knowledge – experienced clerk?
- Wrote to LAPTC on Hesketh with Becconsall headed notepaper, did not inform Council.

..... Tony Murphy

..... Paul Sergeant

..... Iain Ashcroft

..... Norma Goodier

..... John Hunter

..... Richard Plant



HESKETH-WITH BECCOSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 4th August 2003 in the Village Hall, Hesketh Bank, commencing at 7-30 PM

PRESENT Cllr A.Murphy (Chair)
Cllrs RC. Ball, JR Foster, J Hunter, R.Plant, PJA.Sergeant, Mrs.L.Standish-Gore,
Mrs H.Tompkins

There were approximately 14 members of the public at the meeting, no members of the press attended.

048/2003 Apologies

Cllrs I.Ashcroft, Mrs N.Goodier

049/2003 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

050/2003 Dismissal of Clerk

The chair requested that this matter be held under part 2 and he explained to the council why he thought this was necessary at the beginning of the meeting. It was agreed after he used his casting vote following a vote of 4 for and 4 against.

The public then left the room.

The clerk stated that he had received numerous phone calls regarding his position, no members of the council could offer an explanation. The clerk informed the Parish Council that he was taking them to ACAS, he then read a letter that he had sent to the tribunal, he alleges unfair dismissal.

Mrs H. Tompkins, Mrs L. Standish-Gore, Cllrs. RC. Ball and R. Foster had circulated a letter dated 25/07/03 to all the members of the council, a copy of which was also sent to LAPTC, which explained that they were disassociating themselves from the process of dismissing the clerk.

The clerk then left the room. It was agreed that Cllr. Hunter would take the minutes.

After further discussion Cllr. Ball left the room.

It was proposed by Cllr. Plant that the Clerk be paid to 21st August, this was seconded by Cllr. Sergeant. This resolution was passed 4 votes for, with 3 abstentions.



It was proposed by Cllr. Sergeant, that as the clerk was taking the Council to ACAS, he should be asked to stand down from his duties forthwith; if he wished to remain for the remainder of the meeting as a member of the public he was welcome to stay. This was seconded by the Chair. The resolution was passed 4 votes for, 3 abstentions.

Cllr Foster then enquired as to where the Parish records were held. He was asked to put this item on the agenda of meeting of 1st September 2003.

Chair proposed that a sub-committee of Cllrs. Plant, Sergeant, Murphy and Hunter be formed to deal with the Clerks claim for unfair dismissal, and that if Cllrs Ashcroft and Goodier wished to join this committee they were welcome. This was seconded by Cllr Hunter. The resolution was passed 4 votes for, 3 abstentions.

Mr R Sears was then invited to return to the meeting and he was informed of the decisions made in part 2. The chair then made repeated requests that he leave all items belonging to the Council and relevant to the rest of the meeting in his possession and any other sundry properties that he was holding for the Council. Mr Sears refused to comply and left taking with him the property of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Hunter was asked if he would become temporary clerk. He declined due to work commitments but would continue to take the minutes of this meeting. It was therefore agreed by the council that the chair act as temporary clerk with assistance from members as and when required.

Members of the public were then invited to return for the rest of the meeting. Cllr. Ball also returned.

051/2003 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July

The minutes of the meeting were challenged and amended accordingly, following the amendments it was proposed by Cllr. Sergeant, seconded by Cllr. Hunter that " They were a true and correct record ". The resolution was passed 4 votes for, 2 votes against, and 2 abstentions.

052/2003 Matters arising from Minutes

Cllr Ball enquired had the Police as yet been involved.

Cllr. Murphy replied that the police would not want to be involved until after the Audit Commission had completed their work. Cllr. Murphy said he would contact the Audit Commission to find out when this would be.

Legal ramifications of letter from NALC.

The Council required a copy of the letter that Mr. Sears had originally sent to NALC, and all subsequent correspondence. Copies were required of all letters sent from clerk and council to LAPTEC & NALC. 5 items regarding 046/2003



Football Club Rent

The Football club had not received an invoice and therefore did not know how much they owed the council. It was pointed out by Cllr. Sergeant that the annual rental should rise each year by the Retail Price Index. He asked if this had been done with regard to the Bowling Club and Cricket Club invoices, who had apparently paid their rental. This was to be checked once the relevant paperwork had been returned by Mr Sears.

Appointment of New Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Standish-Gore that the vacancy be advertised. The resolution was passed 6 votes for, and 2 abstentions.
The chair, as already agreed, would act as temporary clerk until a new one is appointed.

053/2003 Finance

Due to Mr Sears taking all the documents away with him the council did not know whether any payments were to be made or any monies received.
Cllr. Foster stated that he had received a rental payment from the allotments which he had given to Mr. Sears before the start of tonight's meeting.

054/2003 Correspondence

Again due to Mr Sears taking all the documents away with him the council did not know the extent of the correspondence received since the last meeting.
However one item distributed was the dates of future meetings which were agreed except for Monday 12th April 2004 which was Easter Monday and would be re-arranged nearer the time. Proposed by the chair, seconded by Cllr. Hunter. The resolution was passed 7 votes for, 1 vote against.

For Information

Cllr. Murphy gave report on LAPTC Area Committee Meeting. It was proposed that a letter be sent to Simonswood PC requesting information on how they managed to get back money from local developers, a copy of this letter to be sent to Cllr. Ashcroft.

Cllr. Tompkins read out a report from Newspaper giving information regarding "Further Funding". It was agreed that Cllrs. Standish-Gore and Tompkins follow this up.

Standards Committee

Letter from G. Rowe inviting the Chairmen of Hesketh-with Becconsall and Tarleton Parish Council's to attend a meeting on 3rd September regarding Code of Conduct at Council Meetings etc.



Public Participation

The subject of Poppyfields drainage was once again raised. This was replied to at length by Cllr. Standish-Gore. The outcome of the ensuing discussion was that a letter be sent to Morris Homes and District Cllr. Ashcroft requesting an update of the position regarding ownership of the drains and final completion of any outstanding work.

Due to the above item taking nearly 15 minutes it was proposed by Cllr. Ball seconded Cllr. Standish-Gore that public participation be extended by 15 minutes. This was agreed by all.

A discussion took place about the proposed new development of a Booths Supermarket on land owned by Alty's. Several people spoke against the new store with traffic issues and the detrimental impact to existing businesses being the main issues.

Code of Conduct at Council Meetings and advice from LAPTC regarding same was mentioned along with the poor conduct of certain councillors during present and previous meetings.

There was a request to publish dates of future meetings.

Planning

Following the discussion in Public Participation of the proposed Booths Supermarket re 8/2003/0905. It was proposed by Cllr. Ball seconded by Cllr. Standish-Gore that a Public Meeting be held regarding the above development and was agreed by all.

It was proposed and agreed that the meeting should be held on Monday 18th August in All Saints Church Hall at 7.30pm and that notices advertising the meeting be placed on notice boards and handed out to the various shops etc.

The press and local website was also to be approached to advertise the meeting. Cllr. Murphy was to chair this public meeting and that the planning officer from WLDC be invited.

There were complaints about the numbers of migrant workers caravans re 8/2003/0831, 8/2003/0905, 8/2003/1913 and 8/2003/0914.

These were: Fire Hazard, Sanitation, Legality. A letter was to be sent to WLDC Planning.

Again with Mr Sears taking away with him the relevant information the council did not know if any Planning Applications had been received since the agenda was published.

Recreation Grounds and Play Areas

A letter from Mr Jones was read out by the Chair which stated a bollard at Shore Road Recreation Ground had been demolished. Chair to contact B. Parkinson for fitting a replacement.

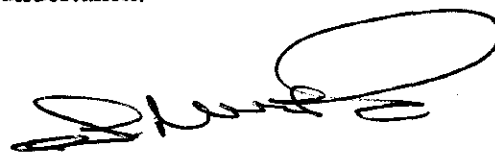


There was concern about the condition of the play areas on the same field. Cllr. Standish-Gore had received complaints regarding older children leaving broken bottles etc which made the area unsafe for younger children. It was suggested that all the play areas should be fenced off .

A letter is to be sent to District Cllr. M. Forshaw regarding Community Policing.

Cllr. Sergeant reported that the wooden fencing on the Station Road Play Area needed repairing. Chair to contact B. Parkinson to arrange work to be undertaken.

The meeting closed at 9-55 PM



1/9/03.

**HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT ALL SAINTS
CHURCH HALL ON
18th AUGUST 2003 AT 7.30 PM**

The meeting had been called to hear the views of the public on the joint planning application submitted by Booths and Altys.

Members of the Parish Council Present: Cllr Tony Murphy (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Norma Goodier, Hilary Tomkins, and Lesley Standish-Gore.

Councillor R Foster sat with the public. The two District Councillors Iain Ashcroft and Martin Forshaw also sat with the public.

Cllr Murphy opened the meeting thanking the public for attending, and explained how the meeting would proceed.

Apologies: A letter from Booths had been received and also a letter from Altys. Cllr Murphy read out the contents of both letters. Rev Fairburn of Altys said in his letter that he would try to answer any points that were raised at the meeting, if they could be summarised and sent to him.

Officers from the West Lancs District Council could not attend.

There were about 130 members of the public present.

The plan was on view for public inspection this would go before the planning committee in October. This land had been designated for over 30 years for retail development.

Several members of the public, among who were many of the local shop owners, spoke in favour of the application; there were also people who spoke against.

The main objections were as follows:

- 1 The mini roundabout is sited in the wrong place, as the owner of the Post Office pointed out, when customers who park on the shop front reverse out they would be on the roundabout.
- 2 The Zebra crossing sited in wrong place
- 3 Sewers and other infrastructures coping with extra vehicles using village. There has been a drainage problem in Hesketh Bank since 1966.
- 4 Continuing problem with more traffic.

The main Positive points:

- 1 It was noted that several residents commented that Hesketh Bank has grown out of all proportion and most residents would welcome a centre or focal point, be it commercial or retail
- 2 People will still stay loyal to existing shops for their day-to-day needs but what is needed is more choice locally.
- 3 It was suggested that more people should walk or cycle instead of using cars.
- 4 How might be the best opportunity for residents of Hesketh Bank to have an input into the development of the village.



Questions to be put forward to Booths:

- 1 Are they going to offer any improvement for Station Road?
- 2 What types of vehicles are going to be delivering goods?
- 3 Frequency of delivery times?
- 4 Opening hours of Booths?
- 5 There are 19 cars parked on wasteland at present, belonging to local offices and shops. Booths plan 100 parking spaces; will Booths employees take up 40 of these spaces?
- 5 Move footpath 2 m wide (side of Country Larder) this would connect Booths with Village instead of alienating the building.
- 6 Are Booths going to allow the car park to be used by anyone free of charge?

Suggestions made by the Public to be put forward to Booths

- 1 Car park at the rear of the proposed building would be more acceptable.
- 2 The sewers need sorting before any more new developments.
- 3 Alternative route out of the adjoining villages would be for the County Council to upgrade Green Lane in Tarleton, this would reduce traffic through the villages.
- 4 For a better flow and sighting of traffic for the road over the bridge to be levelled or dropped.
- 5 Could Delivery access Only be made prior to the bridge through the existing entrance to Alty's yard.

Conclusions:

After explaining the planning process, Martin Forshaw, District Councillor for Hesketh Bank, promised to take on board and carry forward to West Lancs District Council all the points raised by the public.

Cllr Tony Murphy asked for a show of hands from the public in favour of Booths/Alty application - 89% for and 11% against.

He thanked everyone for making the effort to attend the meeting, which closed at 9 pm.



Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2003 at the Church Hall, Station Road, Hesketh Bank between Hesketh Bank Football Club and Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council Centenary Sports Ground Committee, at 7.30 pm.

Present: Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council: Cllr Tony Murphy (Chairman), Cllrs Brian Birkby, Mrs Norma Goodier.

Hesketh Bank Football Club: Peter Leigh, Paul Sergeant, Vaughan Birkby, Graham Abraham, Gary Haddock, Shirley Haddock.

Apologies:- Cllr Iain Ashcroft

Cllr Tony Murphy opened the meeting asking Parish Councillors and football Representatives to introduce themselves.

He then apologised to the Football Club on behalf of the majority of Councillors in the way the trees were removed. It was explained to the Football Club that the previous Chairman had not followed Parish Council procedures.

The Football Club, said they understood the situation, but had taken legal advice, and now felt with a new Chairman and a more understanding Parish Council things could be sorted more amicably.

Legally the trees belonged to the Football Club, planted on land leased by the Club from the Parish Council. Paragraph 2.5 of the lease had been totally disregarded.

The Chairman assured the Football Club that the reason why the trees had been planted had on numerous occasions been explained to new members of the Council, the reason was again minuted in December 2002 meeting.

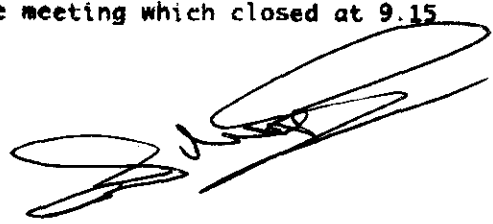
After lengthy discussions, the Football Club expected the Parish Council to meet the total cost of restoration, as the Parish Council was in breach of the Landlord and Tenant Act.

It was noted that the Club's first game is 9 August 2003.

The Parish Council Committee agreed to take the following recommendations back to full Parish Council meeting:

- 1 To continue concrete fencing on boundary with the Village Hall.
- 2 To establish concrete fence 2 metres high on the football ground side of hawthorn hedge, running parallel with the hawthorn hedge.
- 3 Restore the ground, which had been left in a mess by the contractor who removed the trees.
- 4 To plant 30 trees behind the goal (Station Road End) this was to include a memorial to Ray Dawson.
- 5 The Parish Council Committee felt that a short-term solution for safety and ball control could be perimeter fencing.
- 6 A new Notice Board to be included.
- 7 Parish Council Committee agreed that 3 sealed bids would be required, the work for the whole job should be quoted for together. This way a final cost would be received.
- 8 Three contractors were mentioned Brian Parkinson, Brian Counce, Dave Bamber.
- 9 When the quotes were received and a decision had been taken, it was thought advisable to inform residents nearby.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 9.15 pm



HESKETH - WITH - BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st September 2003 in the Village
Institute (Library Building), Station Road, Hesketh Bank at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A Murphy (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs N Goodier; Mrs L Standish-Gore and Mrs H Tompkins
Councillors I Ashcroft; R C Ball, J R Foster; J Hunter, R Plant; and PJ A Sergeant

There were 4 members of the press and public present.

055/2003 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

056/2003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2003

057/2003 RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 August 2003 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2003

058/2003 There were no matters arising.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Chairman had received a number of applications - no previous applicant had re-applied.

Discussion took place whether a sub-committee or the whole council should take part in the interview procedures.

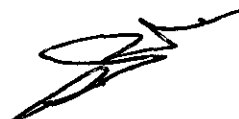
059/2003 RESOLVED That all members be given the opportunity with the selection of a clerk.

It was agreed the following dates, time and venue:

Short listing of applicants Monday 9th September at 7.30 pm Village Hall

Interviews Monday 22nd September at Village Hall, time to be confirmed.

During the above discussion Councillor Standish-Gore arrived.



FINANCE

A Items for Decision

1 Accounts for Payment

60/2003 RESOLVED: That the following accounts be paid:-

Liverpool Daily Post ^ Advert for new Clerk	£190.54 ✓
Yates Playground Equipment ^ Relayed Rubber Tiles	£ 52.88
Yates Playground Equipment ^ Inspection	£ 77.55
Hesketh Bank Village Institute ^ Rent March ^ August 2003	£120.00 ✓
CPRE ^ Annual Membership	£ 25.00 ✓
B Parkinson ^ Repair to Station Road wooden fencing	£ 35.00 ✓
B Parkinson ^ Replacing 2 bollards Shore Road	£100.00 ✓
B Parkinson ^ Maintenance	£200.00 ✓
Granada TV ^ Air Ambulance appeal (from monies received Jubilee 2002)	£500.00 ✓

61/2003 RESOLVED: A list of dates covering future meetings is sent to the Village Institute confirming bookings.

2 That the following accounts are not paid at this time for the reasons given:

62/2003 RESOLVED: The letter received from the former clerk requesting £1875.40 be acknowledged, and then passed to the sub-committee for consideration.

(The voting on this resolution was FOR ^ A Murphy, I Ashcroft, R Plant, J Hunter, P Sergeant, N Goodier, AGAINST ^ R Ball, L Standish-Gore, H Tompkins, ABSTENTIONS ^ R Foster.

63/2003 RESOLVED: The invoice from Rawstorns Solicitors requesting £146.87, for advice given to Councillor R Ball and the previous clerk. As Councillor Ball and the previous clerk had visited the Solicitor, without Councils, knowledge, or seeking prior approval for sending an official order, it was agreed to write to Rawstorns explaining the situation and request the invoice be sent to Councillor Ball and the former clerk.

(The voting on this resolution was FOR - A Murphy, I Ashcroft, R Plant, J Hunter, P Sergeant, N Goodier, AGAINST ^ R Ball, ABSTENTIONS - L Standish-Gore, H Tompkins, and R Foster).

B To Note

1 Receipts

- a. Hesketh Bank AFC ^ CSG Rental £193
- b Stuart Bibby ^ Allotment Rent £24

The Chairman informed the Council that he had banked £36 from Mr Bond (allotment rent).

REAL PROJECT ^ UPDATE

Cllr Tompkins informed the Council that Martin Trentgrove had not received a reply to his letter asking how the Parish Council would like to move forward with the Real Project and the formation of groups.



The Chairman agreed to write to Martin Trentgrove.

Cllr Tompkins expressed concern on how to progress, the need to circulate information to residents as not enough people were coming forward and more funding would also be necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Items for Decision

1 WLDC ^ Consultation Draft for Play & Cultural Strategy
64/2003 RESOLVED - That the document be noted

2 HESKETH VILLAGE INSTITUTE - Application for Grant/fencing Cllrs R Plant and P Sergeant declared an interest in this item

The letter contained information with regards to the estimate for repairs to the roof, also informing the Council that the Village Institute do not require a chain link fence.

65/2003 RESOLVED - That the Village Institute be advised that all requests for grants from the Parish Council would be considered in January 2004.

The fencing would be dealt with at the same time as Hesketh Bank AFC.

3 PWLB ^ Response for information about £100,000 loan

Letter from the PWLB, stating that £50,000 had been paid to Tarleton High School, and £50,000 had been paid into the Parish Council's Bank Account. The £50,000 in the bank was getting less than 2% interest, whereas interest on the loan was £567.20 and a payment of £1628.20 for 3 months had already been paid.

A proposal was made and seconded to save the ridiculous situation and in order to alleviate interest payments return the £50,000 loan.

66/2003 RESOLVED ^ That a cheque for £50,567.20 be sent to the PWLB
FOR ^ 6, AGAINST ^ 1, ABSTENTIONS ^ 2.

To look for suitable recreational land within the village to purchase, as the PWLB confirmed that returning the money would not jeopardize any later application.

4 LCC ^ Response in respect of Tarleton High School Sports Hall Project

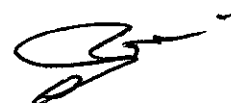
Letter inviting the Chairman to attend a meeting, as the proposed building was at the Planning Stage and budgets had been approved.

A discussion about the Parish Council paying interest on £50,000 for a building that was not even erected was taking place, when Cllr R Ball became abusive and used blasphemous expressions to Cllr I Ashcroft.

The Chairman warned Cllr Ball as per standing order 28

67/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the Chairman to contact LCC to arrange a date for a meeting.

Cllr Ball became abusive, this time towards the Chairman.



The Chairman again warned Cllr Ball as per standing order 28

5 AUDIT COMMISSION ^ Questionnaire for Parish/Town Councils within West Lancashire

68/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the survey to be completed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

6 NALC ^ Parish Council Standing Orders

69/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the Chairman would pass the document to the new clerk when appointed.

7 MARK O,HANLON ^ Parish Council web site.

The Chairman read the quote received and the various options.

70/2003 RESOLVED ^ That as Mr O,Hanlon was present that Standing Orders are waived to allow him to explain the various options in more detail.

That the Council purchase Mr O,Hanlon, services for 12 months at a cost of £125.

That the Chairman Email Mr O,Hanlon confirming.

It was suggested that Cllr Tomkins forward information on the Real Project to be included on the web site.

8 ALLIANZ CORNHILL ^ Shore Road Carpark.

71/2003 RESOLVED - That the Chairman be authorised to complete the claim form and contact David Rowell the contractor who carried out the work.

9 ALTYS ^ Razor Wire. Letter written by Rev Fairburn expressing surprise of the tone of the letter written by the former clerk on behalf of the Council.

72/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the Chairman write to Altys apologising and request a meeting.

Correspondence received since Agenda was circulated

10 CUSTOM & EXCISE - VAT. A letter stating that £3746.68 had been paid to the Council in March 1998.

73/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the Chairman check with the Bank if any payment was received after August 1999.

B To Note The following items were noted:-

1 WLDC ^ Invitation to Civic Service 7 September 2003

2 WLDC ^ Joint Parish Council Liaison Committee 25 September 2003. The chairman to attend.

3 WLDC ^ Parish Council By-Election 23 October 2003

4 AUDIT COMMISSION ^ Response to Parish Council request Southampton passed request to Auditors in Chorley.

5 LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY ^ Response to police involvement over accounts was to follow local government procedure; based on Audit Commission findings any irregularities would be passed to Police. It was noted that the original letter sent to the Police was not available.

6 WLDC ^ List of Contractors ^ Parish Council's request had been passed to Colin Brady.

Correspondence received since Agenda was circulated

7 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ^ consultation Paper on indemnities for relevant authority



members and officers.

8 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - The draft school organisation plan for Lancashire 2003-2008.

8 GARRICK OUTDOOR ^ Leaflet bus shelters

9 DEFRA - The Quality Parish and Town council Scheme

10 CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT ^ Issue 28

11 COMMUNITY FOCUS ^ Issue 19

12 THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE ^ Local Government Review of two-Tier Areas in the North West

13 LCC ^ Project News 2002/3

14 COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE ^ Belt up in the back campaign. Chairman to put posters on Notice Board.

15 ROAD ISSUES FOCUS GROUP ^ Local Agenda 21 ^ Transport & Access Community Groups

16 WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL ^ 1974 ^ 2003

17 WLDC ^ Best Value Performance Plan 2003/04

18 HLB AUDIT ^ Local Council Briefing ^ pass to new Clerk

19 LANCASHIRE & MERSEYSIDE COUNTY TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ^ The AQA Certificate for Competent Clerks Seminar

20 THE STANDARDS BOARD ^ Local Authorities Code of Conduct

21 MR R P SEARS ^ Details of money owing

Proposed and seconded to discuss this item in more detail in Part 2, please refer to Resolution 62/2003.

The voting on this resolution was:

FOR ^ Cllrs I Ashcroft, J Hunter, P Sergeant, A Murphy, N Goodier

AGAINST ^ Cllrs R Ball, R Foster, H Tompkins, L Standish-Gore

ABSTENTIONS ^ R Plant.

Cllr Ball became abusive towards Cllr Plant; Cllr Plant proposed to stop the meeting because of Cllr Ball's unruly behaviour. Cllr Plant withdrew the proposal to enable the Council to continue.

Cllr Tompkins had a press cutting on hedgerows after discussion with Cllr Hunter Cllr Tompkins agreed to ring for more information.

PLANNING MATTERS

8/2003/0905 Altys & Booths joint planning application, details received from Steven Abbott Association.

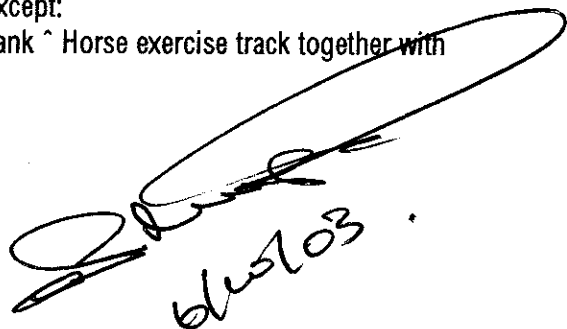
73/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the Chairman send a copy of minutes of the Public Meeting requesting comments on questions raised.

74/2003 RESOLVED That no comments be made on the weekly list except:

08/2003/1033 Land at Dib Road, off Shore Road, Hesketh Bank ^ Horse exercise track together with associated reception/stable blocks and trailer park

That the Chairman request more informatio

The meeting closed at 10 pm



HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th October 2003 in the Village
Institute (Library Building), Station Road, Hesketh Bank at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Murphy (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs L. Standish-Gore and Mrs H Tompkins
Councillors R C Ball, J R Foster, J Hunter, R Plant and P J A Sergeant

There were approximately 22 members of the public present

74/2003 APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs N Goodier

The chair informed the meeting that Councillor I Ashcroft was involved in
another meeting at West Lancashire and would try attend if time allowed.


DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

75/2003 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2003

Councilor Tompkins asked for the word (Ridiculous, to be removed from Item 3
under correspondence.

Redacted by Cllr R. Ball + Seconded by L. Standish-Gore.

76/2003 RESOLVED - This was agreed by all and that the minutes of the
meeting held on 1st September be altered accordingly and then signed by the
Chairman. 

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

77/2003 The Real Project can now be accessed on via a link on both HeskethBank.com and West Lancashire
District Council websites.

CENTENARY SPORTS GROUND

Councillor Ball requested that Councillor Sergeant declare an interest in this item. Councilor Sergeant declined.

a) 3 sealed quotations had been received to build a concrete paneled fence to run along the front of the
CSG and make good the ground that was damaged when the trees were removed.

Brian Parkinson -	£3100.00
Gary Harrison -	£6500.00
Premier Paving -	£3900.00

78/2003 RESOLVED Brian Parkinson be awarded the contract
(2 - FOR, 6 - ABSTENTIONS)



- b) The Chairman reported that it had been brought to his attention that the pit adjacent to the Cricket Field was used as a dumping ground. The chair was to find out who owned the pit.

RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREAS

- a) Two seats had been removed after the report of general vandalism. The chairman had consulted with the vice chairman for approval to have the work carried out by Brian Parkinson between meetings.

It was reported that the school would be replacing damaged parts of the fence.

The chair was to ask WLDC if they could provide larger bins.

Discussion then took place regarding places for teenagers to meet under shelter. Councilor Tompkins suggested a couple of possible areas and would discuss the matter with the owners of land adjacent to the Station Road Play Area and land at Alty's when Booths build their supermarket. She also reported that the police would be able to part fund the shelter through a grant.

- b) Yates Playgrounds Inspection Reports. Despite their regular inspections they had failed to notice that the slide on the Station Road Play Area had been condemned by the Insurance companies own inspection. This has since been repaired.

They did however recommend that the safety area be replaced under the swings and under the igloo climbing frame on Shore Road.

- c) A letter was read out by a Mr R. Banks who is a resident on Delta Park and has evidence of drug taking on the Shore Road Recreation Ground. The chairman was to reply and send a copy of the letter to the police.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) A letter was read out by the chair from Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety. The chairman was to reply and ask Ian Bell the Project Manager to visit the village and ask him to prioritise the area outside the school.

- b) WLDC wrote to advise that all highway maintenance will now be the responsibility of the County Council.

- c) The bus shelter on Station Road had been demolished by a Safeway lorry. Councillor Foster witnessed the event and took the registration number of the lorry. He informed the chairman who asked Garrick Outdoor to remove the bus shelter as soon as possible since the site was in a dangerous condition. He is in negotiations with Royal Sun Alliance and the loss adjusters and the total cost for the removal and replacement is £1,736 plus VAT.

Garrick Outdoor had also quoted to replace panels damaged in the bus shelters at £95.00 each plus VAT. To replace the bus shelter outside the Methodist Chapel at £1314.00 plus VAT.

79/2003 RESOLVED that the chairman contact Garrick Outdoor to undertake the above work.



ALLOTMENTS

A letter was read out from Kevin Baxendale requesting the use of one or two plots if available.

Councillor Foster reported that the outfall pipe needed cleaning and could Mr Bannister be requested to cut down his hedge which was over hanging onto the allotment.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

£500 had already been donated to Granada TV's recent appeal and the remainder was to be divided equally and donated to 3 local organizations The Cubs, Brownies and Scouts (approximately £70.00 each)

Suggestions were required for the next meeting for the distribution of the Jubilee Medals.

PARISH RECORDS

Councillor Foster requested that an inventory of all the parish,s records be made. It was agreed by all that this would be done once a new clerk was appointed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Items discussed:

- a) Lack of Youth Facilities. Provision of an area for youths to take them away from near homes. Councillor Tompkins highlighted the Real project which had already identified this problem and that a Youth Council had been set up with Angela Bond as leader.
- b) 25-40 children aged between 10-15 years dangerously skateboarding and playing in the dark on Poppyfields. This was because there was no were else for them to go. Suggestions included building a purpose built skate park on parish owned land, maybe on Shore Road.
- c) Unsociable behavior of youths on Shore Road Recreation Ground in the early hours of the morning and the lack of police action when reported.

During Public Participation the chair had to warn Councillor Ball as per Standing Order 28.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Unfortunately only one applicant actually turned up for an interview. With this in mind it was decided by those councillors present at the interview that the chair should contact previous applicants.

Since then three further applications have been received and a further date for interviews was to be arranged.

FINANCE

- a) Accounts for payment

80/2003 RESOLVED it was agreed by all except were shown that the following accounts be paid:-

North Meols Parish Council	£32.22
Brian Parkinson	£50.00



Yates Playground £77.55

(This invoice not authorised for payment - Chairman to write and enclose a copy of the letter from insurance company see item b from Recreation Ground and Play Areas)

Garrick Outdoor £323.12

(7 - FOR, 1 - AGAINST)

Councillor Plant reported that the church would like to take up the councils previous offer of a £1000.00 grant towards the new boiler.

81/2003 RESOLVED ^ Payment of £1000.00 to be made to All Saints P.C.C.

b) Receipts

£14,900.00 - Precept received after had chair completed accounts up to 31/03/03

£36.00 - Allotment rental from Mrs Chadwick

£36.00 - Allotment rental from Mr Baxter

c) It was reported by the chair that following the return of £50,567.20 to the PWLB the next payment due on the rest of the loan would be on 01/01/04 of £1671.00.

d) A VAT repayment of £3,746.68 had been received and was correct up to 1999.

The chair reported that he had spoken to Brian Rimmer who was submitting a further claim to bring the VAT account up to date.

WLDC - STANDARDS BOARD COMMITTEE

The chairman read out a letter he had received from the WLDC Standards Board Committee following a meeting he had attended along with John Hodson chairman of Tarleton Parish Council.

The Committee recommended that both councils should attend a course in effective communication and conflict management at a cost of £500.00. Any councillor who refused to attend should be named and an explanation be given to the Standards Board Committee.

Councillor Ball requested that his name be forwarded to the committee as he would refuse to attend any course and wanted to be summoned before the Standards Committee at West Lancs DC.

Councillor Ball further requested that the chairman give a verbal report. This request was refused and Councillor Ball became abusive towards the chairman. The chairman warned Councillor Ball as per Standing Order 28 for the second time and thus excluded him from the rest of the meeting.

Councillor Ball then launched a tirade of expletives towards the chairman whom he then approached in a threatening manner.

Councillor Ball eventually moved to sit with the public so the meeting was resumed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Re ^ 63/2003 Rawsthorns Solicitors had replied to the letter and again requested the payment from the council.

82/2003 RESOLVED that a payment of £146.87 be made to Rawsthorns to clear the account.

(5 - FOR, 1 - AGAINST, 1 - ABSTENTION)



It was reported by the chairman that the Tarleton High School Project was close to beginning and that if the Parish Council were to request the return of the £50,000.00

From LCC it would cause problems as the funding of the project was already in place which included this money.

83/2003 RESOLVED that the money to remain and support the Tarleton High School project.
(4 - FOR, 3 - AGAINST)

Letter received from WLDC ^ Submission to the Boundary Committee outlining the proposed two tier review.

The Parish Council By-Election to fill the vacancy was to be on Thursday 23rd October between Mrs Christine Farrington and Mrs Gail Hodson.

Items for information:-

WLDC ^ Parish Council Joint Liaison Committee

CVS ^ Streets Ahead Newsletter

Clerks & Councils Direct

WLHA ^ Heritage News

WLDC ^ Various Committee updates/notifications

Carers Centre

WLDC - 12 new support officers

Grant available for bulb planting

Letter from Booths

Friends of Mere Sands Wood requesting donation ^ to be added to list and discussed in the January meeting.

PLANNING

Re-E/2003/0014 ^ Appeal had been lodged against the alleged breach of planning control ^ use of land as a caravan site.

84/2003 RESOLVED that the chair write re health & safety on site etc.

Re- 08/2003/1154 ^ Prefabricated Bungalow at 53 Moss Lane.

Letter received from Trevor Roberts of 79a Moss Lane listing a number of objections.

85/2003 RESOLVED - The chair was also to write with these objections.

No comments were made to the rest of applications.

RECREATION AREAS & HIGHWAY MATTERS

There were no new items raised

It was agreed to waive standing orders regarding 10pm finish so that the final item on the agenda be discussed.



PART TWO - EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The employment tribunal meeting had yet to take place. Mr Sears requested a postponement of the original meeting and the chair was not able to attend the revised date. A further date for the meeting was yet to be arranged.

The employment sub committee reported their findings of the former clerk's request for £1875.40. They proposed the following:-

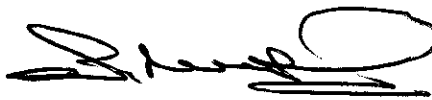
Pay former clerk his salary less tax for July and 3 weeks into August, but not September or October.

Reject a request for payment of extra hours worked as this was never brought to the council's attention at the time and was therefore not authorized.

Pay the petty cash payments less two items ^ 16th May 40 miles @ 49.9p per mile to Preston & 16th May Car Parking £1.30 as both of these items of expenditure occurred on an unauthorized visit to Rawsthorns Solicitors.

86/2003 RESOLVED ^ That the above was agreed and a letter sent to Mr Sears along with payment of £557.06
(4 - FOR, 3 - ABSTENTIONS)

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.15pm



10/11/2003.

**HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL
PARISH COUNCIL.**

Minutes of meeting of Employment Sub-Committee held at Hesketh Village Institute
on Monday 26th October 2003 at 7.30pm.

Members present: Cllr A. Murphy (Chairman)
Cllrs. P. Sergeant, I. Ashcroft, R. Plant and Cllr Mrs N. Goodier.

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Hunter.

The meeting had been arranged in order to carry out further interviews for the position of Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer. The first round of interviews had only one candidate arrive for interview – it was decided to approach previous applicants.

Three candidates had indicated they would attend this evening.

The three said candidates were: Mr Neil Ainsworth from Lostock Hall, Mr Bert Sharples from Tarleton and Mr Ian Cropper from Southport.

All three candidates arrived for interview at their appointment time and the interviewing took place.

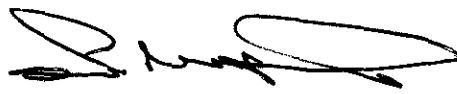
Following the interviews – consideration took place of all four candidates whom had been interviewed (including the previous applicant Mr Keith Reardon from Ormskirk).

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore, the recommendation of the Employment Committee that Mr Ian T. Cropper of Southport be appointed as of Monday 17th November 2003, subject to satisfactory references and a 6 months probationary period. Annual Salary to be the same as the previous clerk at £9.20 per Hour (£3382 p annum) plus expenses.

A contract of employment should be agreed by Council and offered to Mr Cropper within 2 months' of his starting his position.


10/11/03

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 November 2003 in the Village Institute (Library Building), Station Road, Hesketh Bank at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A Murphy (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Farrington, Mrs N Goodier; Mrs L Standish-Gore and Mrs H Tompkins

Councillors I Ashcroft; R C Ball, J R Foster; J Hunter, and PJ A Sergeant

There were 9 members of the public present and PC Graham Wilson

087/2003 APOLOGIES

Councillor R Plant

088/2003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ELECTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman formally reported the election of Councillor Christine Farrington to the Council and the Chairman welcomed and introduced Councillor Farrington to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Farrington signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2003

Councillor Ball asked that the Resolution 76/2003 show that the minutes were proposed by Councillor Ball and seconded by Councillor L Standish-Gore.

089/2003 RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October be altered accordingly and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2003

It was suggested that the 3 cheques for £70 each for the Cubs, Brownies and Scouts be divided between the 6 uniformed organisations. Councillor Tompkins stated that it was the decision of the Jubilee Committee that only the Cubs, Brownies and Scouts should receive the money, it was not for the Parish Council to decide.

090/2003 RESOLVED That 3 cheques for £70 each to be posted to the Cubs, Brownies and Scouts along with a covering letter stating that it was the Jubilee Committee's decision, who should receive the money.



Councillor Ball asked the Chairman if he had a mandate from the Council to speak at the Standards Committee meeting he attended at WLDC on 3 September. The Chairman advised Councillor Ball that he did not need a mandate as he had not been given an agenda and that this item would be discussed under Correspondence.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Chairman read out the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2003, regarding the appointment of a Clerk to the Council.

The recommendation by Councillors who were present at the interviews was to appoint Ian Cropper of Southport.

091/2003 RESOLVED That the Chairman write to Mr Ian Cropper officially offering him the position of Clerk to the Council, commencing 17 November 2003, along with a Job Description plus Terms and Conditions. Also to write to the other applicants informing them of the Council's decision.

(The voting on this resolution was FOR - 6, AGAINST - 0, ABSTENTIONS - 3)

EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

The Chairman had attended the Employment Tribunal held at Liverpool on 27 October 2003; Mr R P Sears had claimed unfair dismissal from Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council. The Chairman read out the full report of the Tribunal. Copies were circulated to Councillors for information. The decision of the Tribunal:

The unanimous decision of the employment tribunal is that the applicant did not have at least one year's continuous employment ending with the effective date of termination so he did not have the right to be unfairly dismissed and his claim of unfair dismissal is dismissed.

A copy of the report to be kept on record.

FINANCE

A Items For Decision

1 Accounts for Payment

92/2003 RESOLVED: That the following accounts be paid:

Genial Host – Web Services	£125.00
Hesketh Village Institute – Hire of Hall	£15.00
Yates Playground Equipment – Repairing safety surface & slide	£249.00
Yates Playground Equipment – Inspection	£77.55

2 Appointment of Internal Auditor 2002/03

The Chairman informed the Council that Charlotte Haslam would be willing to act as Internal Auditor for the Council for a fee of £100.

93/2003 RESOLVED That the Chairman contact Charlotte Haslam to confirm the above.

During the above discussion Councillor Iain Ashcroft arrived.



3 Annual Audit of Parish Accounts 2002/03

The Chairman had received notice of the Annual Audit for year ending 31 March 2003 from HLB AV Audit; the Audit date has been set for 15 December 2003. The Chairman had contacted HLB V Audit the date for this Council has been extended until the end of January 2004.

4 Outstanding Monies Due to the Council from Councillor R C Ball

As no reply had been received from previous correspondence sent to Councillor Ball, Councillor Norma Goodier proposed that a further letter/invoice be sent to Councillor Ball for monies that had been paid with his agreement, without prior approval of the Parish Council, these include Civic Dinner, Visit to Rawstorns Solicitors, Felling of Trees (in breach of the lease with the football Club). If no response was forthcoming within 7 days the Chairman and Vice Chairman to seek legal advice on behalf of the council. Councillor Tony Murphy seconded this.

Councillor Hilary Tompkins proposed an amendment 'Parish Council seek legal advice in taking Councillor Ball as to regard legal matter of outstanding monies owed before proceeding with 7 day letter'. Councillor Standish-Gore seconded the amendment. (The voting on this amendment was FOR - R Ball, L Standish-Gore, H Tompkins, and R Foster.

AGAINST – A Murphy, I Ashcroft, J Hunter, P Sergeant, and N Goodier
ABSTENTIONS – Christine Farrington)

(The voting on this resolution was FOR - A Murphy, I Ashcroft, J Hunter, P Sergeant, N Goodier, AGAINST – R Ball, L Standish-Gore, H Tompkins, and R Foster.
ABSTENTIONS – Christine Farrington)

94/2003 RESOLVED That a letter/invoice be sent to Councillor Ball requesting payment of outstanding monies, if no reply is received within 7 days, the Chairman and Vice Chairman seek legal advice.

Councillor Ball remarked that the Council could go and whistle.

B To Note

1 Payments Received

The Council received no monies

2 Letter to Former Clerk

A copy of the letter sent to Mr R P Sears as per **Resolution 86/2003** had been distributed to Councillors for information. It was noted that Mr R P Sears had banked the cheque for £588.06 from the Council on 14 October 2003.

The Chairman read out a letter dated 21 October 2003 from Mr R P Sears to the Council.

95 /2003 RESOLVED That the letter be noted by the Council; a letter to be sent to Mr R P Sears advising that the Council had noted the contents.



3 Letter From Rawsthorns Solicitors

Correspondence received from Rawsthorns advising the Council that the outstanding monies owed would be passed to Debt Collection Service.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Parish Council had now paid the invoice.

3 Yates Playgrounds

Sent a letter apologising regarding the inspection of Station Road Play Area, they waiver the cost for all Inspections during September, invoice 567 has been returned to Yates Playgrounds.

4 Co-operative Bank

Information was noted from the Co-operative bank regarding interest rates and accounts.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Items for Decision

- 1 Community Fund – Funding advice of community organisations meeting Hesketh Bank Church Hall, 11 November 2003. Any Parish Councillor who wished to attend this meeting would be welcome.
- 2 Letter from Mr R P Sears, the contents were read to the Council by the Chairman as requested in the letter.
 - Mr Sears referred to the Council's response to the Standard Board recommendation.
 - Mr Sears quoted part of Councillor Murphy's response, which he felt inferred blame on him.
 - Mr Sears requested from the Council if Councillor Murphy had a mandate from the Council to make statements at the Standards Committee.

The Chairman read the complete paragraph from the Council and Committees minutes produced by WLDC. The minutes of above meeting referred to by Mr Sears, were on page 81 - 84.

The Council noted the following - Apologies were received from Mr Sears. The Chairman of the Standards Committee reminded members that Tarleton Parish Council and Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council should seek appropriate training in how best to undertake business and to reduce inter-personal conflict.

Both Chairmen were invited to outline their responses. Councillor Murphy's full response is at the top of page 83. This was read to the Council.

96/2003 RESOLVED - That a letter be sent to Mr Sears advising the following:

- 1 The paragraph on page 83 showing Councillor Murphy's full response be copied, the Council felt that Mr Sears had taken the contents out of



context, and his dismissal had nothing to do with inter-personal conflict between the two Councils.

- 2 That the same reply the Chairman gave Councillor Ball when he asked if the Chairman had a mandate from the Council to speak at the Standards Committee be given to Mr Sears.

The voting on this resolution was: FOR 5; AGAINST 0; ABSTENTIONS 4.

- 3 CVS Monthly bulletin - Noted, Cllr Murphy to Email for information.
- 4 Community Users Committee meeting on 11 November at 4.30 pm. Noted, the Chairman could not attend, as he would be at work when the meeting commenced.
- 5 Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust The 5th AGM on 10 November 2003. Noted.
- 6 WLDC – Meeting as an assembly – Wednesday 28 January 2004. Noted, the Chairman to attend.
- 7 LAPTC – AGM papers for 9 November 2003, it was noted that the original correspondence and voting cards had not been forwarded to the Council from Mr Sears. Councillors Ashcroft, Goodier and Plant had attended the AGM. Councillor Ashcroft and Goodier outlined the meeting to the Council.
- 8 Local Plan Newsletter Noted, Councillor Murphy to complete questionnaire
- B Items to Note

The following were noted:

WLDC – Parish Council By-election – details posted on notice boards.
WLDC – Minutes Parish Council Joint Liaison Committee held 25 September 2003

Correspondence received since Agenda was circulated

WLDC – Consultation paper of electoral pilot schemes.

TCG News

Countryside Voice

WLDC – Letter advising support for Parish plans.

Streets Ahead

Food Focus

Updated list as at 25 September 2003 of Parish Council Clerks

WLDC – Statement of Accounts

WLDC – Members Allowances

Standards Board – 3 letters of notification referring allegations to an Ethical Standards Officer for investigation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the following points:

Poppy Fields Drainage.

Concern on procedures and points of order.



Local social issues, skateboarding park. Photographs were presented to the Chairman of a skating boarding park.

A discussion took place on land that would be available. Councillor Ashcroft informed the Council that there could be up to 50% funding available from WLDC.

PLANNING MATTERS

Comments regarding the time scale of being informed of planning applications were noted, when the new Clerk takes over these should improve.

The Chairman informed the Council that a planning application regarding land at 140 Station Road was on the Agenda for Thursday 13 November.

Councillor Ball requested that Councillor Sergeant declare an interest in this item. Councillor Sergeant declined.

Councillor Goodier suggested that as Councillor Ball lived opposite he should declare an interest in this item. Councillor Ball declined.

Discussions commenced; Councillor Ball became abusive towards Councillors Murphy and Sergeant.

The Chairman warned Cllr Ball as per standing order 28

1 Weekly Lists

No 08/2003/1319 – Demolition of existing bungalow & outbuildings; erection of detached house and detached double garage with studio above. – 452 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank.

97/2003 RESOLVED – That the Parish Council raise no objection, request a copy of the plans.

Applications and Appeals determined since last meeting

08/2003/1028 – Two storey extension, 71 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank GRANTED

08/2003/1003 – Conversion of garage to study & conservatory at rear, Ledraig House, 1F The Green, Hesketh Bank, GRANTED

08/2003/1002 – First floor and two storey side extension, 122 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, GRANTED

08/2003/1102 – Single storey extension, Johnson Power Tools, 5 Station Road, Hesketh Bank, GRANTED

082003/0411 – Erection of detached dwelling house. Land adj 217 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, REFUSED

08/2003/0981 – Two storey & single storey extensions to side/rear 9 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank, GRANTED.

08/2003/1088 – Relocation of existing stable block. Nook Farm, 177 Chapel Road, Hesketh Bank, REFUSED

08/2003/1147 – Erection of a detached house with integral garage, land adjacent to 109 Station Road, Hesketh Bank, GRANTED subject to conditions.

Notification of Planning Application in adjacent Parish

08/2003/0035 – Archean Energy UK Limited. Starting operations at Beconsall Exploration drilling Site. Work to commence 31st October 2003.



Deposit Draft West Lancashire Local Plan was received from WLDC

ALTY'S/BOOTH'S SUPERMARKET

The Chairman had attended a meeting with Alty's with regards to the planning application for Booth's Supermarket. He showed the Council the outline plan, Alty's had taken on board points raised at the public meeting.

The plan had been amended to include:

A footpath 2.5 meters wide will now be included down the side of Country Larder to link the shops.

HB Computers are to move to Hesketh Lane. The Chemist Shop is still in negotiations

The mini roundabout has moved slightly up the hill in order to accommodate the Linked Shopping footpath

Two pedestrian crossing points have been included; one outside Bargain Booze and one opposite No. 11 Station Rd.

A one-way system will operate in the car park, and will be a free shoppers car park with 104 spaces.

A recycling centre will be sited on the car park

Lowering of the bridge crown was investigated but considered impractical owing to the adverse impact on the Top Shop

A one-way system would be created using a Lay-by similar to that outside Nevins in Tarleton. Move the bus shelter to the opposite side of the road with a bus stop sign outside No 11 Station Rd. The bus stop on Hesketh Lane (Preston bound) would be moved up the hill and a "top of the range" bus shelter placed to cater for both directions of bus services.

Lay one main drain to alleviate drainage problems.

It was thought this would commence July/December 2005

Discussions continued, Councillor Ashcroft explained planning procedures and previous planning applications. It was agreed that there was still insufficient starter homes in the area.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date '11/2/03' written vertically.

HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st December 2003 at 7:30pm in The Village Institute (Library Building) Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mr.C.I.Ashcroft, Cllr. Mr.R.C.Ball^(a), Cllr. Mrs N.M.Goodier, Cllr. Mr.J.R.Hunter, Cllr. Mr.A.P.Murphy (Chairman), Cllr. Rev'd R.Plant, Cllr. Mr.P.J.A.Sergeant, Cllr. Mrs L.Standish-Gore, Cllr. Mrs H.J.Tomkins^(b).

- (a) Left during item 20
- (b) Arrived during item 4

Seven members of the public including two members of the Police were present

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs C.Farrington and Cllr. Mr.J.R.Foster

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10th NOVEMBER

RESOLUTION No. 98/2003 Carried by **5(five)** votes to **1(one)** with **2(two)** abstentions that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Regarding Resolution 94/2003, the Clerk was instructed to proceed with the taking of legal advice.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

Centenary Sports Ground. A lengthy and heated discussion took place regarding the Council's legal position. Cllr. Ball alleged that the Council were in breach of the lease with Football Club. The Chairman stated that we were awaiting planning advice and he would advise the Football club of the position in due course.

Recreation Grounds. The Chairman gave an estimate of the cost of providing a shelter of approximately £7,000 including delivery and erection. Cllr. Tomkins intimated that funding could be possible from a Community Grant and the Chairman asked if she could pursue this. Discussions on various options took place, including as to whether residents should be consulted, especially as it would be used in the evenings with possible light pollution complaints. Cllr. Ashcroft offered to look into the planning ramifications. Concern was also expressed by Cllr. Standish-Gore regarding the amount of broken glass at the Shore Road Ground. A bin for litter was requested. The Chairman referred to the WLDC Capital Schemes 2004-2005 (item 15 on the Agenda) and proposed that this should be used for an application to generally upgrade and improve the facilities. He advised that he was preparing proposals for all Play Areas and would bring this forward to the council as a basis for producing a scheme.

RESOLUTION No.99/2003 carried by **8(eight)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that the Chairman submit a bid for funds under the Parish Council Capital Schemes 2004/2005 for a shelter and other improvement and safety works to the Play Areas.

Highway Matters. The Chairman gave details of estimates received to replace the damaged bus shelter at the Methodist Church on Chapel Road from 'Garrick Outdoor' and 'Autocross'. It was pointed out that a 'barrelled' roof would, as proposed by Autocross, lessen damage as vandals had in the past climbed on the flat roof. The Clerk suggested that a discount could be available if the Council also ordered the replacement for the one damaged by a Safeway vehicle on Station Road outside the Post Office.

RESOLUTION 100/2003 carried by **8(eight)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that the Clerk be instructed to place an order for two bus shelters including barrelled roofs with "AutoCross" as per their quotation.

Cllr. Ball raised the subject of an unacceptable amount of mud on the surface of Shore Road. The street light at Moss Lane/Station Road and the yellow road lining also required attention, as did the broken lamp standard outside the Post Office. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to LCC regarding these matters.

The Vice-Chairman raised a complaint regarding what he considered to be totally unacceptable behaviour from Cllr Ball at the meeting of the 6th of October and requested that as the councillor had had time to reflect on this, he should now apologise to the Chairman. Cllr. Ball refused saying "no, plain and simply," and that if the Chairman had not been a "prat", the situation would not have arisen.

Golden Jubilee Medals. The Chairman asked Cllr. Ball as to what had happened to the Medals. Cllr. Ball stated that on receipt he had taken them to the next Council Meeting in a box and had no idea what had happened to them since. No other members had any knowledge of the whereabouts of the medals. It was agreed that the Clerk should enquire of former councillor Mr B Bikby.

At this point, the meeting was introduced to P.C. Phil Corrigan, the new Community Police Officer for the Parish who would be based at Tarleton in the New Year. The meeting welcomed him and wished him well.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Accounts for Payment. Accounts from "Garrick Outdoor"; "Brain Parkinson"; "Yates Playground" and the Chairman's expenses during the Clerk's interregnum were presented.

RESOLUTION 101/2003 carried by **8(eight)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that these accounts be paid by the Clerk forthwith.

Cllr. Ashcroft referred to the excellent work the Chairman had done in fulfilling the clerking functions over the last months. Appreciation was also shown to Cllr Sergeant for providing photocopying without charge.

RESOLUTION 102/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **1(one)** with **2(two)** abstentions that a vote of thanks be recorded to Cllrs. Murphy and Sergeant

Accounting. The Clerk reported the following matters:-

The 2002/2003 Internal Audit has not been completed and the External Audit is now overdue although an extension has been agreed. Year End accounts have apparently not been prepared.

The 2001/2002 External Audit is overdue by 15 months. Accounts again have apparently not been prepared. An extension has been agreed with the External Auditor.

Cllr. Ball stated that an Internal Audit had been done and that this was minuted. The Clerk advised that whilst an Internal Audit had been undertaken earlier in the year, it was incomplete as the Year End Accounts for two years had not been produced nor the Annual Returns completed.

The Clerk went on to say that VAT had not been reclaimed since 1998/9 and there is therefore now nearly 5 years unclaimed. The Excise have a limit of 3 years. We therefore stand to loose 2 years refund if claimed now. He also needed to establish the whereabouts of receipts for 2000/2001. He stated that to date he had spent an additional nineteen hours work reviewing and familiarising himself with the papers passed to him and that further additional time would be required to bring the matter up to date.

RESOLUTION 103/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **2(two)** with **1(one)** abstention that the Clerk's additional nineteen hours to date, be authorised and that he also be authorised to spend additional time as required, to complete accounts for both years, and the VAT return, as soon as possible with a view to the Internal Auditor examining and reporting before a special Finance meeting in January. This meeting would then review the accounts, and receive and action the Internal Auditors report. The External Audit, for both years, would be set for February. It was further resolved that this meeting should also review the 2003/2004 finances and prepare the budget for 2004/2005.

The Clerk advised that he believed that this resolution would be acceptable to the External Auditors

The Clerk also advised the meeting of matters that he felt the Auditors might well enquire upon. The Council has not reviewed its financial position on a regular basis – no minutes are recorded, reviewing budgets and accounts, for at least 3 years. He proposed remedial action as per the resolution.

The recent £100,000 loan was obtained prematurely, demonstrated by the fact that £50,000 has now been returned. Interest costs have been accrued with no corresponding benefit.

Minutes of interviews and the selection of Mr Sears as Clerk are not recorded.

During these discussions, The Chairman found it necessary to issue a warning to Cllr Ball under Standing Order 28 for disruptive behaviour.

RESOLUTION 104/2003 carried by **8(eight)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that the Clerk produces an "Actual/Budget" analysis of Income and Expenditure for review by members at each Quarterly meeting.

LAPTC

Members were reminded by the Chairman, that the Association was for the use of the Council as a body and not for individual members to pursue personal matters. Queries must only be made by the Clerk or Chairman on behalf of the Council. Some considerable time had been wasted recently by improper members use.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

Allotments: Applications had been received from M&E Beesty and K Baxendale for allocation of Allotments. Some query seemed to exist as to whether there were unused patches, and as to whether some rented more than one. It was agreed the situation be defined and any holders not using their patches or having multiple patches be written to and the new applicants kept informed. It was also suggested that the relevant committee look at the condition of hedges and ditches before Spring 2004

Quality Assurance Scheme: The Chairman agreed to make any necessary comments to the Development Control Manager.

Yates Playground: It was noted from their report that many safety surfaces were not to the relevant British Standard. The Chairman agreed to include this in the submission for Playground improvements.

Joint Liaison Committee: The Chairman offered to endeavour to attend the forthcoming meeting.

Play Strategy: Two reports were made available for members.

CORRESPONDENCE OTHER

Letters noted by members were: WLDC re Litter; WLDC re RP Sears; WLDC re Fencing; WLDC Statement of Accounts; WLDC re Overview and Scrutiny.

A Letter from Morris homes a promised completion of outstanding road works by 10th of November; this had not happened. The Clerk was instructed to write to Morris Homes regarding their failure in this matter. Cllr Ball requested that we also make strong representations regarding the apparent mix of the foul and surface water sewers, which causes noxious material to be expelled from road gullies.

BUS SHELTER

This was dealt with under Resolution 100/2003 above.

PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE

A lengthy discussion regarding the provision of a tree took place with consideration of health and safety in respect of lighting, and also the problem of vandals. As a result, it was decided not to place a tree this year. It was noted that hopefully plans could be finalised well before Christmas next year.

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

It was noted that any proposed allowances after 31st December 2003 must be the subject of an approved scheme

SLCC MEMBERSHIP

RESOLUTION 105/2003 carried **six(6)** votes to **1(one)** with **2(two)** abstentions that Resolution 144/2002 be rescinded and that the Clerks full cost of membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks be reimbursed in full.

CAPITAL SCHEMES

This was dealt with under Resolution 99/2003 above.

STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk stated that the council is still working under Standing Orders dated April 2001 which were adopted by resolution. Another undated version in circulation has not been adopted and is invalid. The National Association, of which we are members, is anxious for all councils to adopt the "Standing Orders and Chairmanship May 2003" edition.

RESOLUTION 106/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **1(one)** vote with **2(two)** abstentions that the Clerk produces a list of material differences between the existing and proposed orders to allow the Council to consider the ramifications of accepting the new orders.

PLANNING

Applications

8/2003/1418 Conservatory at 42 Chapel Road – No Comment

Appeals

8/2002/1174 Residential Development – The Council supports WLDC decision

Updates

8/2003/0905 Food Store – The Council are concerned regarding the location of Bus shelters and crossings on Station Road. The Clerk was asked to advise the Planning department accordingly.

Amendments

8/2003/0285 6 Foxglove Close – This was passed without comment on its original application. It was suggested that plans should be obtained for the amendments but as observations were required by 8th December, there seemed little point. The Chairman pointed out that if a member so wished, plans could be inspected at the Planning Offices

ADMINISTRATION

The Council set the date for the additional Finance Review meeting for Monday 26th January 2004 at 7:30pm and the date of the April Council meeting as Monday 19th April 2004.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Several queries were raised regarding the Poppyfields estate and the allegedly poor performance by the developers.

Two members of the public asked if they could be supplied with a copy of the letter from Morris which the Clerk agreed to do.

The Chairman Closed the meeting at 10:00pm

HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th January 2004 at 7:30pm in The Village Institute (Library Building) Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mr.C.I.Ashcroft, Cllr. Mr.R.C.Ball, Cllr. Mrs C.Farrington, Cllr. J.R.Foster, Cllr. Mrs N.M.Goodier, Cllr. Mr.J.R.Hunter, Cllr. Mr.A.P.Murphy (Chairman), Cllr. Rev'd R.Plant, Cllr. Mr.P.J.A.Sergeant, Cllr. Mrs L.Standish-Gore, Cllr. Mrs H.J.Tomkins.

Five members of the public were present

Before the commencement of proceedings, the Chairman spoke on behalf of the Council in offering sincere condolences to the family of the late Mr Michael Howard who recently died in tragic circumstances.

APOLOGIES

All members were present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1st December 2003

RESOLUTION No. 107/2003 Carried by 10(ten) votes to 0(nil) with 1(one) abstention that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record.

It was pointed out by Cllr. Foster that reference to the Bus Shelter and Lamp Post should indicate the location as being outside "Johnsons" and not the "Post Office"

MATTERS ARISING

Regarding Resolution 94/2003, the Clerk advised that he hoped to be able to report to the February meeting.

Regarding Resolution 99/2003, Cllr. Murphy stated he would be bringing forward proposals and costings to the special Finance Meeting on the 26th of January. Cllr. Ashcroft reported that Planning Consent would be required. Cllr. Tomkins said she would endeavour to keep the Council advised as to possible Grants available to this project.

Regarding Resolution 100/2003, the Clerk advised that work would commence on Tuesday 13th January and that a discount of £625 had been negotiated by placing the order for both shelters.

The Clerk advised the meeting that LCC had now issued the work for replacing the broken lamp-standard outside "Johnsons" on Station Road. Members were also reminded of the "FreePhone" number for reporting faulty lamps – 0800 132631. Members requested that the details be put on the Website.

Regarding communications with 'Morris Homes', WLDC and 'United Utilities', the Clerk had been assured that work to the drains, Play Area and road surface would be completed by the end of January. Both Morris Homes and WLDC had insisted that the problem of sewage was due to inadequate provision in Station Road. A long discussion ensued. Cllr Ball insisted that because of the physical design of the sewerage, a back up of foul matter from Station Road into the surface water gullies on the estate was not possible. It was agreed that the Clerk would write further to United Utilities.

It was reported that the Missing "Jubilee Medals" had been found; the Clerk took charge of them for safekeeping. The Chairman requested that members bring forward their proposals to the next meeting as to the names of persons they may wish to nominate to receive them for service to the community.

A proposal to bring forward "Public Participation" was put by Cllr. Tomkins.

RESOLUTION No. 108/2003 carried by 6(six) votes to 4(four) with 1(one) abstention that Public Participation be brought forward to before 'Planning' on the Agenda

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cllr. Plant asked if he could, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, thank the Parish Council for the generous contribution to the replacement Boiler at the Church. The work was now complete and all were very appreciative.

Cllr. Ball requested that the charity payment agreed with the last Internal Auditor be paid. The Clerk was instructed to make a payment of £100 to the Douglas Cardiac Trust with a covering letter and a letter be sent to Mrs Simpson thanking her for her services.

Accounts for Payment. Accounts from "WLDC (Election)"; "Clerk's Salary and Expenses"; "Yates Playground"; "Inland Revenue" and "Expenses Mr Sears" were presented. The Clerk also advised that he had had a further request from Mr Sears for allegedly outstanding payments and expenses, hand delivered to him earlier that day. As this was a contentious matter, and members had not been given sufficient notice, the item could not be considered. Cllr Tomkins said that Mr Sears had stated in the letter that he was preparing to take a County Court action if the monies claimed were not paid within seven days. The Clerk confirmed that this was so, but that Council rules still prevented any resolution on the matter without due notice. Members expressed concern that Cllr. Tomkins had apparently been furnished with details of the content of the letter, before the meeting.

RESOLUTION 109/2003 carried by 5(five) votes to 3(three) with 3(three) abstention that Mr Sears Expenses Claim be considered along with his later letter and claim at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 110/2003 carried by 9(nine) votes to 0(nil) with 2(two) abstentions that all other accounts are paid forthwith.

Budget/Projections. The Clerk pointed out that there was a considerable underspend against budget especially in 'Concurrent Areas'. He asked that members acquaint themselves with the report and prepare their submissions for the Finance meeting.

Invoicing. The meeting was advised that payments for Allotments had seen to be on an adhoc basis and that it was difficult to relate payments to plots and periods. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a simple draft agreement for the Allotments, for the Council to consider, and that he make

efforts to regularise the tenancies. The Clerk also felt that it was unsatisfactory that the Bowling Club did not have any form of Agreement in place; after much discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should approach the Bowling Club to explain the Council's legal predicament and to see if a compromise could be reached.

PWLB – The Clerk advised that as the payment demand had been sent to the previous Clerk, and this had not been passed on, the Council had technically been in breach of their agreement. However this had now been sorted out.

Member Allowance – The Council were reminded that should they wish to consider an Allowances scheme, this should be raised at the Finance meeting

Local Council Insurance – The Clerk raised serious concerns regarding some items of cover under the 'Umbrella' Councils policy in that there wasn't any indemnity in respect of any negligent act, accidental error or omission committed by a member, and that Fidelity Guarantee only covered the Clerk and did not extend to members. Members agreed that this should be corrected and the Clerk was instructed to arrange this. As the item was not on the Agenda, authorisation for expenditure could not be resolved, it would be placed on the next Agenda if any cost was involved in this financial year.

Concurrent Expenditure – It was reported that the WLDC contribution to Concurrent Expenditure would be increased by 2.5% in 2003/2004

LAPTC

Members were reminded again by the Clerk, that the Association was for the use of the Council as a body and not for individual members to pursue personal matters or their own agenda. It would be helpful if queries were only made by the Clerk or Chairman on behalf of the Council. It was pointed out that if members did ask for Council related advice, it would be given, although copies of all correspondence would be sent to the Clerk. LAPTC would prefer if members consulted with the Chairman or Clerk first. Cllr Tomkins stated that the Clerk was not giving a true picture and read verbatim a copy of a letter from LAPTC to her, regarding procedure. This was substantially as the Clerk had summarised and members generally agreed. Cllr Tomkins re-iterated that she would communicate with LAPTC as and when she wanted as LAPTC had advised her that she was welcome to use the facility. The Chairman again stated that the only reason for the request was to endeavour to get some order into proceedings, and as the Clerk was informed of all communications to LAPTC it seemed pointless not to contact him or the Chairman first.

Sports Ground Fencing

The meeting was advised that WLDC had verbally agreed that the work could be carried out under devolved powers and Planning Permission would not be required. It was agreed that the Football Club should be advised and that residents in the vicinity should be given the opportunity to comment. The Clerk was asked to advise the Football Club and write to residents opposite the Ground giving them the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Allotments:

The Clerk reported that he had examined the records and although payments were very erratic, it appeared that Strips 5 and 17 were not let. It was agreed that the two applicants, Mr Biesty and Baxendale should be offered these.

BNFL: A full and complex report had been received regarding the Springfield site and Cllr. Hunter agreed to review this and report to the next meeting.

Cllr. Ball requested that the Clerk write to LCC to enquire as to what substances were being deposited at the Clifton Landfill site.

CORRESPONDENCE

Playground Inspection Report

It was agreed that repair work recommended by "Yates Playground" should be actioned. The Clerk was instructed to place an order.

Communication Training

After some lively discussion, it was agreed that this should be looked at by the new Council after the June elections.

CVS – Parish Plan

The details of possible new funding was passed to Cllr Tomkins

Boundary Committee Report

The Clerk advised that much misconception existed about the report and its recommendations. As this was a complicated and urgent matter, it was agreed that the Report would be passed around all councillors before the next meeting. The report initially went to Cllr Plant.

Lancs. Constabulary Emergency Support Officers

A letter regarding the scheme was read out by the Chairman. It was felt that members would generally like more information on this.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Queries were again raised regarding drainage, especially on the Poppy Fields estate. A complaint was also brought to Council's attention regarding water quality and pressure and the negative attitude that had been experienced from United Utilities. It was felt by many that a lack of trust in United Utilities meant that the Council had to keep a continuing pressure on them to sort the problems out.

Concern was also expressed as to the effect on the "Blue Light" services with introduction of Emergency Support Officers. It was agreed that the Clerk should write requesting confirmation that the presence of an Emergency Support Officer at an incident would not compromise the speed of response from the Emergency Services themselves.

PLANNING

Applications

All the applications to hand were time expired in respect of the Council being able to offer views or comments. The Clerk advised that five applications had been received two days after the previous meeting that required replies by the 23rd of December. He also noted that this was a regular problem and if the Council wished to have significant input into this area, changes would have to be made. Various options were discussed including circularising members with 'interesting' applications as he received them. Cllr Ashcroft agreed to look at the timings of the various committees to see if we could improve the situation.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10:00pm with Agenda items 16,17 and 18 being deferred.

HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26th January 2004 at 7:30pm in The Village Institute (Library Building) Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mr.C.I.Ashcroft, Cllr. Mr.R.C.Ball, Cllr. J.R.Foster, Cllr. Mrs N.M.Goodier
Cllr. Cllr. Mr.A.P.Murphy (Chairman), Cllr. Mr.P.J.A.Sergeant^(b), Cllr. Mrs L.Standish-Gore,
Cllr. Mrs H.J.Tompkins.

Five members of the public were present

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs C.Farrington, Mr.J.R.Hunter, Cllr, Rev'd R.Plant^(a)

(a) Arrived during agenda item 9

(b) Left after agenda item 9

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made

Cllr. Tompkins proposed that the items of a confidential nature should be moved to the end of the meeting in order to allow members of the public to remain. The Chairman explained that there would not be any Public Participation, and that the Agenda had been placed in the necessary chronological order to allow the business to proceed properly. It would not be possible to discuss budgets and accounts before specific matters affecting these. The special meeting had been called to ensure that the Council's long overdue accounting matters were brought up to date. It had been clearly stated on the Agendas, posted on all the public notice boards, that a Resolution would be proposed at the beginning of the meeting to exclude the public and press. It was also stated in bold print on the Agenda that there would not be any Public Participation.

PROPOSAL Lost 4(four) votes – (Ball, Foster, Standish-Gore, Tompkins) to 4(four) votes – (Ashcroft, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant) by the **Chairman's casting vote** that Private and Confidential matters be placed at the end of the meeting.

Several members of the public expressed strong objections to this before leaving.

RESOLUTION 111/2003 carried by 5(five) votes to 0(nil) with 3(three) abstentions that the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, as necessary, on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1,8,9,14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Clerk reported on two letters from Mr Sears claiming allegedly outstanding expenses and other payments. He reported that the Chairman had requested him to examine the previous minutes and correspondence relating to Mr Sears claim, and report to the meeting with factual information for their consideration.

PROPOSAL Lost **4(four)** votes - (Ball, Foster, Standish-Gore, Tompkins) to **4(four)** votes - (Ashcroft, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant) by the **Chairman's casting vote** that a Full and Final settlement be offered to Mr Sears as detailed in *confidential appendix 'a'* to these minutes.

RESOLUTION 112/2003 Carried **4(four)** votes - (Ashcroft, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant) to **3(three)** votes - (Ball, Standish-Gore, Tompkins) with **1(one)** abstention that a Full and Final settlement be offered to Mr Sears as detailed in the Council's response to Mr Sears (*confidential appendix 'b'*) to these minutes.

Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that he had received the Internal Auditors report for the financial years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 and gave a summary of the findings. All recommended action was in hand or had already been resolved. The Clerk apologised for not having individual copies for all members as he had been working to a very tight schedule and had only just received the originals, but he assured Council that these would be in the next posting. Cllr Ball requested that copies of the leases to the Football and Cricket Club, along with the draft Bowling Club lease be supplied, all other members asked to be included.

Annual Accounts

The 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 Annual Accounts (previously circulated), now audited were discussed.

RESOLUTION 113/2003 carried by **5(five)** votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions that the meeting approve the Annual accounts for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 as presented.

Statement of Assurance

The meeting was asked to consider the 'Statement of Assurance' (copies previously circulated), which forms part of the Annual Return for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

RESOLUTION 114/2003 carried **4(four)** votes to **0(nil)** with **4(four)** abstentions that the Chairman and Clerk sign the Statements for the financial years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 on behalf of the Council

Review of 2003/2004 Budget

The budgeted, actual and projected end of year figures (previously circulated) were discussed. No amendments were proposed under '**Council Expenses**'. Concerning '**Concurrent Expenditure**', it was agreed that a further replacement Bus Shelter should be considered at the February meeting along with the normal contribution of £200 to the Burial Grounds maintenance.

Budget and Precept 2004/2005

The council considered the draft Budget produced by the Chairman. With the exception of 'Legal and Professional Fees', which was increased to £500, the items under '**Council Expenses**' were agreed at £16,270, a marginal decrease on the previous year.

Under the heading of '**Concurrent Expenditure**', the following items were amended:

- a) A sum of £7,000 to provide a surfaced footpath from Delta Park to the Shore Road recreation Area.
- b) A Sum of £25,000 as the first part of a two-year plan to revamp the Play Areas and provide a Youth Shelter. It is envisaged that further funds will be available as Grants and Commuted sums from recent developments.

- c) The provision of two further replacement Bus Shelters as part of an ongoing replacement plan.
- d) A sum of £750 to refurbish street seats.
- e) A sum of £1,000 to clear ditches on the Allotment sites.
- f) A sum of £550 to replace/refurbish Parish Notice Boards.
- g) A sum of £500 towards a joint project with WLDC for the provision and maintenance of Recreation Area litter bins.

A total of £35,510

Under the heading of '**Other Expenditure**', it was agreed to budget for the sum of £1,000 each for a "Churches Grant Fund", "Tarleton High School Community Use", and "Hesketh Bank Youth Council".

After allowing for projected Local Income amounting to £1,020, a Concurrent Contribution from WLDC of £4,832 and a brought forward underspend from 2003/2004 estimated at £8,200, a Precept from WLDC of £41,062 is required to finance the Council's budget.

During the above discussions, the Chairman found it necessary to warn Councillor Ball under Standing Order 28 on two separate occasions, for offensive and disruptive conduct. Councillor Ball was also warned that the Chairman would propose a motion under Standing Order 19(1) if he did not heed the warnings.

The Chairman at 10 o'clock moved a resolution to suspend Standing Order 17 to allow the Agenda to be completed. Some members objected on the basis that most previous meetings were concluded as per Standing Order 17 whether business remained or not. The Clerk reminded members that the special meeting had been called in an effort by the him to bring the Council's legal obligations up to date. Many people had worked to a tight timetable to bring over two years financial data up to date and to ruin that effort now would be irresponsible.

RESOLUTION 115/2003 carried by **4(four)** votes to **3(three)** with **1(one)** abstention that Standing Order 17 be waived.

RESOLUTION 116/2003 carried **Unanimously** to set a Precept on the West Lancashire District Council in the sum of £41,062.

Council Insurance

RESOLUTION 117/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **0(nil)** with **2(two)** abstentions that the Council's insurance Policy with Allianz Cornhill be amended to include sections C,D and E(Councillors) at a cost in the current year of £28.23.

LAPTC

Members were advised of a meeting, open to all Councillors, at WLDC Council Chambers on Friday 30th January to hear presentations regarding the Boundary Review.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman proposed putting forward by one week the date of the February meeting as discussed the previous week and to improve the Planning timetable. After much discussion, the proposal was withdrawn.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10:20pm.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL TO MEMBERS ONLY

Appendix 'a'

Proposed "Full and Final" settlement that all claims by Mr Sears in his letters dated 4th January 2004 and 10th January 2004 be paid in full save the telephone expenses prior to 22nd August 2003.

Appendix 'b'

On the condition that Mr Sears provides the Council with a letter stating that he accepts the following proposals as full and final settlement of all claims against the Council, they will make payments to him as detailed below.

Claimed telephone expenses on BT account dated 14th May 2003 and BT account dated 13th August 2003 amounting to £10.80 – The Council can not allow this claim as both accounts are dated before his comprehensive claim dated 22nd August 2003 and should have been included in that claim if recompense was sought.

Holiday Pay of £140.92 – His Contract clearly states that holidays were to be agreed by the Council. No entitlement was agreed. However, purely as a gesture of good will, the Council is minded to concede to this request.

Excess Hours Worked amounting to £427.92 – Refer him to the fourth paragraph of the Chairman's letter to him dated 7th October 2003. During his employment with the Council, he acted as Clerk at nine meetings. None of the minutes for those meetings makes reference to any request for payment for additional hours worked, or indeed to pressure of work or any reference to possible additional costs. As Clerk he was responsible for creating the Agenda and could have included an item on this matter had he so wished. – The Council cannot allow this claim.

SLCC Membership £68 – He cited the Budget meeting of February 2003 as the authority for this. This meeting agreed a contribution of £20 towards the cost of membership of the SLCC as it was considered that the cost could be shared by the three parishes where he acted as Clerk. He was obviously happy with this at the time as the amount is recorded in the Budget. – The Council will therefore allow an expense of £20.

Expenses of £21.26 – The Council presumes that this refers to the unauthorised visit by the Chairman and him to Rawsthornes Solicitors. On this assumption, the Council will allow this on the basis that he acted in good faith, provided he provides a full written report of that meeting and the recommendations resulting from it, for which there is not any documentation on file.

	Budget 2003/4	Actual @ Jan04	Proj. Annual	Budget 04/05
COUNCIL EXPENSES				
Hall Rental	£200.00	£170.00	£200.00	£200.00
LAPTC	£420.00	£441.95	£441.95	£460.00
Insurance	£950.00	£574.71	£574.71	£720.00
Audit Fees	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	£350.00
Legal & Professional Fees		£125.00	£275.00	£500.00
Bank Charges		£20.00	£20.00	£0.00
Loan Interest & Charges, Repayments	£7,000.00	£3,901.96	£3,901.96	£3,400.00
Floral Tributes	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	incl in sundries
Training	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	£1,000.00
Subscriptions CPRE/LPFA/Ribble CCT	£25.00	£51.00	£51.00	£60.00
Donations	£200.00	£600.00	£600.00	£200.00
Christmas Tree	£25.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00
Newsletter	£750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Clerk's Subscriptions	£20.00	incl in expenses	incl in expenses	incl in expenses
Sundries	£200.00	£22.40	£100.00	£500.00
Internet		£235.29	£235.29	£300.00
Section 137 Expenditure	£1,000.00			£1,000.00
Election Expenses	£1,000.00	£1,571.45	£1,571.45	£2,300.00
Clerks Salary	£3,382.00	£2,712.59	£3,600.00	£3,500.00
Clerks Expenses	£700.00	£494.77	£650.00	£830.00
TOTAL COUNCIL EXPENSES	£16,392.00	£10,921.12	£12,721.36	£16,470.00
CONCURRENT EXPENDITURE				
Grounds Maintenance	£5,500.00	£825.00	£1,200.00	£7,000.00
Buildings	£100.00			
Equipment	£1,500.00			
Centenary Sports Ground	£1,000.00		£3,100.00	£1,000.00
Legal Fees				
Grants				(£6,500.00)
Play Areas		£1,524.63	£1,800.00	£25,000.00
Bus Shelters	£1,000.00	£584.63	£3,084.00	£6,000.00
Street Seats	£200.00			£750.00
Burial Grounds	£500.00		£200.00	£200.00
Drains Ditches etc			£300.00	£1,000.00
Village Institute	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	£0.00
Notice Boards	£540.00			£550.00
Litter Bins	£50.00			£500.00
Best Kept Village	£400.00	£10.00	£10.00	10.00
TOTAL CONCURRENT EXPENDITURE	£11,790.00	£2,944.26	£10,694.00	£35,510.00
OTHER EXPENDITURE				
Tarleton HS Community Use	£1,000.00	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£1,000.00
Replacement Play Equipment	£6,700.00			See Play Areas
Church Grants		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Youth Groups Grant		£210.00	£210.00	£0.00
Youth Council				£1,000.00
REAL Project		£1,412.16	£1,412.16	£200.00
VAT		£1,020.81	£1,150.00	

TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURE	£7,700.00	£53,642.97	£53,772.16	£3,200.00
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURE	£35,882.00	£67,508.35	£77,187.52	£55,180.00
CONCURRENT CONTRIBUTION	£4,725.00	£4,725.47	£4,725.47	£4,832.34
LOCAL INCOME				
Allotments	£216.00	£264.00	£252.00	£300.00
Football Pitch	£250.00			
CSG Rental Income	£892.00	£193.00	£676.00	£720.00
Wayleaves		£89.31	£89.31	£92.00
TOTAL LOCAL INCOME	£1,358.00	£457.00	£928.00	£1,020.00
LOAN INCOME		£50,000.00	£50,000.00	
NETT EXPENDITURE		£12,325.88	£21,534.05	£49,327.66
RECEIPT	£29,799.00	£29,800.00	£29,800.00	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		£17,474.12	£8,265.95	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT B/F				£8,265.95
BUDGET PRECEPT 2004/2005				£41,061.71
% Change				37.80%

HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9th February 2004 at 7:30pm in The Village Institute (Library Building) Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mr.R.C.Ball, Cllr. Mrs C.Farrington, Cllr. J.R.Foster, Cllr. Mrs N.M.Goodier,
Cllr. Mr.J.R.Hunter, Cllr. Rev'd R.Plant, Cllr. Mr.P.J.A.Sergeant, Cllr. Mrs L.Standish-Gore,

Fifteen members of the public were present

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Sergeant (Vice-Chairman) took the Chair

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mr.C.I.Ashcroft ^(a), Cllr. Mr.A.P.Murphy, Cllr. Mrs H.J.Tompkins ^(a)

(a) Arrived after agenda item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Rev'd Plant declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12th January 2004

RESOLUTION No. 118A/2003 Carried by **7(seven)** votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions, that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 26th January 2004

Cllr Tompkins drew the Chairman's attention to the omission from the Minutes of a proposition put by her; Cllr Ball also advised that a Proposition made by him had been omitted. The Clerk apologised to Cllr Tompkins, Cllr Ball and other members for the omissions, which he could only assume, had been caused by the particularly noisy nature of the meeting. After due consideration and bearing in mind that some members present now were absent then, and vice-versa, and nobody could remember the voting, the Chairman ruled that Cllr. Tompkins motion be now put.

PROPOSAL Lost by **4(four)** votes (Ball, Foster, Standish-Gore, Tompkins) to **5(five)** [Ashcroft, Goodier, Hunter, Plant, Sergeant] with **1(one)** abstention, that Cllr. Goodier, in view of the Internal Auditors report, should now apologise for her remarks alleging fraud, to Cllrs. Ball and Standish-Gore.

Cllr. Ball, acknowledging that his motion was lost, agreed to his missing proposition being noted in the Minutes stating that he had proposed an expenditure of £500 for Councillors training.

RESOLUTION No. 118B/2003 Carried by **7(seven)** votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions, that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Regarding Resolution 99/2003, Cllr Tompkins advised Members that she was still waiting further information as her contact was presently sick.

Medals – Members considered the names of several local people who had been significant in their voluntary or philanthropic efforts in the village. It was decided that members would consider these



further and that via the website and notice boards, villagers would be invited to nominate people to receive the award. The matter would be considered further at the March meeting.

Allotments – The Council discussed the draft Allotment Agreement prepared by the Clerk.

RESOLUTION 119/2003 carried by **8(eight)** votes to **0(nil)** with **2(two)** abstentions that the Draft Lease become effective for all Allotments for the 2004/05 financial year.

Bus Shelter – Replacement.

RESOLUTION 120/2003 carried by **9(nine)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that the Bus Shelter outside All Saints Church (Preston bound) be replaced with a Shelter as per the new ones already installed at Station Road and Chapel Lane. The Existing shelters at the School and Meadow Lane to be repaired.

Requested Correspondence

All members had received copies of the Internal Auditors Report. The Clerk explained that in response to requests for copies of CSG leases, he had sent the complete lease of the Cricket Club along with just the schedules for the Football Club and draft Bowling Club leases. This was because the three leases, bar the schedules, were identical. Cllr Ball objected to this, saying it wasn't the Clerk's job to vary a request. The Clerk pointed out that by doing so he had avoided the cost of over 300 photo-copies. Cllr Ball insisted he had a right to the copies he had requested. No other Councillor required further copies.

CORRESPONDENCE

John Lawsons Circus 2005 – The Clerk was requested to obtain further details.

Play Area Reports – The Clerk was instructed to ask Yates to carry out the minor repairs as per their report

LAPTC Spring Conference – Members wishing to attend to advise the Clerk at the next meeting.

Hesketh Bank AFC – Request from the Football Club to replace the Changing Hut with a Portacabin at no cost to the Council agreed subject to them obtaining WLDC Planning Consent.

WLDC Civic Dinner – The Clerk reminded members that a Resolution was still in place stating that the Council would not finance individuals for such events.

Lancashire Constabulary – In response to the Council's concern, an offer had been made for the local ECSO to address the council. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

Kidzone – Request for financial assistance. This will be placed on the March Agenda.

Regarding Resolution 112/2003 notification of action has been received and will be the subject of a special meeting.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Accounts for Payment. Accounts from Lancashire Playing Fields Association; Allianz Cornhill Insurers; Clerk (Salary & Expenses); Inland Revenue (PAYE); Yates Playgrounds; Internal Audit; AutoCross; David Ward Cleaning; Douglas Cardiac Trust, were presented.

RESOLUTION 121/2003 carried by **9(nine)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that all accounts be paid forthwith.

Receipts – The Clerk advised that payments had been received from Allianz Cornhill (£2,037.50) in respect of an insurance claim for the shelter at Chapel Lane; Mr Baxendale, Allotment (£12); Hesketh Bank Bowling Club (£466).

VAT – The Clerk advised that he had now placed a claim for 2 years outstanding VAT

Allotments – It was agreed that the Allotments Sub-Committee look at all work required to hedges and ditches etc. and report to the next meeting.

Burial Grounds

RESOLUTION 122/2003 carried by **9(nine)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that a contribution of £200 be made towards burial grounds maintenance.

Street Lighting Shore Road – The Clerk reported that this was on the County Council's list but that budget restrictions could mean that it would not be undertaken in the foreseeable future. He also advised that the LCC would entertain proposals for provision with the Parish Council Contributing the major part of the original capital cost of up to eight hundred pounds per unit.

The Chairman proposed a motion to bring forward Public Participation

RESOLUTION 123/2003 carried by **9(nine)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention that the meeting be temporarily adjourned to allow Public Participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Concern was expressed regarding the management of the houses in The Brow which were allegedly not being properly maintained and in some cases presented a dangerous situation. The Clerk agreed to write to the Housing Association responsible.

Questions were raised regarding points of order on Public and Press exclusion. The Clerk clarified the legal requirements.

Strong concerns were also raised regarding the proposed Sports Ground fence

Centenary Sports Ground Fencing (CSG)

Following the distribution of letters to residents living opposite the CSG, eight replies had been received, seven of which were emphatically against the Council's proposals. A letter from WLDC also expressed concern. A long discussion ensued as to the rights and wrongs of the situation. The main concerns were that a concrete wall would look industrial and provide an ideal surface for graffiti. Considerable discussion took place on the history of the situation and the legality of the trees removal being seminal to the current situation. The original involvement of the Police was queried as was their alleged advice. The preferred option from the public was to plant similar trees again.

During this discussion, Cllr. Ball became abusive and disruptive and was warned under Standing Order 28 on two occasions. He still failed to come to order.

Resolution 124/2003 carried by **5(five)** votes to **2(two)** with **3(three)** abstentions that Cllr Ball take no further part in the meeting.

Mr. Ball subsequently caused further offence to members of the public and was requested to leave the building. He refused to do so suggesting that physical force would be necessary.

It was agreed that the Council hold further discussions with the Football Club to see if a compromise could be reached.

BNFL: Cllr. Hunter gave a full report regarding the Springfield site. He noted that whilst the emission levels were to substantially reduced, we had to rely on BNFL complying with these. The Clerk reported that he had not received a reply to Cllr Ball's query regarding the Clifton Landfill

site. Cllr Foster requested that the Clerk write to DEFRA requesting information regarding the human consumption of resident fish in the area of the discharge pipe on Clifton Marsh.

Boundary Committee Report

Most members had read the Report which, for Hesketh Bank gave only two options. A consensus of opinion was not apparent amongst members and it was therefore decided that an official view would not be forwarded to the Committee, Members could of course make personal representations.

News Letter

Members considered possible options for the production of a regular news letter. The option of producing a regularly updated Internet version on the Council's Web site was favoured with printed copies being available in local shops and other places. Options to be considered and discussed further at the next meeting.

PLANNING

Applications

The council did not raise any objections, but requested further information on Application 9/2004/0095.

Planning Meetings

Members were advised that the Planning Meeting on the 12th of February would be considering the "Booths" application and the Meeting on the 17th of February, the Static Caravans applications.

BANKING

The Clerk advised the meeting that best use was not being made of the Council's Funds as transfers between Current and Investment Accounts required letters by authorised signatories.

RESOLUTION 125/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **2(two)** with **2(two)** abstentions that the Clerk be authorised to move funds between the two accounts as required to maximise interest.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:48 pm

HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL

PARISH COUNCIL

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL TO MEMBERS ONLY

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th February 2004 at 7:30pm in The Village Institute (Library Building) Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mrs C.Farrington, Cllr. J.R.Foster, Cllr. Mrs N.M.Goodier, Mr.J.R.Hunter
Cllr. Mr.A.P.Murphy (Chairman), Cllr, Rev'd R.Plant

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Mr.C.I.Ashcroft, Cllr. Mr.P.J.A.Sergeant,
Cllr. Mrs L.Standish-Gore, Cllr. Mrs H.J.Tompkins

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made

Clerks Indemnity

RESOLUTION 126/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **0(nil)** that The Council hereby irrevocably Indemnifies the Clerk against any actions, costs or consequences as to any Judgement or Record being made by the County Court against the private address of the Clerk.

County Court Claim

The Council reviewed all the paperwork regarding the various claims made by Mr Sears and reconsidered the Conditional Offer previously made to him. Considerable discussion took place but as no new information was to hand, it was still felt that the Council had made as generous an offer as it could.

RESOLUTION 127/2003 carried by **4(four)** votes to **0(nil)** with **2(two)** abstentions that the Clerk admits to The Court the claim made by Mr Sears in respect of item 1 – Holiday Pay (£140.92); item 3 - Membership of Professional Society (*Part only*) (£20); item 4 – Travelling Expenses (£21.26). A total of £182.18.

RESOLUTION 128/2003 carried by **6(six)** votes to **0(nil)** that the Clerk takes legal advice on the action taken to date, and the defending of the remainder of the claim, and submits to the County Court a defence for the disputed items. In addition, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk be authorised to take such further action as may be considered necessary in view of the legal advice obtained.

The meeting was closed at 8:20pm

HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th March 2004 at 7:30pm in The Village Institute (Library Building) Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mr.C.I.Ashcroft, Cllr. Mr.R.C.Ball, Cllr. Mrs C.Farrington, Cllr. J.R.Foster, Cllr. Mrs N.M.Goodier, Cllr. Cllr. Mr.A.P.Murphy (Chairman), Cllr. Mr.P.J.A.Sergeant, Cllr. Mrs L.Standish-Gore, Cllr. Mrs H.J.Tompkins.

Eight members of the general public were present.
Also in attendance were PC Phil Corrigan and ESCO Jan Dobson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Cllr Mr.J.R.Hunter, Cllr, Rev'd R.Plant

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Foster declared an interest in item 6, Mere Sands Wood

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 9th February 2004

RESOLUTION No. 129/2003 Carried by **3(three)** votes to **0(nil)** with **6(six)** abstentions, that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16th February 2004

RESOLUTION No. 130/2003 Carried by **3(three)** votes to **0(nil)** with **6(six)** abstentions, that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Ball complained that he had not received a copy of the Cricket Club lease as requested. The Clerk promised to attend to this.

Regarding Resolution 99/2003, Cllr Tompkins advised Members that she was still waiting further information.

Cllr Murphy advised that we were expecting to be apprised regarding our bid for capital funding within the next seven days. He had now prepared an outline proposal and costings for a major revamp of the Glen Park Drive Play Area as the first part of the budgeted scheme to improve and upgrade all Play Areas. The Scheme envisaged a complete overhaul of all the existing equipment; landscaping of both sides, safety surfacing, front boundary fence with gate and new equipment. The estimated cost was in the region of £12,000.

RESOLUTION No. 131/2003 Carried by **8(eight)** votes to **0(nil)** with **1(one)** abstention, that the Chairman approach companies for firm quotations for the work as detailed in the plan presented to Members.

Medals – Members again considered the names of several local people who had been significant in their voluntary or philanthropic efforts in the village. It was decided that members would consider these further and a final list of names, and reasons for their preferment, would be settled at the April meeting



Bus Shelter – Replacement.

The Clerk advised the meeting that as the financial year-end was close to hand, it may be prudent to arrange for payment against a pro-forma invoice and that the next replacement shelter out of the 2004/05 budget could be now ordered in order to secure a better discount.

RESOLUTION 132/2003 carried by **6(six)** (*Ashcroft, Farrington, Foster, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant*) votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions (*Ball, Standish-Gore, Tompkins*) that the replacement shelter at All Saints Church be now paid against a pro-forma invoice, and an order be placed with AutoCross for the replacement of the shelter at Rankin Avenue (Preston bound) forthwith.

John Lawsons Circus 2005 – The Clerk reported that he had looked at agreements with other Councils and that whilst there would not be an income to the Council, all costs would be met and the facility for a Bond was acknowledged. The Clerk was requested to open negotiations.

LAPTC Spring Conference – No members indicated their desire to attend. Members suggested that the Clerk might wish to go if he thought it would be of benefit.

RESOLUTION 133/2003 carried by **5(five)** (*Ashcroft, Farrington, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant*) votes to **1(one)** (*Ball*) with **3(three)** abstentions (*Foster, Standish-Gore, Tompkins*) that the Clerk be authorised to attend on behalf of the Council, and that the cost of attendance be re-imbursed.

Centenary Sports Ground Fencing (CSG) – Neither the Chairman nor Clerk had received a response to the Council's letter requesting a meeting.

Lancashire Constabulary – Jan Dobson, the new local ECSO addressed the council. She outlined her new role, which covers Police (Community Support Officer), Ambulance (First Responder) and Fire (Community Fire Officer). Her role covers the Parishes of Hesketh Bank, Banks, Rufford and Tarleton. She again assured members that her input was additional to the 'Blue Light Services'. Jan was accompanied by PC Phil Corrigan, the new Community Beat Manager. Phil repeated his request for donations towards the cost of his bike. Cllr Ball commented that the Police House in Hesketh Bank had only recently been sold for a considerable sum and questioned why such a request was necessary. As the matter was not on the Agenda, the item was deferred to next month; the Council however indicated that they would be minded to make a donation of £100.

CORRESPONDENCE

Kidzone & Mere Sands – Requests had been received for support. The Clerk was instructed to advise both parties that such applications should be made in December/January so that if agreed, provision could be made in the Budget.

Tarleton High School

RESOLUTION 134/2003 carried by **9(nine)** votes to **0(nil)** that the Clerk is requested to advise the school that a contribution to the funding of the Swimming Pool, in the sum of £1,000, will be made available from the 2004/05 Budget.

Parish Partnership – It was proposed that the LCC be invited to outline what schemes could be included.

Playground Inspection – It was agreed the all work recommended, except Glen Park Drive, should be authorised.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Accounts for Payment. Accounts for All Saints Church, SLCC, Clerk (Salary & Expenses); Inland Revenue (PAYE); Yates Playgrounds; Lexis-Nexis and Hesketh Village Institute, were presented. **RESOLUTION 135/2003** carried by **6(six)** votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions that all accounts are paid forthwith.

Receipts – The Clerk reported that he had now received outstanding VAT for the 2001/02 and 2002/03 accounts in the sum of £5,219.19. He also advised that he believed the expected loss through failure to claim in the three previous years was in the region of £4,000.

The meeting was adjourned for PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk presented a list of changes that accepting the Standard NALC 2003 Standing Orders would give and the ramifications of accepting these in place of the presently adopted set. It was proposed that further time be given to consider these.

RESOLUTION 136/2003 lost on the Chairman's casting vote by **4(four)** (*Ball, Foster, Standish-Gore, Tompkins*) votes to **4(four)** (*Ashcroft, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant,*) with **1(one)** abstention (*Farrington*) that the matter be deferred to the April meeting.

RESOLUTION 137/2003 carried by **6(six)** (*Ashcroft, Farrington, Foster, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant*) votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions (*Ball Standish-Gore, Tompkins*) that the Standing Orders prepared by the Clerk be accepted, with the addition of existing S.O. 15g and 17, for use by the Council henceforth.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Council considered the draft Financial Regulations prepared by the Clerk. The Clerk specifically drew Members attention to regulations 11.1 b&i concerning contracts and tendering.

RESOLUTION 138/2003 carried by **5(five)** (*Ashcroft, Farrington, Goodier, Murphy, Sergeant*) votes to **0(nil)** with **4(four)** abstentions (*Ball, Foster, Standish-Gore, Tompkins*) that the Financial Regulations prepared by the Clerk be accepted and used by the Council henceforth.

VILLAGE SECURITY

Cllr Foster raised concerns regarding large transport vehicles travelling between Hesketh Bank and the Continent and his belief that such vehicles are rarely checked for either terrorist materials or illegal immigrants. The Clerk was asked to write to the appropriate authorities to ascertain as to what precautions are in place.

NEWSLETTER

RESOLUTION 139/2003 carried by **6(five)** votes to **0(nil)** with **3(three)** abstentions that the Council produce a newsletter for delivery to door to door.

The Chairman requested that members bring items for consideration to the next meeting.

ALLOTMENTS

The Allotments Committee had been unable to meet. The Chairman stated that he had inspected the ditches earlier in the day and that they were in need of urgent attention. Cllr Ball reminded the Council that he had been advising that the work was urgent for some considerable time and that the Council had probably left the work too late in the year again. Cllr Farrington volunteered to obtain



quotations for hedging and ditching and pass them to the Allotments committee. The meeting agreed that this work should be completed as a matter of urgency.

CONTRACTS 2004/2005

There are three contracts at present in force. 1) In respect of the Bus Shelters, it was agreed that cleaning should be of the whole shelter and not just the glass. 2) It was felt that hedges and grassed areas of the Play areas and Recreation Ground should be part of the same contract. 3) Inspection and maintenance of Play Equipment.

RESOLUTION 140/2003 carried by **7(seven)** votes to **0(nil)** with **2(two)** abstentions that the Clerk advertises the above contracts on the Council Notice Boards, and also writes to the present contract holders.

LITTER

The Clerk reported on his recent meeting with Mr Graham Concannon (WLDC) who had been extremely helpful. In general terms, the District Authority would be willing to service the Play Areas, Recreation Ground and Centenary Sports Ground on a partnership basis. The Parish Council would be responsible for the capital cost of the litter bins with the District Council bearing the major part of the Revenue Costs. There was a possibility of Dog Waste bins being provided without cost. The Clerk offered to arrange an on site meeting with Mr Concannon early in the afternoon on a forthcoming Monday if possible. Cllrs Ashcroft, Murphy and Standish Gore would try to attend.

PLANNING

Applications

The council did not raise any objections.

Application 9/2004/0189 - considerable discussion took place regarding 'lawfulness', Cllr Ball requested further information on this application. The Clerk said he would obtain this.

Cllr Ball also requested information on application 8/2004/0188. The Chairman considered that this was unnecessary and invited Cllr Ball to put a proposition.

RESOLUTION 141/2003 lost by **5(five)** votes to **4(four)** with **2(two)** abstentions that further information be obtained on Application 9/2004/0188.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10:00 pm and advised Members of the Council and the Public that in line with Standing Orders, the deferred Agenda items 18 to 21 would taken at the beginning of the next meeting and that members of the Public and Press would be excluded.