HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7:00pm at Hesketh Bank Community Centre.

#### PRESENT

Paul Sergeant (Chairman), Richard Plant (Vice Chairman), Tim Barnacle, Kate Maughan, Ron Tyson, David Maughan, Joan Witter, Norma Goodier, Steve Kirby & Louise Taylor.

Graham Crompton, Parish Clerk

One member of the general public was present.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**APOLOGIES**

John Hunter

**MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/11/01 Carried** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 9th October2023 are confirmed as a true record.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Concern expressed by one resident regarding the amount of rubbish being blown onto the Henry Alty Way and surrounding areas from the Persimmon Development in high winds and adverse weather. He has had discussions with the site manager previously and indeed collected significant amounts himself however following further more recent discussions, believes these concerns are not being acted upon. Parish Clerk to contact the resident direct and walk the area with him before picking the matter up with Persimmon direct.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

No report

**FLOODING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr Kate Maughan & Mr Stan Farington updated the Council on recent developments. Final version of the Flooding Report has now been released and shared with Councillors prior to the meeting. A copy has been uploaded to the Parish Council website.

On the 2nd November 2023, The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP (Minister Of State at the Department for The Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) along with local MPs Damien Moore and Katherine Fletcher, local Borough Councillors and representatives from the Environment Agency, NFU, the local farming community and Cllr Kate Maughan and Vice Chairman Richard Plant, met at Guide Road to discuss the issues and challenges the local community are facing. They were shown videos of local flooding and the findings from the report were presented to them. They also took a copy of the report away with them.

General feeling was they were receptive to our concerns and a positive outcome to addressing these issues remains. We await further contact regarding the way forward.

**MEMBERS REPORTS**

Cllr Steve Kirby updated the Council on the outline plan for the next newsletter due out before Christmas 2023.

Vice Chairman Richard Plant advises he intends to step aside from his role as Parish Council Representative to the Community Centre. Councillors been requested to consider if they want to fulfil the role as his replacement which will be discussed and ratified at the next meeting.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

Christmas Lights 2023 – conversion of lampposts to accommodate new displays will take place during the final week of November with switch on scheduled for the 2nd December 2023. Cllr Kirby to profile new display in final newsletter of the year.

HAW – Ian Cropper proposes he attend the December meeting to update the council on developments and current challenges.

Hedge at the back of the Shore Rd football pitch / playing field only partially trimmed due to weather. Will be completed as soon as the weather allows.

Web site – some of the pages have been refreshed over the last month – this remains work in progress but is now more current and reflective of what is going on in the village.

Tree Survey – completed last week. Report is awaited.

CCTV Cameras – the camera to the front of community centre has failed – circa £260 to replace. Also moving away from network / Wi-Fi system to a sim card system – waiting for quotes from existing supplier but the clerk will also be taking opportunity to seek comparison quotes from other suppliers. Current provider service has fallen somewhat short over recent months. Consideration also to be given to the actual need for real time images – generally only used to recover images from past events and as such sim card requirement is questionable at a cost of £35 per camera per month. Clerk to present findings over forthcoming meetings.

Armistice Service on Sunday 12 November 2023 was well attended by the Parish Council with positive comments received from the local community.

Cricket Club bonfire and fireworks event –went without incident and no adverse comments from neighbours.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/11/02 Carried** that the Clerk’s Report and actions are noted and ratified.

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**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/11/03 Carried** that payments of Accounts made since the last meeting are ratified and the Invoices now presented on the Payments Schedule are approved and that the Clerk is authorised to complete the appropriate transactions.

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**The Council’s liquid assets on the 31 October 2023 were reported as:**

**Receipts**

**Hesketh Bank AFC additional rent £308.75**

**Deposit Account Interest £702.59**

**Nat West Bank Interest £26.45**

**WLBC – Concurrent Grant £1,462.00**

**WLBC – CIL Receipts £2,111.01**

**Balances 31 October 2023**

**NatWest Current Account £20,773.02  
CCLA Deposit Account £184,000.00  
Total Liquid Funds £204,773.02**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/11/04 Carried** that the Half-Year Out-Turn Report has been Received and Noted.

**Findings From Data Produced From SPID Devices Within The Village**

Full report presented to Council covering periods 2022 (12months), 2023 (9 months) and Quarter 3 2023 (3 months).

Findings confirmed Shore Rd speed limit was best respected by motorists whist acknowledging the area had the highest speed limit at 50 mph. Moss Lane was the worst respected limit but noted the speed limit was at its lowest (20 mph) with the device located on an areas where the speed limit reduces from 30 mph to 20 mph only a short distance from the device.

Over the periods analysed, general conclusion was that there has been no deterioration in speed limits being respected when taking account of the variances in volumes of traffic captured within the periods assessed.

Regrettably, there will always been the odd driver over periods that will drive far in excess of the speed limits set and a review of these instances suggests these drivers will commit these crimes at various times of the day rather than late at night or during the early hours of the morning.

It was agreed that this data if presented to the local police would not support an argument that the situation is deteriorating of late and therefore an ongoing quarterly review and report back to council is a more appropriate course of action to ensure current trends remain positive.

**Poppyfields Update**

Correspondence from Morris Homes dated 14 April 2010 provided prior to the meeting from a Poppyfields resident providing reassurance to residents regarding adoption procedures pending completion of the development. Unfortunately this correspondence relates to the adoption of highways rather than the playing fields and maintenance of trees and cannot be relied upon to hold them to account for the maintenance of the playing area and surrounding trees.

In addition, the Borough Council solicitor confirmed the work to bring over the maintenance of the site is progressing. They have been advised by Morris Homes that the issue of tree maintenance has been handed to their customer care team and an inspection has been requested. Any resident who has an issue with maintenance can report this directly to their customer care team at [customercare@morrishomes.co.uk](mailto:customercare@morrishomes.co.uk).

They also confirmed that the WLBC can only take action over tree maintenance if they consider them to be dangerous.

**Recreation and Play Area Reports**

Report received for:-

Shore Road October 2023

Station Rd not provided due to Councillor Hunters absence

Glen Park not provided due to Councillor Hunters absence

The Chairman will undertake these inspections during the period that Councillor Hunter is incapacitated.

**Items Received Since Agenda Publication**

**None**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm**