HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7:00pm at Hesketh Bank Community Centre.

#### PRESENT

Paul Sergeant (Chairman), Richard Plant (Vice Chairman), Tim Barnacle, Kate Maughan, Ron Tyson, Joan Witter, Norma Goodier, Steve Kirby & Louise Taylor. Ian Cropper Henry Alty Way Consultant

Graham Crompton, Parish Clerk

Two members of the general public was present.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**APOLOGIES**

John Hunter & David Maughan

**MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/12/01 Carried** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 13th November2023 are confirmed as a true record.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Graham Crompton Parish Clerk declared an interest in agenda item 14.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Concern expressed by two residents regarding the newly formed stepped access to the Henry Alty Way leading from Brick Kiln Way. The steps are deemed prohibitive for use by persons of reduced mobility or users of mobility scooters, pushchairs etc. The Parish Council highlighted the planning permission was originally granted some time ago to Persimmon for steps and that Ian Cropper on behalf of the Parish Council has been working with Persimmon to try to change this to ramped access. This would require a realignment of the route to reduce the gradient of the slope and the removal of three trees to accommodate this change. Despite our best efforts, progress with the Planning Permission modification required has not been made. Concerned residents are encouraged to direct their enquiries to WLBC Planning Department.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on the sad passing of Stephen Trippier who served on the Parish Council in the 1990s.The Council passed on their condolences to his family and friends.

**FLOODING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr Kate Maughan updated the Parish Council on developments since the last meeting.

Following the publication of the report via the Hesketh with Becconsall website, West Lancs Borough Council have expressed concern about the report being available via the Parish Council website and have asked that it be removed. Cllr Kate Maughan has had a meeting with local farming representatives to discuss how to respond albeit no formal request has been forthcoming.

It was agreed that they would request a meeting with all local Borough Councillors to walk through the issues we face and that a letter will be sent to the Borough Council requesting a full explanation of their objections to the report being published.

Stan Farrington and Amy Hargreaves were attending Tarleton Parish Council meeting to request the report is uploaded to their website and agree next steps.

**MEMBERS REPORTS**

Vice Chairman Richard Plant highlighted the fence adjacent to the public walkway has been started to buckle. Parish Clerk will review and engage with contracted Lengthsman to address.

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**CLERK’S REPORT**

Christmas Lights 2023 – despite some last minute challenges to secure an energy provider shortly before switch on, the lights have been installed and general feedback has been positive. We are committed to a 3 year contract with the supplier – discussions are ongoing to look at the possibility of extending display further down Station Rd and into Chapel Rd.

Hedge at the back of the Shore Rd football pitch / playing field has now been trimmed back to 7ft – nominal additional cost for 2ft reduction agreed.

Bus Shelter on Station Rd adjacent to the CSG was damaged during recent storms – some debate as to whether a larger turning vehicle has actually hit the roof of the shelter however roof has been detached and removed. Replacement ordered and will be installed towards the end of January Insurance claim has been processed and funds received. Review of local bus routes confirms the 680 bus still uses this stop.

Tree Survey – completed and report now with Clerk for action.

CCTV Cameras – first meeting with alternative supplier held – quotes awaited. Meeting with second alternative expected before Christmas. Clerk to present findings over forthcoming meetings.

The Clerk updated the Council on actions completed regarding litter from the Persimmon development sight disbursing onto The Henry Alty Way who visited the site with Mr Cookson, photo evidence taken and shared with Persimmon Head Office who have undertaken to address and maintain going forward.

The damage to the concrete fence between the Community Centre and the CSG football pitch is the responsibility of the Community Centre. Councillor Kirby to engage with officials of the Community Centre complete repairs as this has been highlighted as a potential hazard.

West Lancs Borough Council website has now been updated with current Hesketh bank Parish Council official’s details.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/12/02 Carried** that the Clerk’s Report and actions are noted and ratified.

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**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/12/03 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 30 November 2023 were reported as:**

**Receipts**

**Hesketh Bank AFC additional rent £308.75**

**Deposit Account Interest £841.72**

**Nat West Bank Interest £24.99**

**Balances 30 November 2023**

**NatWest Current Account £18,166.35  
CCLA Deposit Account £184,000.00  
Total Liquid Funds £202,166.35**

**Matters Or Works To Be Included In 2024/2025 Draft Budget**

Councillor Kirby highlighted the fact that the Heritage Trail display board situated adjacent to Booths needs updating and refreshing as do the accompanying leaflets. Based on original costings a sum of £10,000 will be suggested as a budget to undertake this work – a working party of Councillor Kirby, Councillor Barnacle and Graham Crompton will start work on this over the forthcoming weeks.

Suggested an additional budget for expansion of the Christmas lights scheme of £5,000 should be built into 2024/2025 figures.

It is the 60th anniversary of the closure of the Railway Station this year – consideration to allocate budget to commemorate this event should be given.

**Parish Council Representative to The Community Centre**

Proposal to be rescheduled for January meeting to allow time for Councillor Taylor to meet with Community Centre representatives before deciding if she wishes to put herself forward for the role.

**Parish Council Clerk – Contracted Hours**

Proposal amended to increase Clerks contracted hours from 14 to 17 hours per week with immediate effect.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023/12/04 Carried** to increase Parish Council Clerks hours from 14 to 17 hours per week with immediate effect.

**Poppyfields Update**

The Borough Council solicitor has confirmed he has had confirmation from their Clean & Green Team that they are reviewing the work that now needs doing on the site to bring it up to a level where it can be transferred over. He has asked for further details before reverting to Morris Homes.

**Henry Alty Way Report**

Ian Cropper updated the Council on current developments with regard to the Henry Alty Way

**RESOLUTION No 2023/12/05 Carried** thatIan Cropper would continue in his role to progress developments for the time being on current terms

**Electronic Communications Code Agreement with Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited**

**RESOLUTION No 2023/12/05 Carried** that Ian Cropper would continue negotiations on behalf of the Parish Council and the Council should enter into a new 6 year Electronic Communications Code Agreement with Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited.

**Recreation and Play Area Reports**

Report received for:-

Shore Road November 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 8.45pm**