**
PALS**

**Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, 10th April 2025, 7.00pm**

**Hesketh Bank Community Centre**

**Present: Jenni Smitton (Chair), Angela Bond (Secretary), Robert Yates (Treasurer), John Glover, Carol Wellings, June Jordan**

1. **Apologies:** Melanie Burns
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters arising**

Apologies for omitting Melanie Burns from attending at the meeting of 20th March. This has been amended.

Minutes of Committee Meeting Thursday, 20th March 2025 now accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Steve Kirby Seconded: Carol Wellings.

**Matters Arising**

Jenni has spoken to Parish Council regarding the cutting of the hedge. Graham has promised to talk to him.

Proposed charities for Scarecrow event - Derian House, Cherish, North West Air Ambulance, Reach and Connect. Jenni will send out links to these in time for the next meeting.

1. **Chair’s Report – Jenni Smitton** It’s good to see a lot of activity on the plots, many of which are looking great. The Peace Garden is looking stunning. Our thanks to PL and all others who help to maintain it. It should be noted that Phil is finding it more difficult to devote as much time as he would like to its upkeep. The Orchard area is looking good, JB has completed the pruning and has also spent a lot of time clearing the mess left by the hedge trimmer. The raised bed area has been completed. Thanks to FS and JG. The remaining beds will be completed at a later date. RJ is constructing the fence around the oak tree and the viewing platform in the bee shed.
2. **Treasurer’s Report – Rob Yates**

Very little has changed since the previous report. The books are now closed and have balanced. There is a slight deficit and monies may need to be transferred from the reserve into the operational account. The deficit is not surprising considering the large amount of work that has been undertaken in the last twelve months.

The plants have come in well under budget. Rob will talk to Duncan regarding getting some more plants, possibly red cabbage.

1. **Membership Secretary’s Report –**

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| --- | --- |
| **Hesketh Bank** | 8 |
| **Others** | 1 |

1. **Management of the Nectar Bar**

For various reasons, Carol and Paul have been left to manage the Nectar Bar and going forward, they are likely to become even more busy and have less time. We desperately need new volunteers. There was no response from the last email but we will try again. It needs someone to manage it, be aware of what plants to keep.

1. **Scarecrow Competition & Official Opening of Pathways**

This will run from 12 noon – 2pm. The new marquee will be used. Official Opening at 1pm with walk about to follow. Volunteers will be needed for the refreshments, the erecting of the marquee and on the door.

Before the day, the signs will need siting plus the fence around the oak tree.

1. **First Aid**

Steve will investigate this and Rob will contact the National Association regarding our legal requirements during public functions.

1. **School Visit**

Hesketh with Becconsall. Wednesday, 14th May. Two groups in the afternoon.

1. **Dates for Diary**

AGM – 19th June followed by Open Meeting

Scarecrow Competition – 28th June

Mikron – 6th July

Summer Show – 30th August

Quiz Night – 26th September

1. **AOB**

Bees – Jenni will follow up with DB.

Green Community Hub – Steve will make further enquiries. They may be helpful in the Peace Garden and the Nectar Bar.

Date of next Meeting - Thursday 8th May 2025 - Hesketh Bank Community Centre – 7pm.