



HESKETH-with-BECCONSALL **PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2019 2019 at 7:30pm at The Community Centre, Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

PRESENT

Councillors Iain Ashcroft; Jeff Christie; Diane Earles; Mike Ellis; Steve Kirby; David Maughan; Richard Plant; Paul Sergeant (Chairman);

Two members of the general public were present.

COUNCIL MEETING

CHAIRMAN

RESOLUTION No. 2019/12 Carried that Cllr. Paul Sergeant is elected unopposed as chairman of the Council.

RESOLUTION No. 2019/13 Carried that the Council receive and accept Cllr Sergeant's Declaration of Acceptance of Office duly witnessed by the Executive Clerk.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs; Norma.M.Goodier; John Hunter; Ron Tyson

APPOINTMENTS

RESOLUTION No. 2019/14 Carried that Appointments as per appendix 'A' to these Minutes are confirmed.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION No. 2019/15 Carried that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 8th April 2019 are confirmed as a true record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made.

PUBLIC FORUM

Queries regarding current Planning Applications were raised.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman reported on the activities of the Council during the prior year. This is minuted at Appendix 'A'

REPORTS

Cllr Earles updated Members with regards to the Community Centre.

CLERK'S REPORT

VAT

The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted a claim for the recovery of £23,274.11 of VAT on Council expenditure.

CONFIRMATION of THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCY

The Clerk confirmed that the Council continues for the 2019/2020 year to be able to operate the "**General Power of Competency**".

ALTY NORTHERN LANDS

The Clerk advised that he was not aware of any progress on the sale of these lands.

INTERNAL AUDIT

It was noted that Mr Trevor Rimmer had completed the Internal Audit on the 17th April 2019 and there weren't any issues requiring attention.

PLAY AREAS

It was noted that the Annual Inspections will take place in late May/June this year.

SHORE ROAD RECREATION GROUND

It was noted that work was now complete on the installation of the new outdoor Gym Equipment. As a result of the post installation Risk Assessment, the Clerk had the steel rail at the side of the approach footpath from Shore Road increased in length to deter users of the facility approaching the equipment from the rear side.

MOBILE PHONES BASE STATION.

It was noted that as part of our new agreement with Cornerstone, fencing had now been installed around the base station on the CSG.

WL CAPITAL GRANTS

The Clerk advised that the application for grant funding towards wayside seats was not successful.

UNIFORMED PARISH CHAMPIONS

Due to the lack of progress, the Clerk had requested a meeting with the new liaison officer from the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership to urge some action. It was agreed that they would produce 1,600 leaflets to be distributed with the Champion Newspaper; the Clerk had offered on behalf of the Council to bear half the cost of distribution.

BUS STRIKES

It was noted that the Clerk had received an email regarding the prospect of a lack of evening bus services through the Northern Parishes due to proposed strikes by Stagecoach drivers.

SCHOOL CCTV

The Clerk reported on discussions he had had with the Head Teacher regarding their new CCTV Policy. It was noted that as this was at variance with the Council's Policy, cameras on the school premises had been switched off and recordings erased

COUNCILLOR TRAINING

This will take place on Tuesday 9th July, 6pm at the borough offices.

RESOLUTION No. 2019/16 Carried that the Clerk's Report and actions are noted and ratified.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

PAYMENTS

RESOLUTION No. 2019/17 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 electronic transactions.

RECEIPTS

Hesketh AFC	Additional Rent	£308.75
WLBC	Concurrent Grant – 1 st Tranche	£1,423.00
Poor Marsh PALS	Annual Fee	£300.00
Bank Interest	Apl 2019	£3.87
Investment Interest	May 2019	£95.67

INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLUTION No. 2019/18 Carried that the Internal Auditor's report is received and noted.

ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported on a positive meeting with the Poor Marsh PALS committee regarding plot provision on the site

RESOLUTION No. 2019/19 Carried that the following action should be taken:-

1. Only Banks and Tarleton Residents outside Hesketh Bank, should be allowed on the waiting list and all persons presently outside these areas should be written to advising of this. (This is in line with the original decision on the re-provision of the site)
2. All applicants outside Hesketh Bank should be advised of the anticipated waiting time and asked to confirm their interest annually; failure to do so would result in the person being removed from the list.
3. That the Council looks into acquiring additional land to accommodate up to 10 additional plots.
4. That consultation be undertaken on imposing a rent surcharge on non Hesketh Bank Plot Holders and that the relevant Parish Councils be asked to consider underwriting this surcharge.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to North Meols and Tarleton Parish Councils regarding issue 4 above.

INSPECTION REPORTS

A report was received in respect of the Shore Road complex,

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:38pm.

APPENDIX ‘A’

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2019

As we move in to the final twelve months of the present Council, we can look back with pride on what has been an exceptionally busy and productive year; indeed probably the most productive year in the history of this Council.

This time last year, we had two major drainage schemes in progress. At the Council’s Shore Road Recreation Ground, land drains which had been laid over twenty years ago had failed resulting in many months of the grounds being in an unusable state. Our contractor “**Duncan Ross**” undertook the laying of new field drains, spiking and sand banding of the whole field along with replacement of collection and discharge drains, which had been incorrectly installed by previous contractors, through the Council’s carpark. This latter work also necessitated the re-surfacing and marking out of the car park. The work was initially held up by the ground being so wet that it could not bear the weight of the contractor’s machines only to be followed by a period of drought making it impossible to lay the drains; the initial estimate of four week’s work ended up lasting over twelve weeks.

At the same time, the Council as landlords and the football Club as tenants undertook a major reconstruction and drainage of football pitch at the Centenary Sports Ground. This major scheme undertaken by sports ground specialists “**Danvic**” was another job compromised by the summer of drought necessitating major water supply works being installed to prevent the newly seeded pitch drying out.

The total cost of both schemes financed by the Council approached £100,000 with the football club entering into new lease terms effectively re-paying the Sports Ground works through an increased ground rent.

The Centenary Sports Ground main carpark also benefitted from the installation of LED floodlighting which has vastly reduced nuisance and drug abuse.

The Council also embarked on an extended “Lengthsman” scheme during the year with our contractor “**Brian Parkinson**” taking over weed control on our roads from the Borough Council; this year that has been extended further with maintenance of the grass verges and the cleaning of road and traffic signs being vested with the Lengthsman.

Roads and speeding were highlighted by residents and councillors alike. The Council responded with the purchase of three “Speed Indicating Devices” (SPIDS) now located on the old railway bridge, Shore Road and Moss Lane. The Council were the first in this country to import these high-tech devices of French manufacture at significantly less cost than the British equivalents, statistics have shown an average of over 8% reduction in speeds as well as recording details and times of all passing vehicles which are passed to the police.

Maintaining the Parishes assets has always been high on the Council’s list of priorities and during the year our three Play Areas were all fully overhauled with the safety surfacing being repaired throughout. We continue our weekly inspection by Councillors of all community assets with engineering inspections each quarter and full insurance inspections annually. We still look forward to being able to take control of the Play Area and Green space at Poppyfields/The Green once the Borough Council can agree terms with Morris Homes.

The Council were pleased to receive the gift from the Eatough and Plant families of the strip of land between Granville Avenue and Sidney Avenue which is a popular shortcut. The Council will be improving the area over the coming months.

We were also delighted to receive the significant gift of the former railway track-bed on the Westerly banks of the Douglas from “**Henry Alty & Co**” as they finally left the Brickworks Site. This strip of land runs from the Southerly end of the Persimmon development initially to Sutton Avenue with a further strip to the east of Merlecrest Drive. Through this land and beyond to the canal sea-lock, the Council intend to develop a multi-use pathway as both for leisure and a traffic free route. Funds which the Council will receive from the development levy imposed on the Persimmon development will be entirely devoted to this scheme.

The Council also took ownership of several small parcels of land around the village with a view to converting eyesores to assets and intend to provide additional wayside seating in the coming months. In time for the Early Spring Bank Holiday, work was completed two weeks ago on the new £14,000 “**Outdoor Gym**” at the Shore Road recreation ground financed almost entirely from development grants. This has already proved extremely popular with people of all ages; it was indeed very rewarding to see whole families using the new equipment together.

The Council continue to support the Community Centre in their ambitions to develop the site with a new purpose built building and have committed the receipts from other Infrastructure levies to that cause.

The “**Love Hesketh Bank**” initiative continues to grow in popularity with the “**Best Kept Street**” accolade being added to the list of awards. Sadly despite efforts like this, irresponsible dog owners still leave dog excrement for others to walk in and remove, whilst the litter louts think it’s OK to drop anything they’ve done with.

The Council has also agreed to work with the “**Lancashire Volunteer Partnership**” in progressing the “**Parish Champion**” initiative which aims to give a uniformed presence in the rural areas. To date we have one resident who has come forward and are looking for a further one at present.

All this has been accomplished with a Parish Precept which is 21% less in real terms than it was ten years ago.

I couldn’t finish without again thanking **Duncan Taylor** who continues to decorate the village centre each year with Festive Christmas wreaths to set off the Council’s luminaires, then in the summer providing hanging baskets from the lamp standards and filling the planters at the Moss Lane junction. I would personally, and on behalf of the community, like thank all of the Members of the Council for their dedication and the hard work they voluntarily undertake for the whole community within our Parish.

Finally I would also like to thank our Clerk, Ian Cropper for managing the work of the Council and his continued support and guidance to me and all the Councillors.

Paul Sergeant
Chairman.

APPENDIX 'B'

	ASHCROFT	HUNTER	EARLES	CHRISTIE	GOODIER	KIRBY	ELLIS	MAUGHAN	PLANT	SERGEANT	TYSON
Chairman										X	
Vice Chairman	X										

Lancashire Playing Fields Assoc Appointee										X	
Environmental & PRow Member						X					
Layfield Charity Appointed Trustee									X		
Shoreline Compiler/Editor							X				

Recreation & POS Committee	EO			X	X			X		EO	
Planning Committee	EO				X			X		EO	X
Risk Assessment Working Group	X										X
Recreation Areas Inspection Members		X						X	X	X	
LHB / BKV Working Group			X			X					X
Payment Authorisation Members	X					X		X		X	