

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 10th September 2020

This was a 'remote' meeting held via Zoom commencing at 6.30pm

Final Draft Minutes

Present: Parish Councillors (PCllrs) Alastair McWhirter (AM) (Chairman), Iain Whyte (IW) (Vice Chairman), Sarah Butters (SB), Stuart Dack (SD), Beccy Batley (RB), Jemima Withey (JW), Anne Turner (AT), David Keeble (DK) (Hasketon Parish Clerk) and District Councillor (DCllr) Colin Hedgley (CH), There were two members of the public attending.

1. Chairman Alastair McWhirter opened the meeting slightly later than 6.30pm due to difficulties logging onto Zoom platform for which Clerk apologised (incorrect passcode). Chairman welcomed everyone attending and explained the format of the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence: There were none received.

3. Declaration of Interests: SB declared her position as an allotment holder. AT declared her past connection with Sizewell B Power Station (past employee)-(Agenda items 7 and 8)

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings – dated 9th July 2020 and EO meeting 13th August 2020. (Both previously circulated). These were approved and adopted as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman at the first face to face meeting of the PC when the current Coronavirus emergency allows. It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record. Proposed –SD
Seconded - SB

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – There were no matters arising.

9. District Councillors Report: (Report previously circulated) CH advised that decisions on future planning applications would take account of the ESC new local plan although it has yet to be confirmed. He also thought it likely that Zoom (remote) District Council meetings were likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

He still has some monies left that he was able to allocate for assisting with purchase of suitable technology for dealing with planning applications now that paper documents are no longer sent out to Parish Councils

IW commented on investment in Felixstowe seafront and CH added Lowestoft would also benefit from further improvements.

AM asked about the parking enforcement changes and CH confirmed that Enforcement staff were all Suffolk NORSE employees and the emphasis was on parking enforcement not revenue raising.

CH added that when downloading the parking app be aware that the extras are all charged extra. The report also covered the EO meeting of ESC and its response to the Sizewell C development. It notes that the decision to build Sizewell C is with the Government, not ESC but if built ESC must be ready to take advantage of the opportunities it presents.

6. Invitation for Members of the Public to Speak: Clare Rizzo was present, at the invitation of the Parish Council, to support the Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth request for a donation to assist

6. Invitation for Members of the Public to Speak: (cont'd)

with their costs needed to engage expert scientific witnesses to write reports on their behalf and to speak for them in the infrastructure planning examination process. At a previous PC meeting it had been resolved not to make a donation, however following representation from three residents the PC invited Clare to speak on behalf of the request. Clare outlined the importance of being able to present a proper and expert backed response to the EDF application given the complex nature of the development and its undoubted impact on both local people and the local environment, during the construction period, during its operating lifetime and following its decommissioning. She highlighted the impact of increased traffic on the A12 and stated Hasketon was only 28km from Sizewell.

7. To Reconsider the Donation to Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth regarding Sizewell C (request letter previously circulated). Clerk had previously circulated to Councillors information regarding the status of Friends of the Earth and its eligibility to receive donations from the Parish Council. He reiterated it was a registered charity and although an activist organisation was not Party Political. He stated in his view it met the criteria to receive donations i.e. Friends of the Earth Charitable Trust is a registered charity (No 281681), any donation would be for specifically identified purposes i.e. employing expert witnesses, and the development at Sizewell C was of such local significance that it either directly and indirectly affects local residents. AM summarised the original decision i.e. it was considered politically sensitive and the need for future energy needs outweighed other considerations.

AT acknowledged there were mixed views in the village. IW considered it was a relative clean and reliable source of energy. RB felt the decision should be reversed and the donation agreed. SD considered arguments for and against had merits. JW was of view it was a political organisation and that £50.00 would not make a significant difference.

Following the subsequent discussion the PC resolved to adhere to the previous decision not to donate by a majority of three votes to one with three abstentions.

8. To Consider the Parish Council Response to the Sizewell C Pre Examination Stage Consultation (Deadline 30th September 2020) (previously circulated)

Cllrs SD and SB had attended the webinar sessions provided by Planning Aid England to assist Councils understand the Sizewell C application process and reported back on these sessions. SD considered it was important that the PC register as an interested party in order that any future PC comments be considered. It was essential that any representations from Parishes reflected a balanced view i.e. pros and cons, plus it must reflect the effect on the specific Parish i.e. Hasketon in our case, and if possible, offer solutions to lessen the impact of the issues highlighted. The closing date for expressions of interest is the 30th September 2020. It was resolved to register an expression of interest of behalf of Hasketon Parish Council **ACTION – Clerk**

10. Report from County Councillor: No report had been received from CClr and once again no representative was in attendance. AM requested this apparent lack of support be minuted and Clerk instructed to write to Suffolk County Council regarding this lack of representation. **ACTION- Clerk**

11. Finance:

- i. Summary of Accounts since 18th July 2020. (attached)
Account balances at 31/8/2020 as follows:-

11. Finance: (cont'd)

- i. Summary of Accounts since 18th July 2020. (attached)
Savings account£29898.94 (adjusted)
Current Account.....£2001.47

Available balance...£31900.31

This amount includes earmarked reserves for various planned works including the £2500 grant from DCILrs for the play area improvements.

The accounts had been checked against bank statements by Cllr SD.

It was resolved to adopt the accounts as presented.

Proposed – JW

Seconded – AT

- ii. Approval of Invoices and Transfer of funds. (refer accounts summary attached)

Unpaid invoices amounted to £475.15

(Ch No 100721 Clerk pay)£433.08 (includes additional hours payment previously agreed)

(Ch No 100100722 Clerk Expenses).....£42.07

Clerk recommended transfer of £1500 from Savings Account to Current account (Clerk advised HPC was still awaiting repayment of £723.80 from Suffolk County Council (for cancelled work on B1079)

It was resolved to pay invoices and transfer as recommended.

Proposed – SD

Seconded – SB

ACTION - Clerk

- iii. Quarterly Financial Control check

To be completed and circulated and presented at November meeting.

ACTION- Clerk/SD

- iv. Review of Earmarked Reserves.

Deferred to November meeting, to be considered when 2021-22 Budget is presented.

- v. Internal Audit Recommendations. – Still outstanding.

ACTION - Clerk

- vi. Clerk Matters. AM has completed the annual appraisal for the Clerk.

Clerk has also circulated details of the Local Government Services pay agreement for 2020-21 applicable from 1st April 2020. Annual leave entitlement is also increase for employees with less than 5 years' service by one day to 22 days annually. AM recommended pay award is implemented and spinal column point increase to SCP 8 as per contract (subject to confirmation of calculations by AM).

Proposed – SD

Seconded – JW

ACTION- Clerk/AM

12. Annual Review of Policy Documents:

- i. Review and Adoption of Standing Orders
- ii. Review and Adoption of Media Policy
- iii. Review and Adoption of Asset Register
- iv. Review and Adoption of Financial Risk Assessment
- v. Review and Adoption of Code of Conduct
- vi. Review and Adoption of Financial Regulations
- vii. Review and Adoption of Financial Risk Management (Internal Control Check Procedure)
- viii. Review and Adoption of Financial Monitoring Procedures
- ix. Review and Adoption of s137 Policy.

Clerk advised that as this item had previously been deferred on two occasions and there was no requirement to hold an annual meeting in 2020 this item should be deferred en bloc until the next annual meeting.

Agreed.

13. Model Codes of Conduct Consultation: (information previously circulated)

Meeting did not consider any content warranted a response from Hasketon PC.
Clare Rizzo left meeting (7.25pm)

14. Village Amenities and Events:

- i. Play Area – a) Update on Refurbishment Programme.
IW reported work has been interrupted by Coronavirus situation but will pursue asap once time allows.
b) Maintenance.
IW had undertaken visual inspection before reopening and identified minor works.
Rooster has been repaired; IW will repair fencing damage; Slide still needs to be addressed.
Ongoing strimmer damage to wooden posts. Clerk will speak to NORSE re. this damage.
ACTION – Clerk/IW
- c) Fencing – see above
- d) Annual Safety Check – Clerk had received notification from ROSPA that annual safety check would be undertaken sometime in September 2020.
- ii. Tree Management. Clerk reported he had been in contact with Tree Surgeon and survey should have been completed in June but as yet nothing heard from Acorn Trees. Clerk to follow up.
ACTION – Clerk
- iii. Allotments. a) Clerk has requested NORSE to clear overgrown brambles from corner of allotments.
ACTION - Clerk
b) Annual meeting postponed until 2021
c) Annual review of rental charge. Agreed that no increase is required. Proposed – SD
Seconded – JW
- iv. Bus Shelter Nothing to report
- v. Victory Hall – a) Report – IW reported that current restrictions is limiting use and the hall has opened for one user (Dance Easy) at present limited to 6 people at any one time.
Floor has been repolished.
IW stated that if hall is not being used the insurance could be invalidated.
IW reported the car park area had recovered somewhat as a result of the lockdown period.
Clerk reported he had contacted NORSE regarding the overgrown hedge on the car park area and was meeting with Paul Tynan (NORSE) on the 14th September. **ACTION - Clerk**
b) Improvements – Currently these have been on hold, but intention is to proceed as soon as situation allows. The replacement dishwasher is pressing if kitchen is to be used.
c) Disabled Access – as b) above. **ACTION - IW**
- vi. Footpaths – nothing to report
- vii. War Memorial – Is scheduled for cleaning next year but with its listed status it will need special consideration.
- viii. Benches – Clerk reported that NORSE had advised the replacement bench should be fixed in the next couple of weeks. The other bench needs a minor repair (metal bracket).
ACTION – Clerk

15. Planning:

- i. Planning Application DC/20/3186/VOC – High House Grundisburgh Road Hasketon. (previously circulated). It was resolved to recommend approval of this application and Clerk instructed to respond accordingly. Proposed – SD
Seconded – IW
ACTION - Clerk

15. Planning (cont'd)

- ii. Feedback on Previous Applications. Application re. Land to south of Low Road is still pending decision at 10th September.

16. Technology for Viewing Documents:

This matter has not been explored further at present. DCllr CH reported he has £2000 left in his budget of which he was willing to consider a grant of £1000 towards purchase of suitable equipment i.e. Projector. It was resolved to make an application to DCllr for a grant.

Proposed – AT

Seconded – SB

ACTION – Clerk

17. Quiet Lanes Application: (details previously circulated)

Clerk reported he had contacted Andrew Cassey and the resultant update had been circulated. It was noted that the attached map appears to be missing some of the roads on the original expression of interest. Clerk also advised he had been contacted by resident William Helm regarding the Quiet Lanes scheme. Mr Helm was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded an email which the Clerk read out to meeting. Mr Helm is an enthusiastic supporter of the Quiet Lanes scheme and has been in contact the Organiser Andrew Cassey direct. Mr Helm is proposing a circular route around the village (details given in email) and is offering his assistance to the PC, possibly for fundraising if this is necessary. The Clerk was instructed to write to Andrew Cassey confirming the roads in our original expression of interest and to respond to Mr Helm advising we will contact him when we have further information relating the progress of our expression of interest. **ACTION- Clerk** DCllr CH left the meeting at 8pm.

18. Application for Free Trees: (Woodland Trust)

Clerk reported an application for 4 packs of 30 saplings suitable for hedging had been made to this scheme which had been accepted. The plants would be delivered in November. IW had expressed the view that to extend the hedgerow for the full length of the play area along Blacksmiths Road would take about 200 plants. Clerk advised there was an opportunity to amend the order, but final date for doing so was Friday 11th September . Clerk was instructed to apply for a further number of plants.

ACTION – Clerk

19. Highways:

- i. Traffic Matters - B1079. Clerk reported that e had contacted David Chenery (SCC Highways) regarding the outstanding repayment of monies paid for the cancelled work s to the B1079 and had subsequently provided HPC account details to SCC accounts department but was still awaiting payment. A further email had been sent to SCC accounts at beginning of this month.

ACTION – Clerk

- ii. Maintenance Matters – White Lines/Potholes. Clerk advised he had also contacted SCC Highways regarding the absence of give way road markings at the junction of Tymmes Place and Top Road but had received no response. Clerk to follow up.

ACTION - Clerk

20. Village Bus Services:

Following proposed changes to the village bus service it appears that the First Bus service is going to be further reduced. RB had obtained information regarding the Dial a Ride service which the PC would publicise and promote in the village

ACTION – RB/Clerk

