

## **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF HEPTONSTALL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **HELD AT HEPTONSTALL SOCIAL & BOWLING CLUB, 4 OCTOBER 2021**

**Present** : Councillors Dr J R Dunford (Chairman) A Baldwin  
M V Edwards M Hughes & S Slater

#### **85/21 APOLOGIES (AND REASONS) OF ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence (and reasons) were received from Councillors James & Stott.

It was resolved to approve the reasons for these absences.

Apologies and reasons were also received from Councillors Crowther & Cutts neither of whom sought, nor were granted, approval for their reasons of absence.

#### **86/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No Declarations were made.

#### **87/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public attended.

Concern was expressed by each of the current filming taking place in the village ('Gallows Pole'). Complaints were detailed from each. The Clerk advised that he too had received many calls complaining of the disruption to village life.

Topics covered included :

- Re-routing of bus service
- Suspension of bus stops
- Traffic management
- Ban on photography
- Vans blocking Hepton Drive
- Road signage
- Deliveries not made
- Unable to exit public car park
- Noise, including being awoken at 2.00 a.m.
- Light pollution – night filming
- Lack of regulation
- Irritation to members of public
- Health & safety
- Covid concerns
- Health & Safety issues

Both attendees were invited to stay for the discussion by members, and had already been advised of the attendance at the next Council meeting (25 October) of Peter Vardy (Calderdale MBC officer re filming) and Ian Findlay (BBC location manager). Public attendance would be welcome.

## **88/21 FILMING OF 'GALLOWS POLE' : PROBLEMS & RECOMPENSE**

Having heard the concerns from members of the public, it was resolved the agenda for the next meeting of this Council should separate the 'Filming of Gallows Pole' and 'The position of filming generally in future'

Councillor Dunford made it clear that, as Council Chairman, he was always available for help and support.

It was agreed it may be useful to draw up a Code of Conduct/Protocol for future filming in the village.

The Clerk would be provided with a copy of the notes of concern which would be scanned to members.

**89/21 Minutes of previous meetings of Heptonstall Parish Council** were approved as a correct record in respect of the following :

- Monthly Council meeting held 6 September 2021

## **90/21 TRAINING/WEBINAR/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES**

The Clerk provides regular details of the availability of training and conferences and invites members to request bookings via himself as already authorised.

The Clerk confirmed the planned virtual conference scheduled by YLCA to be held 17 & 18 September had been cancelled. The Chairman and Clerk were due to partake.

Councillor Dunford reminded members of the budget availability for training and development and encouraged members to partake.

## **91/21 HEPTONSTALL POST OFFICE**

The Chairman invited Mr Greenwood, acting as Responsible Financial Officer to make a statement in respect of the opportunity for purchasing shares in the Post Office & Shop proposals.

Mr Greenwood explained his role was to provide financial advice to members, and to ensure that actions are legal, and satisfy the needs, constraints and expectations placed upon the use of public money. Investments need to be risk free and, where possible, provide investment income in a safe home.

He read from the synopsis in respect of the 'Heptonstall Post Office Community Buyout' and highlighted the following :

**Safety of Investment** – the purchase of shares is at full risk and if the business fails it is possible the Council would never recover the full value of the shareholding or even lose it completely. Additionally there would not be access to the Financial Ombudsman Service of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. On these grounds alone he could not recommend investing in the shares.

**Withdrawal of shares** – The scheme has been modelled to allow for the graduated withdrawal of shares over time after an initial suspension of withdrawal of 5 years. This would restrict access to this element of Council capital and as such cannot be recommended.

**Income Generation** – Mr Greenwood reminded members the surplus reserves are currently invested in renewable Term Deposits with a major bank, and this generates an income which is reviewed every 6 months.

The scheme expects to have tight margins as a community retail establishment and there is no plan to pay interest on the shares in the short to medium term. This is an additional reason why such investment cannot be recommended.

In essence the RFO said he could not oversee the Council making such an investment for the three main reasons stated, although it would not preclude the Council from receiving grant application(s) for specific purposes in accordance with the Council's existing Protocol for grants.

**Decision** – It was resolved to take the RFO's advice and not purchase shares in the scheme. Mr Greenwood was thanked for his information and advice.

## **92/21 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS TO PAY**

The following accounts were approved for payment :

Lambert Print & Design Ltd	Newsletter publication	£ 150.00
Slow The Flow	Environmental Donation	£1,000.00

## **93/21 BUSINESS TERM DEPOSIT**

The Clerk confirmed the documents had been signed to execute the transfer of £7,000.00 from Business Term Deposit to the Current Account.

## **94/21 FINANCIAL REPORT : 6 MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The report had been provided to members in advance of the meeting. The Clerk invited any questions on the documents.  
It was resolved to approve the report.

## **95/21 ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROJECT**

Following the donation of £1,000 to Slow The Flow as the Environmental Project for the current year it was agreed to ask Adrian Horton to address the Annual Meeting of the Parish Assembly (along with other donees) scheduled for 9 May 2022.

## **96/21 PLANNING**

**(A) Planning Decisions** : Details of Planning decisions made by Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council were nil in the past period.

**(B) New Applications** : The following Applications were presented for consideration :

**PA 21/00927/LBC** : Fabric improvement to the farmhouse building only, with demolition of modern rear storage extension, external works and internal alterations (Listed Building Consent) – New Greenwood Lee Farm, Widdop Road, Heptonstall  
No objections arose.

**PA 21/20112/TPO : Fell Trees (Tree Preservation Order) – Millstream Cottage, Lee Mill Road, Hebden Bridge**

No objections arose.

#### **97/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that most relevant items of correspondence had secured their own dedicated slots on the meeting's agenda.

#### **98/21 CHURCH STREET : DIFFICULT VEHICULAR ACCESS**

Following a complaint of a recent structure risking damage to the underside of vehicles it was recognised this is a public highway but not repairable at public expense. It was agreed to pass the matter to Calderdale MBC Highways (copy to the complainant).

#### **99/21 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Slater advised members neither she nor Mr Greenwood had been able to attend the latest meeting of the Safer Cleaner Greener Committee, but The Clerk had sent a note of the current issues to Jae Campbell in advance and he had responded with useful information.

Councillor Baldwin advised members that the motor cycling in the field between the playground and Bowling Club had permitted use without Planning for 12 times a year. Currently this is happening more regularly (say 18/19 times). It was resolved to pass this information to Calderdale Planning.

#### **100/21 PROVISION OF BENCH AT WHINS LANE**

The Clerk reported that he was in contact with the Countryside Officer (Philip Singh) who was willing to provide installation of a bench. It was agreed to progress this with Glasdon Ltd. Councillor Hughes was willing to provide assistance.

#### **101/21 JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Slater reported that a meeting had been called but, being poorly attended, had been deferred.

#### **102/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk advised the next meeting would be :

- Monthly Meeting (face to face) at Heptonstall Social & Bowling Club) at 7.30 pm on Monday 25 October 2021.

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(Chairman)

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(Date)