

**Minutes of No Man's Heath & District
Parish Council Meeting
held at Cholmondeley Coronation Hall
at 7.00 pm on Thursday 7th March 2024**

PRESENT

Chairman:	Cllr David Lithgow Smith	
Cllr Kathryn Collings	Cllr James Crossland	Cllr Peter Guildford
Cllr Charles Higgie	Cllr Fran Lithgow Smith	Cllr Trevor Parker
Cllr Stephen Roberts	Cllr Michael Voisey	

Clerk - Mrs Ruth Shackleton.

Members of the Public and Parish – One member of the public attended the meeting. The police attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Tim Harrop

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Voisey declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 of the minutes.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3.1 Mr Tony Day, resident, updated the meeting regarding the following:-

- Village appearance including the planters and newly installed dog bag dispensers;
- Dog waste;
- Lack of public awareness of Parish Council activities (the Council are to display the draft minutes on the noticeboard).

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:- that the minutes for the Parish Council meeting that was held on Thursday 4th January 2024 (previously circulated) be accepted as a true and proper record.

Proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Higgie.

5. CASUAL VACANCY

There is one vacancy on the Council; the notice of co-option has been placed on the noticeboards and website.

6. POLICE

Sergeant James Dingsdale and PC Steve Gardener attended the meeting.

The Council requested more police presence to reduce speeding in the parish, especially on the A41 (NMH to Tushingham); Cross o'th' Hill Road, NMH; Chester Road, Hampton; Long Lane, Larkton and at Hampton roundabout.

The police advised of the low crime levels in the area and to contact them directly regarding any local concerns.

7. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

7.1 Remembrance Poppies:-

RESOLVED:- that the Council order 12 poppies at a cost of £60.00.

Proposed by Cllr F Lithgow Smith and seconded by Cllr Collins.

7.2 Spacehive:-

RESOLVED:- that the Council agree to release payment of £6,794.14 to CWaC in respect of Spacehive funding received towards new play equipment at Littlers Croft play area when the invoice is received.

Proposed by Cllr Higgie and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

7.3 Accounts:-

RESOLVED:- that the Council approve the accounts as previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Parker.

7.4 **Payments:-**

Chq No	Payee	Amount
967	HMRC (Jan – Mar 2024)	£275.20
968	Running Costs / Backdated Pay	£ 96.11
969	GRANT:- Malpas Community Minibus Assoc	£500.00
970	Cholmondeley Coronation Hall (room hire)	£ 30.00
971	Community Heartbeat Trust Ltd	£162.00

Receipts:- Spacehive £6,794.14

7.4 **Bank Account:-**

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 29th February 2024:-
£10,318.09.

Balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 29th February 2024:- £ 7,674.60.

RESOLVED:- that the Council accept the above payments and accounts as circulated.

Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Parker.

8. **INTERNAL PROCEDURES**

RESOLVED:- The Council agreed to delete Clause 26 from Standing Orders. This will enable an existing chairman to stand for re-election for more than 3 terms and will be useful if no other Councillor wishes stand for election as Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Parker.

9. **INTERNAL AUDIT**

Jake Gurr has advised the cost to carry out the internal audit is £125.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED:- that the Council appoint Jake Gurr to carry out the internal audit at £125.00 plus VAT.

Proposed by Cllr Voisey and seconded by Cllr Crossland.

10. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting is to take place on the same evening as the first business meeting on Thursday 9th May 2024. The Council agreed to invite Mr Paul Kerr to the meeting to talk about footpath maintenance including gates and signage in the parish.

The Council considered inviting a representative from Malpas Community Minibus Association.

11. **PLANNING**

Planning Register:-

The Council noted the planning register and the observations as previously circulated.

12. **NMH DEVELOPMENT**

Cllrs Crossland and Parker met with Mr Blake to discuss potential development in NMH as he owns land in the village.

RESOLVED:- that the Council form a NMH Development Working Party; Cllrs Crossland, Voisey, Parker and Collins are to form the working party; Cllr Crossland is the lead Cllr.

Proposed by Cllr Higgle and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

13. **ISSUES REGISTER**

To receive report

23/4 Pre-Worboys road signage:-

CWaC has advised that typically, Parish Councils or local representatives undertake the restoration, and as both locations are away from the carriageway CWaC are happy that they could be painted in situ safely.

In the past CWaC has provided the paint for the works.

The Clerk is to follow up to request for paint; Cllr Roberts has volunteered to do the painting. (Item discharged).

23/5 Missing Sign:-

No update:-

24/1 Lighting on Chester Road:-

The Clerk has sent a query sent to CWaC regarding lack of street lighting after the Wheatsheaf Pub. CWaC has replies as follows:-

"There are no conditions on those permissions that require street lighting be provided. They would have been assessed at the time and not considered to require additional lighting particularly given the rural nature of the area. This is not untypical of new small-scale development in rural locations.

If the parish want to pursue a request for street lighting be provided, they would need to log a request, which would be passed to the street lighting team to review."
(Item discharged).

24/2 Dean Park:-

The Clerk has reported footpath damage / broken pavements at the Dean Park entrance to CWaC.

24/3 Griffin House, Chester Road:-

Cllr Collins updated the meeting regarding the unfinished footpath. CWaC has advised that the walkway was approved under the above discharge of conditions application and a highways agreement (s.278) is required. This ensures that works in the highway are all built to the same standard and are 'signed off' by a Highway Engineer from the Council. No s.278 agreement has been received for this site. CWaC has contracted the planning agent for the site to ask for details of how this work was completed and then next steps can be considered.

Cllr Crossland circulated a spreadsheet detailing Highways faults; the dates they were reported to CWaC and their current status.

14. **SUMMER PLAY SCHEME**

Military Style Education have quoted a rate of £20.00 per child per day.

The cost to hire Cholmondeley Coronation Hall is £500.00 (plus a small fee for grass cutting).

Surplus carried forward from last year - £ 275.78

RESOLVED:-

The Council agreed to the following:-

- To hold the summer camp (w/c Monday 29th July);
- Cost per day per child - £25.00;
- To instruct provider (Military Style Education) at a cost of £20.00 per child per day;
- To book Cholmondeley Coronation Hall at £500.00 for the week;
- To promote the event (emails to be sent to local schools and previous attendees; posters on social media and noticeboards etc)
- To write to local companies / businesses to request sponsorship.

Proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Collins.

15. **LITTLERS CROFT**

15.1 New Play Equipment:-

Cllr F Lithgow Smith circulated the following report:-

After a successful local campaign, spearheaded by Cllr Collins, the required target was achieved for the Swing Basket Cheshire West Crowd Funding. In December, £6,794.15 was transferred into the Council's bank account to fund the Swing Basket at Littlers' Croft.

Locally, the target was over achieved (39% of the required funds was raised, rather than the minimum of 25%). It was thought that any surplus funding would go towards the Council's next project as stated in the project guidance. Unfortunately the Cheshire West Crowd Committee, awarded only 61% instead of the 75% that was hoped for. Cllr F Lithgow Smith challenged this, and was advised that they offer "Up to " 75%, rather than an assured 75%.

Calvin Stockton, CW&C, has put a bid in for the Malpas Ward s106 money to support Littlers' Croft Infrastructure Development. The s106 amount allocated was for £35,066.43; this means, in addition to the £6,794.15 from the Swing Basket Campaign, there is a total of £41, 860.58 for Littler's Croft.

Cllrs F Lithgow Smith and Collins are currently in discussions with CWaC regarding the proposals, and as stands the money will be spent on the following :

- Cantilever Swing Basket
- A second larger play frame for 7-14 year olds
- Installation of a Rocker (Pre Used)
- Linking existing wet pore paving to new and existing play equipment, making the playground accessible for all.

Cllrs are due to meet with CW&C to agree exact locations of equipment, paving and planned installation dates.

15.2 Football pitch:-

The Council received the following report regarding the request from Malpas Junior FC teams to use the football area at Littlers' Croft for training and football matches. Cllr Collins has contacted the Parks Development Officer at CWaC regarding permission for Malpas Juniors Football Club to train / play matches on Littlers Croft pitch.

CWaC has advised that they could have permission to use the park but as that department doesn't manage the site he would have to work with other officers first. As the site is classed as a casual play and not an official pitch, this would mean that improvements would be needed.

CWaC would consider an asset transfer to either the Parish Council or to Malpas Football Club, to ensure that that funds could be applied for and ongoing maintenance be undertaken.

CWaC are due to discuss the matter and will advise Cllr Collins in due course. and advise.

Malpas Junior Football Club has said that they would be interested in coming to an agreement to maintain and get the pitch up to football / play standard at their cost with a contract in place, but without taking ownership of the area as this is something they are doing in other areas at present.

15.3 Asset transfer:-

The Council discussed an Asset Transfer of Littlers' Croft to the Council from CWaC.

The Council agreed that they required more information including the financial implications before making a formal decision. The Council are to look into this and consider at the May meeting.

16. **HIGHWAYS STEERING GROUP**

Cllr Harrop sent a report with the following updates:-

- Flooding:- The two big flooding issues in the area, (Cross o' th' Hill and the A41 / Old Coach Road), have been tackled and need to be monitored.
- Road Surface:- Less satisfactory is CWaC's response on the repairs to the mini roundabouts in the village which seems to indicate this is not a priority despite the reassurances made over the last 12 months. The Council agreed to encourage residents to report the state of the road surface direct to CWAC if they experience problems.
- Pothole:- Repairs are being carried out at a slow rate.
- Signage:- No updates with road side signage repair, reinstatement and maintenance.
- Speedwatch:- Cllr Harrop is hoping to start things going again as the weather improves but there is a shortage of volunteers. A minimum of two people are needed around the village roads, though three would be better and on Bickerton Road (this is due to the speed and volume of traffic).

Volunteers are to contact the Council for further information.

17. ACCESS TO PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW)

Cllr F Lithgow Smith updated the meeting regarding recent legislation to make PROW more accessible for all and a potential Parish Council led project to upgrade all local footpaths.

18. WITNEY LANE SPEED LIMIT

CWac advised that the job package was recently submitted to Colas for quote, the formal costing is due mid-March.

19. VILLAGE SIGNS

The Clerk has circulated different styles of village signs. The preferred choice came back as a gateway entrance sign.

Cllr Collins has requested a quote from a local joiner for wooden entrance gates.

The Council would have to apply to CWac for a license to erect the sign on highways. The Council would have to pay for the installation.

The Council are to consider this at the May meeting when all the costings have been received.

20. VILLAGE APPEARANCE

The third dog bag dispenser has now been installed at Meadow Court. There is an issue with the bags being removed no sooner have the dispensers been filled up.

21. COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Cllrs Harrop and Higgle helped with the recent tree planting at Littlers' Croft.

Cllr Collins agreed to monitor the trees. Cllr Higgle offered to prune the trees.

22. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk has contacted Mike Ainslie for an update including the relocation of the defibrillator currently at The Wheatsheaf to the village shop and is due to advise.

23. CHRISTMAS EVENT

No update.

24. THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA

The Clerk arranged with CWac to loan the thermal imaging camera for a week; this was promoted on Facebook and noticeboard.

Cllr Crossland informed the meeting of the thermal imaging camera and suggested that the Council carry out another event later in the year and promote it in more advance.

25. LETTER TO CWAC CEO

Cllr D Lithgow Smith advised the correspondence (two letters each way) between the Council and the CEO CWAC have been circulated and there appears, whether coincidentally or not, to have been a flurry of positive action by CWac. There is nothing further to add.

26. D DAY

The Council agreed to join in with the commemorations for D Day with neighbouring parishes.

27. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

27.1 Bickerton Burial Board:-

Cllr D Lithgow Smith advised that it has been established that the BBB is, in fact, a Joint Committee of Bickerton & Egerton Parish Council (3 reps), Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Council (2 reps), No Mans Heath and District Parish Council (1rep to represent Larkton) and Broxton and District Parish Council (3 reps to represent Broxton, Duckington & Harthill). There is nothing further to report.

27.2 Malpas Joint Burial Committee:-

There is nothing to report

28. CLERK'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

29. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence received was previously circulated.

PART 2

RESOLVED:- The Council agreed to exclude members of the public and press so as to discuss employee related matters.

Proposed by Cllr Lithgow Smith and seconded by Cllr Parker.

1. **CLERK'S SALARY AND HOURS**

Signed

Dated

Scheduled Parish Council Meetings

DATES FOR 2024 MEETINGS

Thursday 7th March 2024

Thursday 9th May 2024

Thursday 4th July 2024

Thursday 5th September 2024

Thursday 7th November 2024