

HETHERSGILL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hethersgill Parish Council held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th May 2023

Present: Cllr C Williams (Chairman); Clls S Barratt, J Bryant, M Irving, A Sisson, L Summerfield.

In attendance: Cllr J Mallinson, Mr F Heaton

143/23 Election of Chairman for the Council Year 2023/24

Resolved to elect Cllr C Williams as Chairman, after Cllr Sisson stepped down from the position of Chairman.. Cllr Williams recorded the thanks of the Parish Council to Cllr Sisson for her work during her term of office. Cllr Williams signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office of Chairman.

144/23 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved to appoint Cllr A Sisson was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

145/23 Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms

Members signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms following the uncontested election.

146/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the Clerk S Kyle: it was agreed that Cllr. A Sisson would minute the meeting.

147/23 Declarations of Interest and Request for Dispensations:

There were no requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations or declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

148/23 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th January 2023

Resolved that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting as a true record.

149/23 Co-option of Councillor

Mr Frank Heaton was co-opted on to the Parish Council and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

150/23 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

Cllr Mallinson reported that the new Cumberland Council is in operation and said he predicted a difficult period while the council “bedded in”. Cllr Mallinson is concerned that things might be missed during the transition period and is working hard to ensure Highways are kept

informed of work needed on potholes in his ward as there is a tremendous backlog of work to do. The Council had been informed of an urgent closure on the road near Prior House for repair work.

151/23 Administrative Matters

151.1 Broadband

There was nothing to report on broadband.

151.2 Parish Survey

Cllr Irving is to prepare a short questionnaire to be discussed at the next meeting. We will also discuss the best way to circulate the questionnaire to parishioners.

151.3 First Responder Scheme

Following a request regarding possible provision of a community first responder scheme, a request for anyone interested in this had been placed in The Gill but the Clerk has received no responses. It was resolved that Cllr Irving would repeat the request on the Hethersgill Facebook page and Cllr Summerfield would canvas people individually.

151.4 King's Coronation

Cllr Irving reported that the village had had very successful Coronation celebrations including an exhibition of village memories which had been very well-received; the King's Speech film was shown on the Friday night and on the Sunday a picnic and sports were held at the parish hall and in the field kindly provided by Mr and Mrs Hayton. A parish photo is now available to download free of charge via the website. A celebration cake was cut by several residents who had lived in the parish for more than 50 years. There were 31 entries for the Scarecrow competition and the church bell had been rung in celebration of the Coronation. Cllr Williams and Cllr Sisson thanked the social committee and everyone who had helped put on such an enjoyable and well-attended parish event.

151.5 Community Garden

There had been no responses to the notice in The Gill regarding a proposed Community Garden and the offer had been withdrawn.

151.6 Programme of Meetings

Resolved that the meeting dates for the forthcoming Council year be agreed as:

- 18th July 2023
- 19th September 2023
- 21st November 2023
- 16th January 2024
- 19th March 2024

151.7 Review of Policies and Procedures

Following a review undertaken by the clerk of the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Complaints procedure; procedures and practices in respect of Freedom of Information and data protection legislation; and policy for dealing with the press/media it was agreed no changes are needed at present.

151.8 General Power of Competence

Resolved that until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011, to adopt the above.

151.9 Brampton Foodbank

The opening of the above was noted along with the fact that users need to be referred to be able to access it. Cllr Irving is to promote it on the Parish Facebook page along with reference to the affordable food hub which is available in Brampton Methodist Church on Tuesdays and Fridays which is open to all.

152/23 Highways Matters

Nothing further to report.

153/23 Finance Matters

153.1 Payments

Resolved to authorise the payments below:

- Sarah Kyle, April salary £281.96
- Sarah Kyle, May salary £281.76
- HMRC, April PAYE £64.00
- HMRC, May PAYE £64.00
- HSBC, bank charges (monthly), £8.00
- Murray's Printers (newsletters) £128.00
- Murray's Printers (leaflets Balsam Bashers £79.00
- Sarah Kyle, reimbursements (stamps) £149.30
- BHIB, Insurance, £398.15
- M Irving, reimbursements (bunting), £81.56
- CALC, subscription, £163.70

153.2 Receipts

The receipt of the precept of £7000 from Cumberland Council was noted.

153.3 Internet Banking

Resolved: To reconfirm approval for the Clerk to authorise internet banking payments and for the direct debit for ICO payments to continue

154/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

151.1 Internal Auditors Report

Resolved: To accept the end of year internal auditor's report for the financial year 2022/23.

151.2 Certificate of Exemption

Resolved: That the Parish Council wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and to authorise the Chairman to sign and the RFO to submit a Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor following confirmation that gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31 March 2023.

151.3 Annual Governance Statement

Resolved: To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 and the Chairman was authorised the Chairman to sign the Annual return.

151.4 Accounting Statements

Resolved: To approve Accounting Statements 2022/23 and the Chairman was authorised to sign the annual return.

152/23 Councillor Matters

Cllr Williams reported the proposed dates for the Balsam Bashers as:17 May, Nether Onset; 28 May, 7 June and 25 June Stanley House road led by Gill Houston. 11 June, Greenview and 18 June, Sandy Lonning.

Cllr Williams also reported that it was hoped that the Community Payback team would be returning to work on the fields near Greenview on a date to be agreed.

Cllr Williams reported that the closing date for Hallburn Windfarm applications for this session will be 5 July 2023. Cllr. Mallinson noted that applications for solar panels and broadband installation for community buildings were both suitable for fund.

Cllr Sisson had received a complaint from parishioners about vehicles belonging to guests staying at Highgate in Hethersgill village were often parked in a dangerous position very near the crossroads. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to write to the owner of the property (used as an Air B and B) asking that guests should park in front of the property's access gates away

153/23 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.12pm.