

HOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Held on: Monday 30th October 2023 at 7:30 pm

At: The Red Lion Public House, Hollington DE6 3HA

Present: Cllr Chris Ward (Chair), Cllr Malcolm Feltwell, Cllr Fiona Jordan
Cllr Paul Merkens, Peter Bambury (Clerk)

There were no public attendees

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Public Speaking

No members of the public present

4. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2023 were approved subject to reference to 'Boylestone' in Item 3 being replaced with 'Hollington'.

5. Exclusion of the public

No matters on the agenda were identified that would necessitate exclusion of any member of the public that were to join during the course of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from previous meetings

- (a) Vacancy for parish councillor – two people had been identified as possible candidates, neither of whom were available to attend this meeting. Cllr Jordan would arrange for an invitation for attendance at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Jordan

- (b) Footpaths – of the 13 issues reported to Derbyshire County Council, 6 had been resolved. Cllr Jordan had re-reported the remaining 7 issues and a response is awaited.
- (c) Road signage – no issues at present. Cllr Ward has purchased an adhesive 30 mph circular sign to be placed on his wheelie bin, which will be placed in a conspicuous location at appropriate times. If this proves to be effective, consideration will be given to acquiring further signs and inviting selected properties to do the same.
- (d) Speed indicators – a particular model has been identified for its suitability but a primary contractor is still to be appointed. No response has been received from Derbyshire County Council following a written request for assistance with this. Cllr Ward to pursue with County Councillor Steve Bull. Action: Cllr Ward
- (e) Village Noticeboard – keys had now been obtained and the content of the noticeboard was now secure. It was agreed that contact details and the next meeting date of the Neighbourhood Watch Group would be permanently displayed. Action: Cllr Jordan
- (f) The litter pick had taken place on Saturday 21st October and had been attended by Cllrs Ward and Feltwell. Expenses for the event amounted to £34, which was approved for payment.

7. Biodiversity and Nature action planning

In the light of forthcoming legislation that will require parish councils to implement biodiversity considerations in their action planning, Cllr Jordan had prepared a report which was presented to the meeting. The report highlighted declining numbers in wildlife types and considered certain remedial options for the parish council to consider. Concern was expressed on whether the use of funds in this way by a small parish council such as Hollington was appropriate or even ultra vires. Councillor Jordan had been in communication with DALC on the matter and will report back further developments. Action: Cllr Jordan

8. Website

It was agreed that the received quotation of £350 for audit and compliance upgrade of the existing website did not represent good value for money due to the limitations of the site. The Clerk had previously reported having sourced an alternative website provided by the company 2comune Ltd, and they had quoted £250 for initiation of the site, set up and training, with annual support and licence fees thereafter charged at £250 per annum. The quotation received however was for the provision of a website to Boylestone Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Clerk would be authorised to commission 2commune Ltd for provision of their website for Hollington Parish Council, subject to obtaining an acceptable formal quotation from the company in the name of this parish council.

In the meantime a decision will need to be taken as to which of the two format versions of the website is preferable and the Clerk will recirculate links to examples to councillors. The Clerk will also enquire with the company on the facility to upload representative photographs of the village to the site.

Action: Clerk

9. Finance

- (a) Current and savings accounts had now been opened in the name of the Parish Council with Lloyds. This included an online banking facility. Payments by cheque will still require any two of the designated signatories to authorise, however payments by online banking will be transacted by the Clerk alone. In these instances it was agreed that the Clerk will seek authority from councillors by email prior to payment being made. This will include payment of the Clerk's salary and related payment to HMRC each month.

The Parish Council's Barclays accounts are still live and it was agreed, as an interim measure, that Cllr Ward would make out a cheque in the sum of £3000 as payment into the new Lloyds current account. This will need to be countersigned by a second signatory, after which the cheque will be given to Cllr Merkens for deposit by hand to Lloyds at Ashbourne. Action: Cllrs Ward and Merkens

Cllr Ward will pursue Barclays for release of the funds in the Parish Council's savings account. Action: Cllr Ward

- (b) Present account balances at Barclays stood at:

Current account £4227.51

Savings account £4930.05

- (c) The following due payments were considered:

- (i) DDDC Parish Council election recharge - £116.00

As there had been no election in Hollington this year, it was agreed that this charge should be challenged. Clerk to pursue. Action: Clerk

- (ii) Libra Business Essentials - £75.28

The parish council had paid an invoice relating to payroll services for 6 months in April of this year. This latest invoice appeared to relate to services for August and September plus other charges. Clerk to clarify with Libra. Action: Clerk

- (iii) Clerk gross salary June to October - £279 (comprising £223.20 net salary + £55.80 HMRC PAYE) – approved

- (iv) Litter pick expenses – Cllr Feltwell - £34.00 - approved

- (d) The Clerk advised that he was still unable to provide finance reports and analysis as he is still not in possession of this year's budget and spend details prior to his appointment.

10. Other matters

- (a) A further communication had been received from Longford Parish Council regarding necessary treework in the closed churchyard at Longford. Agreed that no action be taken until full details relating to the specific tree(s) in need of attention and the associated costs were known.
- (b) Concern was expressed regarding a hedge that fronted a property in Main Street, Hollington and which was projecting over the highway. Clerk to write to Derbyshire County Council requesting that they pursue with the property owner. Action: Clerk
- (c) The Clerk was asked to write to District Cllr Geoff Bond to extend an invitation to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council. Action: Clerk

11. Date of next meeting

To be held at 7:30pm Monday 15th January 2024 at The Red Lion PH, Main Street, Hollington.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm