

# **HOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**

Held on: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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

District Cllr Geoff Bond, County Cllr Steve Bull

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 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved.

### **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) Cllr Jordan had emailed 2 possible candidates with invitations. Neither had responded or were present at the meeting. It was agreed that the offer for each to apply would remain open.
- (b) Footpaths – recent flooding had hampered further inspection walks. Cllr Jordan would try again in the Spring. Action Cllr Jordan

## 7. Speed Indicator Display signs

The following quotations had now been received:

Elan City	£5400.00
Swarco	£9538.80
Westcotec	£10264.80

CoEval had been invited but had not submitted a quotation. Cllr Ward to pursue.

The quote from Elan City was the lowest but the dimensions of the signs quoted for exceeded the maximum set by Derbyshire County Council. Cllr Ward to enquire whether they can quote for a smaller sized sign.

Notwithstanding the above, from the quotations received, the submission by Swarco was favoured. However, Cllr Ward to negotiate with them with a view to reducing the price quoted.

In terms of the sign display, there were generally 2 components to signs that are available. The first being either a display of the actual speed detected or alternatively a display that shows the speed limit for the road. It was agreed that signs that show the actual speed detected would be favourable.

The second display component options include a smiley/angry face or an instruction to slow down. It was agreed that whichever of these turned out to be the cheaper would be chosen.

County Cllr Steve Bull advised that the Parish Council would be eligible to apply for a grant of £500 towards the costs from the Derbyshire County Council Members' Leadership Scheme, subject to submitting a formal claim outlining overall details of village improvement planned.

District Cllr Geoff Bond advised that a similar grant of £300 would be available from the Derbyshire Dales District Council Local Projects Fund.

To progress further, it was agreed that the following actions would be taken:

- (a) Provide further invitation to CoEval to quote. Action Cllr Ward
- (b) Enquire with Elan City whether they can quote for a sign of reduced dimensions in accordance with Derbyshire County Council size requirements. Action Cllr Ward
- (c) Negotiate with Swarco for reduction in price quoted. Action: Cllr Ward
- (d) Supply the Clerk with the substantive details required to make the applications for grants from the County and District Councils. Action: Cllr Ward
- (e) On receipt of the necessary supporting information, apply for the grants outlined by County Cllr Steve Bull and District Cllr Geoff Bond. Action: Clerk

## **8. Longford Parish Churchyard**

A communication and report had been received from Longford Parish Council regarding maintenance work that was necessary to 4 trees in their parish closed churchyard.

The work proposed had been quoted for at a cost of £2650 (exclusive of VAT), which on a pro rata basis to the number of properties in the participating parishes, would mean a charge of £910.30 for the parish of Hollington.

The point was made that historically, Hollington had been financially supportive of similar projects of maintenance work that had been undertaken in the Longford Parish Churchyard and that it would be desirable for this to continue.

However, it was also noted that current financial pressures on this parish council would be a challenge to sustaining this.

It was also queried whether Longford Parish Council had, or were to, obtain additional quotations for the work.

It was agreed that this Parish Council would financially support the current project of tree maintenance work. The Clerk would write to Longford Parish Council, raising the point regarding obtaining further quotes and also requiring that formal invoice be issued at the time for payment. The Clerk was also asked to advise that, due to its own financial pressures, Hollington would not be able to support further cost contributions to Longford Parish Council for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025-26. Action: Clerk

## **9. Biodiversity and Nature action planning**

Cllr Jordan provided an update on the implications for Hollington of the emerging biodiversity agenda. Cllr Jordan had done further research into initiatives undertaken in other local authority areas and had obtained useful advice from Derbyshire Dales District Council's Climate Change Officer.

There was still uncertainty over the defined duties of local councils in this regard and Cllr Jordan is to arrange a meeting with the Wildlife Trust's Wilder Communities Officer, with Cllr Merkens, to explore the matter further.

When obligations have been identified, the aim for this parish council will be to produce a working plan that outlines its duties and the objectives and actions that will arise as a consequence. Action: Cllr Jordan, Cllr Merkens

## **10. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

Cllr Jordan reported on the latest meeting held. The scheme had now been in operation for a year and the various initiatives that had been undertaken and their achievements were outlined. The Parish Council would maintain its current support for the scheme.

## **11. Website**

Notice had been received that a dispute between the Parish Council's chosen website provider, 2commune Ltd, and its platform provider, Cuttlefish, had resulted in the partnership between the two companies being terminated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Cuttlefish had in turn written to current parish council clients offering to provide a web hosting service themselves.

This impacted on the current website procurement process approved by this Parish Council as it was understood that Cuttlefish had little experience of direct service provision to parish councils.

The Clerk advised that, although 2024-25 budgetary provision should still be made at the level already approved, the current procurement process should not proceed until the situation became clearer. Alternative providers and arrangements were expected to emerge in the coming months.

## **12. 2023-24 National Pay Award for Parish Clerks**

Adoption of the pay award was agreed, which will be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, being the date of the Clerk's commencement of employment. Libra Business Essentials (payroll) to be advised. Action: Clerk

## **13. Planning**

The Planning appeal decision in respect of a hard standing and driveway at Meadow View, The Row, Main Street, Hollington was discussed. The decision was noted with no further action to be taken.

## **14. Sarah Dines MP**

The request by the Parliamentary Assistant to the MP for inclusion of a contact poster on the village notice board was approved. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply and request a poster size of A5, to be sent directly to Cllr Merkens. Action: Clerk

## **15. Finance**

- (a) The means of retrieving funds from the Parish Council's Barclays accounts remained unclear. The Clerk advised that the former Clerk had informed him that a letter to Barclays, signed by two authorised signatories, requesting that the balance of the Business Premium account be transferred to the Community account, would be sufficient. If successful, the amount could then be paid into the new Lloyds account by cheque. Doubt was expressed as to whether this would be successful and Cllr Ward agreed to attempt to resolve by telephoning Barclays. Action: Cllr Ward

- (b) The following payments that had been made by Cllr Ward were approved for reimbursement. Action: Clerk
  - (i) Adam's Graphics – vinyl speed limit signs £100.00
  - (ii) Majestic Wines – gratuities to auditor and former Clerk £92.44
- (c) An invoice for £64.80 received from Libra Business Essentials for payroll services was approved. Action: Clerk
- (d) The list of payments that were outlined in the agenda to the meeting, and which had been approved and actioned since the last meeting, were noted.
- (e) It was agreed that authorisation for due payments of received invoices would be reduced to approval by two councillors only. The Clerk will continue to seek approval by email to Councillors but will now also flag by Whatsapp message.  
Action: Clerk
- (f) Monthly payments of Clerk's salary and PAYE, having been given year approval, no longer to be subject to prior approval of Councillors. Payments made to be reported back at the following Parish Council meeting.
- (g) The balances presented of the Parish Council's Barclays accounts were noted as being anomalous. This was due to the current uncertainty pertaining to these accounts.
- (h) Budget category levels for 2024-25 were determined and approved. Cllr Ward to prepare detailed worksheet. Action: Cllr Ward
- (i) A Precept for 2024-25 of £2400 was proposed by Cllr Merkens, seconded by Cllr Jordan and unanimously approved. Clerk to submit to Derbyshire Dales District Council. Action: Clerk

## **16. Other Matters**

- (a) Training for use of the village defibrillator will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Red Lion PH at 7:30pm
- (b) The next Litter Pick event will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## **11. Date of next meeting**

To be held at 7:30pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at The Red Lion PH, Main Street, Hollington.

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm