

## MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9 JAN 23

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Robin Tjolle (Chairman), Dai Davies, Kate Nurden: M Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall (from Item 12b); and 10 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Richard Barrow, Jacqui Erskine-Crum, Piers Johansen, Jas Moorley.

2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. A resident proposed a vote of thanks to the team who look after the defibrillator, after the recent theft of the torch (from the defib kit – the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this has happened) the replacement of which had been very swiftly organised; and suggested that a notice be shown saying something on the lines of ‘if you take the torch you are risking danger to someone who needs the equipment’.

**Action: Richard Barrow**

3. Declarations Of Interest. None.

4. Urgent Matters at Chairman’s Discretion. None.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the 7 Nov 22 meeting had been circulated in advance. The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Finance. The account was heading for an end-of-year balance of about £3400, although that depended on the date of completion of the flagpole project.

7. Precept Part 1. The Tax Base had reduced slightly so for the same Precept householder payments would increase very slightly (by 0.6% or 18p), or unchanged householder payments would result in a slightly reduced Precept (£4722). But regarding the latter figure, a larger than usual VAT recovery next year would mean PC income would still be over £5000. The Reserve was currently about £3400; what reserve did Cllrs want? The PC’s answer was in the range £3500-£4000.

8. Spending Plans.

a. Churchyard/North Aisle. Cllrs agreed the requests for increases to the North Aisle hire charge for meetings and to the North Aisle donation (which had been unchanged for over 12 years). After discussion about the cost of churchyard grass-cutting the PC agreed to earmark an increased contribution of £1050 but to investigate the possibility of volunteer assistance (using privately-owned equipment). Dai Davies would lead on this. There would need to be evidence that the idea would work by about April so that contractors could be re-engaged, if necessary, in time before the grass grew unmanageably. **Action: Dai Davies**

b. Flagpole. Highways had agreed the proposal and the location but had stipulated that a highways-accredited contractor had to do the work. The cost of the latter was not yet known but it was agreed to put £300 into the budget for the project. **Action: Dai Davies**

c. Wildflowers. It was decided that the cost to the PC could be £100 this year.

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- d. Eastcourt Junction Signpost. The PC decided not to repair the signpost at this stage. The Parish Steward would be asked to check on the condition of the post. **Action: Clerk**
- e. Speeding Survey. Robin Tjolle would draft a village survey concerning speeding. **Action: Robin Tjolle**
9. Coronation. No-one knew of any plans to celebrate the coronation but it was agreed to put £650 into the budget. **Afternote:** it had been agreed at the Nov 22 PC meeting that the tree to be planted in the churchyard would be to recognise the Coronation, and that a suitable plaque would be considered later.
10. Cost of Living and Warm Spaces Support. It was agreed that no costs needed to be put into the budget for this.
11. Precept Part 2 - Decision. Taking all the spending decisions into account the budget for the year amounted to £5006. The PC then set the Precept at £4722, meaning unchanged householder payments while the VAT recovery would mean total income exactly met the budget for the year. **Action: Clerk**
12. Planning Part 1.
- a. PL/2022/09258 Minety Substation Expansion. There was brief discussion but with so many Cllrs missing it was decided to defer a decision to the next meeting and to request a response delay. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Old Post Office. The owner of Old Post Office introduced his plan to submit a planning application to build an additional residence in the grounds, supported by an agent and by his daughter who lives there. The PC listened and thanked him for taking the trouble to brief them in advance.
13. Footpaths. The planned discussion on Footpaths could not take place due to Piers Johansen's absence. Item deferred to next meeting.
14. Platinum Jubilee Tree. Richard Barrow had sent a statement by email to confirm that he would plant the tree in the early spring. **Afternote:** at the last meeting it had been agreed that the tree should commemorate the coronation not the Platinum Jubilee.
15. WALC Membership Meeting. Dai Davies offered to attend the meeting (18 Jan, 6.30pm on Zoom). Robin Tjolle would also attend if he could find the time.
16. Litterpick. Robin Tjolle would make all arrangements and circulate the information.
14. Planning Part 2 – Update.
- **Considered by the PC since the last meeting:**
    - None
  - **Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:**
    - Cloatley Grange, domestic solar panels in field, approved.
  - **Not yet decided:** Five Lanes Solar Farm, Land at Purlieus Farm – variation of conditions, Rookery Farm – new barn for stabling and storage

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- **Current Planning Applications,**
  - Minety Substation Expansion (Item 12a).

18. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. Shayne Smith's note on the Patient Participation Group had been circulated. Her work was commended.

- Footpaths (following MOP's point at Sep 22 meeting).
- Hedges.

19. Next Meetings. 6 Mar, (15 May AVM), 22 May APCM, 3 Jul, 4 Sep, 6 Nov.

20. Wilts Cllr Report. Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall gave a brief report:

- Potholes – Wilts Council making big effort, Parish Stewards all devoted to pothole filling currently, report any seen on MyWilts app.
- Buses – most single fares reduced to £2 or less until 31 March.
- The Minety Substation had been 'called in'.
- BESS update – all undecided BESS applications had been 'called in'.
- Wilts Council planners had decided that the 5 Pelagic BESS applications should be treated as a single large application. This would require an EIA.

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.