

Minutes of Hellifield Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 6th January 2022
Hellifield Village Institute – Main Hall

Present: Councillors B Hugill, D Statt, B Moore, J Thwaite, J Sleath, I Walton, F Ludlam-Brown, M Blackwell (Clerk)
Members of the Public: 1

Councillor Hugill opened the meeting at 7.35pm and welcomed everyone.

1. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4th November 2021 were approved.

2. Apologies – Received from District Cllr Moorby and County Cllr Staveley.

3. To record members' interests: None.

4. Public Participation. None.

5.1 To receive updates from NYCC Police on crime and any reports of anti-social behaviour. PCSO Grace was unable to attend the meeting but sent in her report which was read out by the Chairman. There had been 37 incidents reported to the Police in Hellifield between 04.11.21 & 04.01.22

Reports include – 3 Highway disruptions (Trees down A65, Hay Bale in road, parking on pavement, 3 road traffic collisions, 2 suspect vehicles, 2 caravans stolen, 2 domestic incidents.

5.2 To receive an update on the Play Areas. Cllr Moore reported that Cllr Thwaite and himself had addressed a number of faults reported in the recent playground inspection reports. There was nothing urgent left to do.

5.3 To consider options for storage of the council's tools and equipment. The existing storage facility for the council's mower and other gardening equipment is no longer available. It will therefore be necessary to find an alternative facility prior to the Spring. The Clerk is to write to Network Rail and suggest placing a new shed on land it owns near the railway bridge on Back Lane.

5.4 To seek approval to review and/or renew the Council's Insurance. The existing 3-year arrangement with Zurich ends in February this year. The Clerk has obtained a quote from BHIB which is cheaper than Zurich. It was proposed and seconded and agreed by all that the Clerk should scrutinise both quotes and if the cover is the same, go back to Zurich and try and negotiate a reduction as Zurich, as current incumbent, is the preferred insurer

Resolved: If Zurich can match or beat the BHIB quote then it was agreed to continue with Zurich on a new 3-year deal.

5.5 To request that Councillors' Members Interest forms are updated where required. All councillors confirmed no changes to their existing Members Interest Forms.

6. Reports to and from District and County Councillors. County Cllr Staveley has given his apologies but sent a report for the meeting which was read out by the Chairman and summarised as follows:

“Omicron variant now impacting on hospital beds and care homes in North Yorkshire, predicted to peak in mid-January. NYCC currently in process of budget setting for 2022/23 with an increase in County Council tax anticipated to cover increasing costs in care sector and wider economy”.

District Cllr Moorby also gave his apologies and also sent his report as summarised below:

“On Monday 20th December the planning application for thirteen affordable homes at the top of Station Road was put before the Planning Committee. At the meeting I spoke against the application as did Councillor David Statt who spoke for Hellifield Parish Council. The Committee Members voted to turn the application down. I felt very concerned around the safety issues and also that I think Hellifield has had more than its share of affordable housing over the last few years. Yes, we do need affordable housing in the Craven area to try and keep the people that have been brought up in the area here but it was felt that this site was not acceptable. In addition, the application for 99 lodges at the Flashes site could be coming before committee early in the New Year. I have requested a site visit for the committee members. I will address the committee at the meeting”

Cllr Statt thanked Dist Cllr Moorby for supporting him at the two planning meetings regarding the Station Rd application and Cllr Thwaite thanked Cllr Statt for all his efforts in speaking on behalf of HPC.

7. Correspondence:

The letter below was read out.

7.1 Letter of thanks received from the Community Pantry in Hellifield.

7.2 Letter from Mr P Emsley regarding VAS Speed Monitoring Equipment. It was noted that this was discussed at the November meeting so no further action would be taken.

8. Street Lighting: To receive reports of any light failures or repairs required.

8.1 To receive an update on a Street Light Replacement program. The Chairman confirmed the programme was completed apart from the two new columns which still need the supply transferring. The Clerk has contacted ENW directly to arrange for this to be done. Councillor Sleath thanked the Clerk and the Chairman for their input and guidance for the whole project.

HPC is still waiting to be invoiced for the work done by NYCC – despite several reminders no invoices have been forthcoming. The Clerk will contact County Cllr Staveley to see if he can help.

8.2 To approve the assignment of street light maintenance to NYCC. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to transfer the maintenance of HPCs streetlights to NYCC on a pay as you go basis.

Resolution: The Clerk to advise NYCC that HPC will transfer the maintenance of HPC's streetlights to them on a pay as you go basis.

9. Highways: To receive reports of any highways issues or road repairs required. Nothing to report.

10. Planning items:

10.1 Ref No: 2020/23309/HH – Rear extension to provide bedroom and bathroom – 1 Park Place, Hellifield BD23 4HB – **NO COMMENTS**

10.2 Ref No: 2021/23421/FUL - Demolish existing single storey extension and replace with two storey side extension to provide retail, office and storage – 2 Victoria Buildings, Main St, Hellifield BD23 4ET – **NO COMMENTS**

11. Allotments –To discuss any correspondence and matters relating to the allotments. Nothing to report.

12 Finance -To discuss and approve financial matters including receipts, payments, transfers and donations.

Finances as at 30th November 2021

Lloyds TSB Account	£ 28,701.80	as at 30 th Nov 2021
Skipton Building Society	£ 21,024.93	as at 30 th Nov 2021
Receipts	£10.51	SBS account annual interest

Payments

Village Maintenance – Nov	£284.30
Administration –Nov	£481.30
HMRC – Income tax Nov	£188.20
HP Instant Ink	£9.99
Handyman workwear	£49.80
Website domain renewal	£9.59
Tree work/Hedges/Report	£930.00
Christmas Tree	£240.00
Room Hire x 2	£50.00
Hard wiring for Xmas lights	£1196.40
Supplying/installing/connecting lights	£638.61
Refreshments for event	£106.05
Total	£4,184.24

Finances as at 31st Dec 2021

Lloyds TSB Account	£ 24,351.17	as at 31 st Dec 2021
Skipton Building Society	£ 21,024.93	as at 31 st Dec 2021
Receipts	£831.95	Hellifield First Responders

Payments

Defibrillator – First Responders	£998.34	(Paid December 29 th)
Village Maintenance – Dec	198.18	
Administration – Dec	£481.30	
HMRC – Income tax Dec	£166.80	
HP Instant Ink	£9.99	
Materials for playground repair	£32.00	
Total	£888.27	

12.1 To approve payments and receipts for December 2021 and January 2022. All Approved.

12.2 To approve the Council budget for 2022/2023 and to set the precept for 2022/2023. It was proposed the budget for the forthcoming year be reduced by £11K (30.6%) from last year's figure of £36,000. As the LED replacement programme is almost completed, the £8,500 amount added to the precept for this project for the last 3 years can be removed. A further £2,500 can also be removed to take account of anticipated reductions in street lighting costs and repairs. The proposed precept figure of £25,000 was seconded and agreed by all.

Resolution: To submit a precept of £25,000 to CDC for the forthcoming financial year. This is a 30.6% reduction on the previous year.

12.3 To consider HPC's future allocation of reserves and other finances.

It is unclear at this point what will happen to HPC reserves when the new NY Council takes over in April 2023, however, it was agreed that it is likely to be some years before parish councils are merged together but it would be advisable to monitor the situation.

12.4 To review the Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment and agree any necessary changes. The Clerk is to look at whether Lloyds Bank offer any additional security controls for authorising payments and bring this information to the March meeting so the Financial Regulations and Risk assessment can be amended to take account of any proposed additional security measures.

13. To receive items of information and proposals for the agenda of future Meetings.

Councillor Thwaite	Nothing to Report
Councillor Sleath	Nothing to Report
Councillor Moore	Nothing to Report
Councillor Walton	Asked whether HPC meetings would continue to be bi-monthly this year. The Chairman confirmed they would.
Councillor Ludlam-Brown	Nothing to Report
Councillor Statt	Nothing to Report
Councillor Hugill	Read out the resignation letter from the current Clerk and confirmed her leaving date would be 10 th June 2022. It is anticipated a new Clerk would be appointed to start work in early May 2022.

The meeting ended at 9pm

Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2022

Signed.....

Dated:.....