

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AT 5.00PM AT HARGRAVE VILLAGE HALL

In Attendance – Cllr J Windsor - Chairman

Cllr S Martin

Cllr M Roscoe

Cllr S Ratledge

Cllr M Pilkington

Cllr O de Braekeleer

Cllr R Bird

Cllr S Hyden

Cllr L Sackett

Members of the Public: 9

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Jones, (Ward Councillor).

**DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS** – No declarations of interests were received.

### PUBLIC SESSION

A resident raised concerns regarding traffic problems in Hargrave and Huxley. He requested that the Ward Councillor and chair of CWaC Highways Committee be lobbied to try to improve the current position.

The resident went onto report that when the Neighbourhood Development Plan was submitted in 2015 it was recognised that Huxley had a growing issue with traffic, as it was considered to be a convenient rat run between Tarporley and Chester, but no action was proposed at that time.

The resident reported that since moving into the area in October 2022 he had personally organised two surveys of residents on Huxley Lane and Elm Tree Cottages and received 100% support to his proposal to lower the speed limit to 30mph along Huxley Lane, improve signage and introduce a regular community speed watch to include the monitoring of speed via a speed gun.

The resident requested that a member of the Parish Council takes on co-ordinating an action group of residents that are keen to create a Community Safety Group.

It was reported that CWaC were preparing to undertake a further speed assessment, next week, within the 60mph zone and the resident believes that this may highlight an even greater problem due to this area currently being unenforceable due to the Police deeming community speed watch action too dangerous when dealing with speeds of this nature.

The resident sought the Parish Council consideration of the following actions:-

- Set up a residents community action group in co-ordination with a Parish Councillor and co-opt Mike Jones to be part of this process.
- Apply to reduce speed limit to 30mph along the entirety of Huxley Lane, to the Gowy Bridge and also to include Hoofield Lane and Church Lane.
- Roll out a targeted community speed watch program, beginning on the 18<sup>th</sup> January with the training that has been arranged with CWaC Senior Technician at 1pm near Huxley Primary School to include regular speed gun activities.
- Invest in more and clearer signage
- Investigate the feasibility of traffic calming both along Huxley Lane and past the school.

Councillors discussed at length the comments made above and highlighted the parish council's actions to address speeding in the villages. Village gates had been installed and a speed reduction on Guy Lane had been implemented both at a considerable cost to the Parish Council. Communication with CWaC was held on a regular basis and speeding was an agenda point at every meeting. Speed monitoring had been made on Long Lane and Church Lane / Mill Lane the results of which CWaC reported that no action was deemed necessary as speed limits were not being broken on the whole.

An email dated 13 December which was circulated to all councillors and the resident, stated that a speed assessment had been carried out on Huxley Lane which showed a slight reduction in mean speeds since 2015 and motorists were generally compliant. CWaC were not looking to make changes as a result of this but undertook to replace two 40mph repeater signs on Huxley Lane.

It was decided that the Parish Council should, after reviewing the results of the speed watch programme scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January, explore further the possibility of getting the 40 mph limit on Huxley Lane extended to the Gowy Bridge. It was felt that any attempt to reduce the limit to 30mph should not delay any possibility of the 40mph extension and this should therefore be explored either separately or following the 40mph speed limit extension.

**ACTION:** Councillors agreed to request the extension of the of 40mph limit to Gowy Bridge/crossroads.

- Following the extension of the 40mph limit review the possibility of standardising all speed limits throughout the village to 30mph.
- Request Highways and PCSO to attend the next PC meeting.

A resident reported that there was mud blocking the gullies outside the Croft at Huxley Lane. This was causing water to run down the road and was flooding the residents garden and causing damp to the property. The resident also reported that the outfall pipe outside Willow Bank had collapsed.

The drain outside Hillside, Huxley Lane was also reported as blocked by a resident.

**ACTION:** Clerk to report blocked drains and confirm when CWaC Highways undertook their last annual gully cleaning.

*4 residents left the meeting.*

Chair of Huxley Primary School provided an update to the meeting. She reported that the students provisions and outcomes have been shown to be very strong, following the introduction of the Showbe software allowing work to be shared with parents and teachers and feedback to be provided. The Chair reported that this was a significant piece of work that had now been implemented.

The Chair reported that the school has been assessing where pupils are and what they need to learn to ensure they are working towards their age-related expectations.

The school was expecting a further OFSTED inspection any day due to the last one taking place 9 months ago.

The Chair reported that the IEB meeting have been moving forward, there is now a structured curriculum in place, and she confirmed that there were currently 33 pupils on the enrolment with two more starting shortly.

Staffing Issues – they have appointed a new member of staff to replace the Early Years Teacher that left in December, having received a considerable amount of applications for the job.

The Chair highlighted that the main area of concern was the future of the school. There had been three meetings with the regional directorate office, the Primary School are still speaking to multi academy trust's and they have asked for an extension of up to two years to be allowed to find a suitable multi-academy trust. The initial OFSTED report requested that this be put in place within 12 months which they do not consider to be workable. No decision has yet been made about future of the primary school.

*Three residents left the meeting.*

## MINUTES

**RESOLVED 22/038** that the Chairman signs, as a true and correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 proposed by Cllr O de Braekeleer and seconded by Cllr S Hyden

*One resident left the meeting*

## ACTIONS

All actions were already covered within the agenda.

## BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Huxley Primary School – This item had been reported under Public Participation.

Footpaths – Cllr Pilkington reported that the stile from Golden Nook Farm to Old Hall Lane needed attention.

Review of Condition and Safety of Assets –

It was reported that the noticeboard in Huxley has now been erected and needed adding to the asset register and insurance for the Parish Council.

**ACTION:** Put Clerk's contacts on a poster for the noticeboard.

Beacon – with Coronation coming up in May, the Chair sought confirmation of Parish Councillors' opinions in asking Happy Days to organise a celebration.

**ACTION:** get another sleeve made and cover base with grease to weatherproof it. Cllr Martin to make sleeve. Get beacon erected in a permanent position where it could be used for future celebrations.

Highways

**ACTION:** report to Highways the following blocked gullies still not operating :-  
Martins Lane/ Guy Lane, Crocky Trail, Between Rose Cottage and Gowy Bridge

Update on Highways already reported:-

HW389942562 - Blocked Gully at the junction of Martins Lane & Guy Lane – CWaC had completed the work on this. However, further works are required – to include extensive root cutting to be programmed for completion during summer months. CWaC have inspected this and it is functioning therefore they consider it to be low priority and further work will commence when resources allow.

Community Litter Picking – Suggested take your litter home signs at the Gowy Bridge layby – **ACTION:** do we need permission to install in layby?

It was reported that the Community Litter Picking Event would take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Huxley and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Hargrave between 10.00am - 12.00 noon. This to be advertised in the parish newsletter asking for volunteers.

A41 Bus Service – following writing to CWaC and service provider for A41 Bus Services the response from Andrew Lewis, Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council was circulated and noted.

Huxley Lane Speed Assessment – discussed under Public Participation.

Notification of Appointment of External Auditor until 2026-27 It was noted following the recent consultation, that PKF Little John has been appointed as the auditor for the period 2022-23 – 2026-27.

Tarporley War Memorial Hospital Update – an update from the Tarporley War Memorial Hospital was received and noted.

## PLANNING

The Planning Register dated 20/12/2022 was accepted and changes to the planning register from last meeting were noted.

It was reported that the following applications had been decided since the last meeting:-

22/02916/FUL – Huxley Lane Farm, Church Lane, Huxley CH3 9BH – Erection of two garage blocks - Approved

22/03498/DEM – Meadow Farm, Cow Lane, Foulk Stapleford CH4 7RU – Former Livestock Sheds – Decided

### Planning Enforcement

PL465804608 / 22/00510/EOPDEV - Green Farm, Huxley Lane, Huxley – New access has been prepared with the removal of native hedging and a high fence installed (over 1 meter high) along the roadside – this has now been reported to Planning Enforcement.

20/02055/FUL – Removal of mobile home and septic tank from land at Hargrave – No further update has been provided with regards to this – **ACTION:** Cllr Windsor to draft a letter to Mr A Lewis, Chief Executive, CWaC making formal complaint of non action on this enforcement.

PL413115180 - Inn at Huxley – no further planning enforcement update. Cllr Martin was concerned that due to the lack of enforcement regarding this issue that the owner would get away with not paying the appropriate business rates on the property and felt that this should be back-dated.

## FINANCIAL ITEMS

### Cashbook and Out-turn Forecast YTD

**RESOLVED 22/039** Year to date cashbook and out-turn report dated 20/12/2022 was approved as a true and correct record.

Bank Reconciliation against Cashbook YTD – **RESOLVED 22/040** – that Cllr O De Braekeleer signs the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.

### Payments Made & Received since the last meeting:-

#### Income received since the last meeting:-

£1.48 & £3.16 in Bank Interest

#### Payments made since last meeting:-

Clerk Pay	Tax Point 9	£408.77
Clerk Pay	Tax Point 10	£265.20
Clerk's Expenses		£59.40
Steve Martin	Postcrete for installation of noticeboard	£69.60
Walkers Nurseries	Purchase of Daffodil Bulbs	£74.88

**RESOLVED 22/041** to accept the income and payments since the last meeting for approval.

## Budget for 2023-24

It was **RESOLVED 22/042** that the budget for 2023-24 would be set at £6,328 as set-out below, proposed by Cllr O de Braekeleer, seconded Cllr S Hyden.

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>People &amp; Expenses</b>	
Clerk	3,408
HMRC tax	0
Expenses	200
Training	250
<b>Professional service</b>	
Insurance	403
Internal Audit	50
Payroll Services	160
<b>General Services</b>	
Admin/Website	91
Room Hire	100
<b>Admin</b>	
CHALC Membership	150
SLCC Membership	50
Data Protection fee	35
Elections	548
<b>Projects</b>	
Defibrillator	60
British Legion Wreath	28
Ad Hoc Beneficial items (\$137)	500
Inflation %	296
Contingency % of above	0
<b>TOTAL CASH OUT</b>	<b>6,328</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Precept	5,938
Bank Interest	1.80
VAT recovery	450
Other	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,390</b>

Precept Request – it was proposed by Cllr O de Braekeleer, seconded by Cllr Roscoe and the Parish Council **RESOLVED 22/043** to request the same Band D precept Charge as in 2022/23 of £22.62 which would mean a precept request of £5,938

SLCC Membership – it was **RESOLVED 22/044** to approve the payment of the SLCC membership for the Clerk which is split between 5 Parish Councils. Total SLCC membership currently cost £187.00.

Churchyard Grant Application it was **RESOLVED 22/045** to submit a Churchyard Grant Application on behalf of St Peter's Church, Hargrave for the amount £2,240 to cover the cost of grounds maintenance at the closed churchyard.

## PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there would be an election on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for all those parish councillors and or residents wishing to stand for the next four year term of office.

All those interested in becoming a Parish Councillor will need to apply or re-apply for a position. The Notice of Election will be published on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, this information will need to be posted on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards.

All nominations will need to be completed and taken to either Chester, Ellesmere Port Library or Wyvern House Winsford by appointment only before 4pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**NEXT MEETING**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 5pm at Huxley Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 18:53

Signed:.....

Dated:.....