

HOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on: Monday 17th June 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. Election of Officers

- (a) Chair – Cllr Ward was proposed by Cllr Feltwell, seconded by Cllr Merkens and elected unopposed
- (b) Vice-Chair – Cllr Merkens was proposed by Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Feltwell and elected unopposed
- (c) Representative to Sir Robert Coke's Almshouses – Cllr Ward was proposed by Cllr Merkens, seconded by Cllr Jordan and elected unopposed
- (d) The Declaration of Acceptance forms were signed and witnessed

4. Public Speaking

No members of the public present

5. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024 were approved.

6. 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.

7. Matters arising from previous meetings

(a) No progress reported on filling of vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Cllr Ward to advertise the position on the Community Whatsapp group. Action: Cllr Ward

(b) Speed Indicator Device Signs

Negotiations with Derbyshire County Council still in progress. Public consultation period currently not finished.

(c) Biodiversity and Nature Action Planning

Cllr Jordan presented a draft plan detailing a methodology to address the recently introduced statutory obligations of Parish Councils to protect and enhance biodiversity in their areas.

The draft plan included a number of short term and medium term initiatives for consideration whilst a formal plan is developed.

It was agreed that Councillors would each select four proposals from the list and report these to Cllr Jordan, who would then make the necessary interim arrangements. Action: All Councillors, Cllr Jordan

(d) Dog fouling

Several reports of the ongoing problem had been reported on the village Whatsapp group and unofficial signs on the subject had been posted at locations in the village.

Cllr Jordan had reported the situation to the District and County Councils but had been advised that due to limited resources, there were no plans to install additional proprietary bins or signage in the area at present. A formal review would be undertaken in the near future which may propose the relocation of an existing bin. Cllr Jordan had responded that there would be local opposition to this as the particular bin was in fact being utilised effectively.

The importance of reporting specific incidents to Derbyshire Dales District Council (which can be done through their website) was stressed, as that is the basis on which their responses and actions are prioritised. The last such report for Hollington was made in 2021.

Cllr Jordan had reported back to the Community Group and a provisional action plan had been formulated.

8. Parish Council website

The Clerk had made enquiries with three suppliers and had obtained quotations from each. A quotation from the current service provider, Jill Studholme, in respect of the similar Boylestone Parish Council had also been obtained. The Clerk had prepared and previously circulated a report on the merits of each submission and also gave a verbal summary.

It was agreed that the company JKE Web Design Ltd be selected for the provision of a new co.uk domain website, hosting service and email facility. The Clerk to make the necessary procurement arrangements. Action: Clerk

9. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The last meeting was held on 22nd April 2024 and was attended by the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, who gave a description of their role and of the equipment that is at their disposal. They also advised that they were continuing to provide 'Safe and Well' assessments to properties on a free of charge basis.

Due to changes in policing boundaries, PCs Barlow and Gibson and PCSO Bradbury are the new police contacts for the area.

10. Hollington Social Committee

Cllr Merkens reported that there had been no activity of the group since the covid pandemic. The group still had around £900 in reserves and interest had been expressed in recommencing activities.

It was proposed to stage a village walk with refreshments at the Red Lion PH in September, to be followed by a more formal meal event in February 2025.

11. Village issues

- (a) Cllr Ward reported that there was a persistent effluent odour emanating from a road gully at the top of Main Street. He had reported this to County Highways and to the Environment Team at DDDC, but both services had deflected responsibility to each other. County Cllr Steve Bull advised that the problem had been known about for some time and gave the names of the lead member and of the relevant officer at Derbyshire County Council to whom the issue should be reported. Cllr Ward to pursue. Action: Cllr Ward
- (b) The situation regarding the dead tree that is on the common land on the Village Green was discussed. The tree was not considered to be dangerous at present but clearly needs to be removed and replaced. It was agreed to leave this until the autumn so as not to damage natural habitats. In the meantime consideration will be given to the specific type of replacement tree that might be appropriate. Action: All Councillors

12. Correspondence received

An End of Grant form had been received from DDDC in respect of the spending of the 2023-24 Local Project Fund grant that had been awarded to the Parish Council. Councillor Ward to complete the form and return. Action: Cllr Ward

District Cllr Geoff Bond advised that new grant allocations for 2024-25 were now available upon application. It was agreed to defer consideration of this until the next meeting in order to identify emerging projects that could be the subject of a submission.

13. Finance

(a) Finance Management Report.

The Clerk had introduced this to improve the financial management of the Parish Council and as an aid to the end of year audit process. This will be updated throughout the year and presented to all future meetings of the Parish Council.

(b) The income and completed payments that had been made since the last meeting were noted.

(c) It was agreed that the Parish Council would retain the services of the auditor that had performed the internal audit in previous years. The Clerk will send relevant digital records to Cllr Ward for submission. Action: Clerk and Cllr Ward

(d) AGAR

(i) It was agreed that the Parish Council would claim exemption from a limited assurance review for the financial year 2023-24. The Certificate of Exemption was duly signed and the Clerk to submit to the external auditor. Action: Clerk

(ii) The Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24 was approved and signed.

(iii) The Accounting Statements form for 2023-24 was approved and signed.

The Clerk to post all mandatory AGAR documents on the Parish Council's website.
Action: Clerk

14. Date of next meeting

To be held at 7:30pm Monday 9th September 2024 at The Red Lion PH, Main Street, Hollington.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm