

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2010 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors present Mr Stephen Jones(SJ) -Chairman, Miss June Cohen-Kingsley(JC-K),
Mr Peter Millard(PM), Mrs Beverley Melici(BM), Mr Stewart Scothern(SS),
Mr Julian Newbold(JN)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

1389 **To receive apologies for absence**

none

1390 **Declarations of interest** none declared

The meeting was adjourned for the Open Forum -Standing Orders were suspended.

Open Forum

Present for the Open Forum; PCSO J Dawes, PC L Head, City Cllr M Thomas, Mr R Greaves
Apologies received from City Cllr S Rogerson

- Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting; PCSO J Dawes reported that in the previous month there had been no reports of anti-social behaviour (compared with three in the same period of last year) and three crimes were reported (seven last year) including a burglary and thefts from vehicles. Inconsiderate parking of vehicles at Rushley Drive allegedly by canal users is being looked into.
- Cllr Thomas passed on a request for the Parish Council to consider putting seats by the bus shelters in Manor Lane.
He explained the City Council's action of fencing off the swings and seesaw at the play area on Manor Lane. Inspections had shown that the surfaces beneath the equipment are not up to standard and as a safety precaution the equipment has been put out of use pending further action.
The City Council's proposal to withdraw funding for local swimming pools and therefore their possible closure had been sent to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee but recommendations were ignored and unless other sources of funding can be found the closure looks likely on 31 March 2011. The Parish Council has agreed to support objections to the closure of Carnforth Pool.
- Mr Greaves complained about the open aspect of the bus shelter on the north side of Manor Lane making waiting for a bus unpleasant in bad weather

The visitors left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated

1391 **To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 January 2010 as a true record.
These were duly signed by the Chairman.

1392 **Progress reports** (*information only*)

- Hest Bank Lane scheme to improve pedestrian safety -work on County Council's scheme is going on. As yet no more information has been received from County Council in relation to the Parish Council's own possible scheme using donated land.
- M6/Heysham Link, Compulsory Purchase Orders -notice has been received that, following objections, a public inquiry is to be held.
- Dog waste bin near to Hatlex Bridge -a reply to a letter sent to British Waterways states that the bin at Hatlex Bridge is part of an old agreement and British Waterways pays fees to Lancaster City Council to empty it. British Waterways would be willing to install an additional bin but only if the emptying is free of charge to the company
- Allotments- still pursuing land but without success to date
- May Fair -this is to be held on Saturday 22 May -the theme this year is Space & the Future. Councillors volunteered to organise the barbecue.

1393 Administration

Closure of toilets on foreshore and canal bank which is being proposed by Lancaster City Council -further information had been received from Mr M Davies, Head of City Council (Direct) Services, and this was discussed along with the Council's financial position. The projected cost for the upkeep of the two blocks even with a 50% contribution by City Council Services is over £9000 and it was felt that it would have been totally unrealistic to include it in the precept as it would have increased this and thus the tax paid by local residents by more than 30%.

Resolution: that the Council regrets the closure of the toilets but is not in a financial position to agree to Lancaster City Council's offer and will not take over the maintenance of either block.

The toilets are scheduled to be closed by Lancaster City Council on 31 March 2010.

Village newsletter; the uptake seems to be poor despite it being available from ten outlets. Comments indicate that residents miss the diary of events which was included in the old version of the newsletter. It was suggested, therefore, as an experiment, to insert a copy of a section of the diary published on the parish website into the spring issue of the newsletter. The quotation from Lancaster & Morecambe College for photocopying 250 double-sided A4 sheets is £15.

Resolution: to accept the quotation and include a copy of the diary in the newsletter.

1394 Financial matters

Resolution(i): to accept the report of receipts and expenditure for the month.

Current Account £2060.19 Savings Account £25881.59

Review of Financial Regulations of the Council and Risk Management -an updated version had been copied to all members.

Resolution(ii): to adopt the Financial Regulations and the Risk Assessment and Management scheme.

Review of the Council's assets and to consider their valuation -a full list of the assets had been copied to members

Resolution(iii): to accept the list of assets as a true record and to retain the valuation as recorded for insurance purposes.

Quotation for grass cutting for the 2010 season; from the enquiries sent out only one reply had been received. The cutting schedule is on a 9 working day basis and assurance is to be sought that as far as possible this will be adhered to.

Resolution(iv): to accept the quotation supplied by City Council (Direct) Services of £4049+Vat for grass cutting throughout the village and including the cemetery and to award them the contract for the 2010 season.

Play equipment inspection 2010

Resolution(v): to accept the quotation of £477+Vat supplied by Lancaster City Council (Direct) Services for the monthly inspection of the play equipment on the recreation field.

Having noted that the safety criteria for the City Council's own play areas seems to have been changed, they are to be asked whether this will have any bearing on the inspections of the Council's equipment.

Entry into the North West in Bloom and Lancashire Best Kept Village (LBKV) competitions;

Resolution(vi): to enter the LBKV competition and to ask businesses and organisations in the village whether they wish to have their premises put forward as Certificate of Merit entries

Resolution(vii): not to enter the village as a whole into the North West in Bloom competition but as in previous years to enter Arden Close Residents Association in the Small Neighbourhood category

Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall (SHMH)Committee's application for a grant towards the proposed refurbishment of the ladies toilets at the hall along with construction of a new roof over the kitchen and toilet block was considered. The committee is applying to a number of funding bodies for grants for the project which will cost about £45,000.

Resolution(viii): to award a grant of £2000 to SHMH for the toilet refurbishment

Slyne with Hest Bowling Club's application for a grant towards the cost of renewing the pavilion veranda roof was considered.

Resolution(ix): to award a grant of £500 for this purpose.

1395 **Payment of accounts**

Resolution: to authorise the transfer of £1000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account

Resolution: to pay the accounts as listed

Chq	101252	RBS Invoice Finance Ltd	25.66	bus shelter window cleaning
	101253	Carnforth & District Chamber of Trade	45.00	purchase of Christmas trees
	101254	P Walton Tree Services	375.00	work on trees, Hanging Green Wood
	101255	Pryor Signs	712.06	plaque for foreshore
	101256	Mr R McGuire	102.40	groundsman's pay
	101257	Mrs D Brookes	780.07	clerk's salary & expenses
	101258	Petty cash	4.07	postage
	101259	M Ashton	48.85	sundry items for work on boardwalk
	101260	Lancashire Best Kept Village Comp.	15.00	entry fee

1396 **Open spaces**

Consideration of signs for the recreation field

- 1) to acknowledge community sponsorship of the boardwalk (through the sponsored knitting project) and
- 2) a warning sign to indicate that the boardwalk may at times be slippery

Resolution: to give authority to the clerk to formulate appropriate wording for the signs, request a quotation for their manufacture and with approval of chairman and vice-chairman to order these.

Old dilapidated signs at recreation field entrances to be taken down

In the interests of safety, repair to the surface of the hard play court damaged by fire is to be carried out.

1397 **Highways**

Dog fouling on footpaths and grass verges -a complaint had been received from a resident. The Council deplores this and has supported the provision of dog waste bins. It suggested that the complainant should contact Lancaster City Council Direct Services for cleansing and the Dog Wardens to report any known offenders. On its own land the Council provides dog waste bins and signs to try to reduce the nuisance.

Complaints about the unreliability of the bus services No. 5 and No. 55 through the village. It would seem that often buses are late, on occasions do not run at all and that there is a lack of communication and information for the passengers. It was agreed to write to Stagecoach which runs the services to forward the complaints.

Consideration of a suggestion for the introduction of a speed limit of 20mph in the village; one organisation is trying to rally support for 20mph zones throughout the district. The general opinion of councillors is that while 20mph zones might be beneficial in certain limited locations they would be difficult to enforce throughout the village and speed humps and the like are definitely not wanted.

1398 **Foreshore**

Installation and unveiling on new plaque. M Ashton has been asked to fix the plaque on the plinth. Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board which is giving a grant would like some recognition & publicity. Decision taken not to have any specific event but to arrange a photo opportunity when the plaque is in place.

Shoreline Management Plan, a consultation meeting is being held on 17th February to which residents of local parishes are invited to question representatives of the Environment Agency, North West Coastal Group and Lancaster City Council about the implications of the management proposed policy for the coast of 'no active intervention'.

1399 **Burial Ground**

Discussions had taken place with representatives of the Blackburn Diocese about the extension of the Church of England section for additional grave spaces. On the plan of the burial ground there is an area to

the right hand side of the entrance marked out for burial plots and there would seem to be no reason why this could not be consecrated and it would provide about 50 more plots. This should not affect the planning proposal for the improvements to the entrance, which have already been granted, however the conditions attached to this will need to be checked with the planning office.

Resolution: to take this suggestion forward and to look at costs and what is required to open up this section for burials.

1400 Planning applications

Applications received and dealt with under Standing Orders(20)

Application No.

09/01097/FUL & 09/01177/LB	Beaumont Grange, Kellet Lane. Slyne, LA2 6BJ
10/00020/LB & 10/00021/FUL	Beaumont Cote Manor, Strellas Lane, Slyne, LA2 6AB
10/00033/RCN	7 Rushley Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6EF
09/01005/FUL amendment	8 The Knoll, Hest Bank, LA2 6BU
10/0005/TPO	beech tree, verge opposite 7 Shady Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6JL

No issues were raised on any of the above applications and therefore it was decided not make any comments.

Planning permission granted

09/01076/FUL	9 Ashworth Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6EY
09/01132/FUL	12 Hatlex Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6EZ
09/01165/FUL	14 Kirklands, Hest Bank, LA2 6ER
Application withdraw	
09/01104/FUL	Brantholme, Hasty Brow Road, Slyne, LA2 6AG

1401 Matters suggested by members for future consideration for information only- decisions cannot be taken

SS -further look at condition of sweet chestnut tree on Shady Lane

1402 Date of next meeting Monday 15 March 2010 at 7.30pm

Date of Parish Assembly confirmed as Monday 12 April 2010 at 7.30pm

Apologies for non-attendance at both of the above received in advance from Cllr Newbold.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm