

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 18 JANUARY 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)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

1375 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Stewart Scothern -family member in hospital
Cllr Julian Newbold -shift working

Resolution: to approve the reasons for absence

1376 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 M Fearnley
Apologies were received from City Cllr S Rogerson, PC D Lowe

- Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting; PCSO J Dawes reported that in the previous month there had been no reports of anti-social behaviour and no reports of vehicle nuisance (compared with one in each case in the same period of last year) and there were four reported crimes (one last year) including the theft of a vehicle left with its engine running which was later found.
- Mr Fearnley enquired about the provision of warning signs at the entrance to the recreation field, in order to improve safety. There is already one warning sign on Hanging Green Lane but consideration will be given to requesting more.
- Cllr Thomas talked about the proposed disbanding of Lancashire Locals committees; he felt that it was important not to lose contact between the tiers of local government. Meetings had been held with Lancaster City Council and the parishes to discuss 'special expenses'. There is a strong feeling that in some instances parishes are paying twice for services, through the City Council and the parish precept and that this is unfair. The proposed closure of public toilets by the City Council was also discussed; in this parish these are the toilets on the foreshore and those on the canal bank. Parish Councils are being given the option of taking over the toilets -see below.

The visitors left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated

1377 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 December 2009 as a true record. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

1378 Progress reports (information only)

- Hest Bank Lane pedestrian safety scheme- -a message from the Lancashire County Council Principal Engineer (Roads) states that no amendment can be made to the present scheme for reasons of cost, time for implementation and approval process. The approved scheme is going ahead. However the possibility of the Parish Council implementing a scheme if land is donated requires further investigation.
- Cllr Jones and the clerk attended a meeting called by Lancaster City Council to report the findings of the Review and Audit of Parish Council Funding Task Group. The general feeling in the parishes represented at the meeting would seem to be that parishes are "paying twice for services". The City Council tried to explain otherwise. The draft conclusion of the Task force is -'at this point there is no specific case for introducing special expenses either for the parished or unparished areas of the district. It seems likely that parishes will want further discussion.
- A suggestion for a site for highway trees near to Sea View Drive had been received.
- A letter of thanks for the donation had been received from The North West Air Ambulance

- The Blackburn Diocese has been contacted and a meeting arranged to look at the possibility of the extension of the burial ground.

1379 Administration

Proposed closure of public toilets by Lancaster City Council in a cost-cutting exercise. In this parish it is those on the foreshore and those on the canal bank that would be closed. An alternative to closure would be the handing over of the toilets to parish councils or others who would then be fully responsible for their maintenance and upkeep. British Waterways is being consulted about those by the canal. An idea of maintenance costs had been requested from the City Council and costs add up to £9,300 per annum for each toilet block. The City Council would look to make a 50% contribution to the costs.

The toilets are mainly used by visitors to the area rather than local residents and the Council felt that the maintenance costs were unrealistic and if the toilets were to be taken on would add a considerable percentage to the precept and therefore tax paid by residents. Additional large expenditure such as this needs to be known well in advance for financial planning. It was decided to write to the City Council with these points before a making a decision. If they are not taken over by the Council the toilets will be closed on 31 March 2010.

The Council also felt that a proposal to pay businesses to open the toilets on their premises to the general public was not really feasible in this area as, for example, premises on or near the foreshore are only open seasonally.

1380 Financial matters

Resolution: to accept the report of receipts and expenditure for the third quarter presented by the clerk.

Current Account £2602.69 Savings Account £26881.59

Consideration of Lancaster City Council Contract Services' offer to reduce the overall cost for grass cutting in summer 2009 to £2428.00 +VAT because fewer cuts than originally quoted for had been carried out.

Resolution: to accept the offer and the reimbursement due which had been calculated by Contract Services and agreed by the clerk.

Note: as a result of this, cheque 101238 which had been withheld was cancelled.

Consideration of whether to join the Lancashire Association of Local Councils(LALC); information about the Association and benefits of membership had been given to council members

Resolution: that the Council should become a member of LALC commencing from 1 April 2010

Review of clerk's salary

Resolution: to make no change in the salary paid to the clerk

Budget -councillors had been provided with information on the financial position of the council, an estimate of receipts and expenditure in the financial year 2009/10 and projected receipts and expenses for 2010/11, as a result of which a budget was put forward for consideration by the full Council. Following discussions a budget for 2010/11 had been proposed

Resolution: to adopt the proposed budget for 2010/11

Resolution: to authorise the precept requirement of £29,520 from Lancaster City Council to meet the expenses of the parish council in the financial year 2010/11.

1381 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

	DD	Lancaster City Council	17.00	10th instalment- burial ground rates
Chq	101247	Mr R McGuire	102.40	groundsman's pay
	101248	Mrs D Brookes	773.07	clerk's salary
	101249	Petty cash	7.20	sundry items
	101250	HM Revenue & Customs	564.29	PAYE and NIC payments
	101251	Bannister Bates Property Lawyers	12.00	additional disbursement

1382 **Open spaces**

Grass cutting and open spaces maintenance -further consideration was given to quotations for contractual grass cutting and to figures for the purchase and maintenance of equipment and employment of a groundskeeper. The pros and cons of the two options were carefully weighed up.

Resolution: to employ a contractor to cut the grass for the 2010 season

1383 **Foreshore**

Information plaque; a final proof of the art work had been received

Resolution: to approve the proof and to place a firm order for the manufacture of the plaque.

Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board Ltd -completion of the agreement regarding their offer of £500 towards the cost of the plaque

Resolution: to accept the agreement. This was duly signed by the Chairman and the clerk (as the named person on the agreement form)

Consideration of a request by Cancercare to use the foreshore land on Sunday 6th June 2010 for the finish of the cross-bay half-marathon event

Resolution: to agree to the request.

Consideration of further complaint about the position of a memorial seat. It had been decided (Sept 2009, minute ref 1327) that the seat should be left in its present place but as further complaints had been received the position was again discussed. The seat is within planning regulations and situated on Council-owned land. It was decided to write to the owners of the seat to explain the situation and to assess their reaction.

1384 **Burial Ground**

Improvements to entrance; a meeting, on site, had been held with Mr J Bradley, Surveyor, to discuss the conditions attached to the granted planning application.

The size of the proposed circular parking area needs to be checked as the actual available space seems to be slightly less than shown on the plans

Possible removal of a tree at the entrance and the landscaping of the area need to be discussed with the City Council Tree Officer- the clerk to arrange this

It is expected that much of the work will be carried out by the lengthsmen and groundskeeper but the employment of an outside contractor for the heaviest work needs consideration

Mr Bradley offered to mark out the land areas, levels etc. and oversee the project working on an ad hoc basis and paid hourly for his time.

Resolution: to go ahead with the project and to make the arrangements required to do this.

1385 **Planning Applications**

Applications received and dealt with under Standing Order 20

Application No.

09/01165/FUL 14 Kirklands, Hest Bank, LA2 6ER

No issues were raised on this application, all seems to be within planning regulations.

Planning permission refused

09/01036/FUL 14 Coastal Road, Hest Bank, LA2 6HN

1386 **Correspondence**

Lancashire County Council's proposal to disestablish Lancashire Locals committees -discussed in Open Forum -but no formal response made.

1387 **Matters suggested by members for future consideration for information only-** decisions cannot be taken

Cllr Jones- unreliability of bus services No 5 and No 555 through the village

1388 **Date of next meeting** Monday 15 February 2010 at 7.30pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm

