

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2016 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors present Mr Stewart Scothern -Chairman, Miss June Cohen-Kingsley, Mr Roland Stretch, Mrs Helen Brownjohn, Mr Eric Hamer, Mrs Joanne Leeman, Mr Stephen Jones

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

2252 To receive apologies for absence none

Open Forum

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

Present for the Open Forum: County Cllr A P Jones, City Cllr M Thomas, 14 members of the public.

- Mrs J Boland gave a résumé of the flooding that had occurred at the southern end of Hest Bank Lane and on the A6 during extremely wet weather at the end of December. Opinions varied and some felt that the newly installed drainage system had been a failure while others thought that it had had a positive effect and conditions would have been much worse had it not been there and that this was a different additional problem. It had been stated by County Council that the scheme was to reduce the risk to properties and not to prevent flooding in such extreme circumstances. Cllr Tony Jones offered to contact Lancashire County Council Officers who had been involved in the scheme to obtain more information. Cllr M Thomas stated that the Lancaster City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be meeting in February and requested a report and input from residents that he could take forward. Specific issues need to be addressed, what has been implemented and what needs to be done within reasonable economic grounds. Mrs Boland asked the Council to arrange a meeting with all authorities involved and was told that this would be discussed by the Council later in the meeting.
- Green Belt issues and the 'Save our Villages' campaign by local residents; 344 letters of objection had been sent to Lancaster City Council and well over 1,000 signatures collected on a petition concerning the G4 area (between Slyne and Bolton-le-Sands). As part of the consultation process Mr A Denham is to present the petition and concerns of the residents to a meeting of Lancaster City Council.

Members of the public left the meeting. Standing Orders were re-instated.

2253 To record Declarations of Interest none

2254 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21 December 2015
They were duly signed by the Chairman.

2255 Progress Reports (*for information only*)

- The toilets on the canal bank at Hest Bank have at last been demolished.
- Scout & Guide HQ; the date of a new meeting has still to be arranged but more information about the lease is being sought.
- Lancashire County Council has been informed about the number of pot holes along Marine Road, some of which are now reported to be quite large.
- Quotations for signs for the Memorial Hall field have been requested.
- Lancashire County Council's proposed parish based public transport scheme; a reply, as agreed at the last meeting, has been forwarded.

2256 Administration

Date of Annual Parish Assembly; this was confirmed as Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Neighbourhood Development Plan; an application form for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan has been sent to Lancaster City Council. (LCC). Following comments by the Officer on the original Letter of Designation sent to LCC, a further letter with more details of the Plan was agreed and is to be sent to them.

Summary of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) meeting held on Thursday 14 January; the terms of reference for the Steering Group (SG) were reviewed, the main positions on the SG were appointed, it was agreed to put links to other NPs on the Council website, progress on the initial NP stages were discussed and key partners identified, it was agreed to conduct "initial community engagement" with a Focus Group attending the Community Coffee Morning on Saturday 5 February. Full notes from the meeting are available on the Council website. The next meeting will be on Monday 8 February.

2257 Financial matters

Resolution: to accept the quarterly receipts and payments report presented by the clerk.

Current Account £4,455.43 Savings Account £53,310.49

Application by Slyne with Hest Memorial Committee for a grant of £2000 towards the cost of rewiring the Memorial Hall, the total cost of which is estimated to be £19,844.

Resolution(i): To make a grant of £1000 to the SHMH Committee for this project.

Annual Review of Clerk's salary -discussion took place in the absence of the clerk
The clerk is employed for 20 hours per week.

Resolution(ii): not to make any change in the salary paid to the clerk for 2016/17

Consideration of whether to renew the fixed price electricity plan with Eon for the Burial Ground or change to a variable price plan. The proposed charges are fixed plan -standing charge 27p per day and normal units, 14.13p per kWh or variable plan -standing charge 27p per day and normal units presently 18.26p per kWh; a discount of 4% for monthly direct debit applies to both of these

Resolution(iii): to accept Eon's fixed price plan offer for commencement on 24 April 2016.

Consideration of the quotations received for grass cutting in the village in 2015; quotations have been received from Lancaster City Council Environmental Services and Envirocare for the cutting of the grass on land owned by the parish council. The cutting schedule is on a five working day basis with grassed areas mown, edges strimmed, cuttings not collected but not to be left on paths and surrounds.

Resolution(iv): to accept the quotation supplied by Envirocare, the total of which is £7750 +VAT, based on 26 cuts during the 2016 season.

Budget -councillors had been provided with information on the current financial position of the council, an estimate of receipts and expenditure to the end of the financial year 2015/16 and projected receipts and expenses for 2016/17. A budget meeting was held on Monday 11 January 2016 at which the budget recommendations and therefore the precept requirement for 2016/17 were considered. The Council proposes to increase the spending in 2016/17 in order to be able to have funds available for work on open spaces

Resolution(v): to adopt the proposed budget for 2016/17.

Resolution(vi): to raise a precept of £49,000 to meet the expenses of the parish council in the financial year 2016/17.

The parish tax rate on a Band D property will be £38.11, an increase of 7.14% on the previous year.

2258 Open Spaces

Consideration of the priority to be given to work on open spaces in the coming year and to agree a timetable for developments; The following action was agreed in order of priority; completion of the erection of a fence adjacent to Hanging Green Lane, work on paths at the recreation field, resurfacing of the drive and paths at the burial ground, further drainage work on the foreshore, further drainage work on the recreation field following the surveyor's report.

M Ashton, lengthsman, with the help of Cllr Scothern, has erected a section of fencing along Hanging Green Lane, using posts and railings which have been removed from other areas of the field. However it is estimated that approx. another £600 of materials is required to complete the fence along the whole length of the recreation field area. It was agreed that the materials should be purchased and this work done as soon as possible.

Work on the paths at the recreation field; quotations are being sought (one has already been obtained).

Resolution; to facilitate a speedy agreement on the acceptance of a quotation to enable the work to be carried out as soon as possible to give authority to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and one councillor to accept a quotation on the Council's behalf. The details of the decision to be recorded at the next full council meeting.

Recreation field issues; JWK Solicitors have been in contact with Mr Andrew Hill, Surveyor. He apparently has not yet visited the site but has been asked if he will try to complete his report as quickly as possible.

Memorial trees; following the decision at the December meeting to restrict the number of trees to be planted, further discussion have been held with the family of the late Peter Jones and it has been agreed to plant some additional trees in the woodland areas of the recreation field. It has been noted that the condition of some of the trees in these woodland areas seems to be deteriorating and Mr P Walton, tree specialist, is to be asked to make an assessment.

2259 Burial Ground

Work on the drive and paths -as with the recreation field - quotations are being sought (one has already been obtained).

Resolution; to facilitate a speedy agreement on the acceptance of a quotation to enable the work to be carried out as soon as possible to give authority to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and one councillor to accept a quotation on the Council's behalf. The details of the decision to be recorded at the next full council meeting.

2260 Highways

The concerns about safety outside St Luke's school on Shady Lane have been brought to the attention of Lancashire County Council Highways but to date no response has been received.

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside schools throughout the district; a response, as discussed at December's meeting, has been sent to the clerk of Morecambe Town Council.

Flooding issues on Hest Bank Lane and the A6 road; matters raised in the Open Forum were discussed; it was thought that the local residents had the first-hand knowledge of the problems and were in a better position than the council to put together a report of the problems encountered and make recommendations of improvements that need to be implemented. Also that it is up to them if they wish to arrange a meeting with the authorities concerned. The Parish Council will contact the County Council and City Council about the concerns and give support. The Council will wait to receive any information that County Cllr Jones is able to obtain.

2261 Planning Applications

Applications received

15/01591/FUL Hillcroft Nursing Home, Throstle Grove, Slyne, LA2 6AX

No major issues raised on this application but some slight concern about the loss of open space for the residents.

15/01356/CU Brantholme, Hasty Brow Road, Slyne, LA2 6AG

Concern raised about the potential loss of trees, some of which are covered by a TPO, and also more possible widespread effect on the trees in Reanes Wood.

15/01267/FUL Brantholme, Hasty Brow Road, Slyne, LA2 6AG

The Council takes a dim view of retrospective applications and therefore concern that this is a retrospective application for the extension of existing stables.

15/01551/FUL Ashton House Farm, Main Road, Slyne, LA2 6AZ

15/0623/FUL 38 Hest Bank Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6BT

15/0173/TPO 6 Hatlex Hill, Hest Bank, LA2 6ET

No issues were raised on the three above applications.

Notification of permission granted

15/01006/FUL 54 Hest Bank Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6BS

15/01560/FUL 5 Peacock Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6EN

15/01417/FUL 1 Marine Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6DZ

15/0173/TPO 6 Hatlex Hill, Hest Bank, LA2 6ET

2262 Payment of Accounts

Resolution: to approve the payment of the accounts as listed:

DD	Eon	10.89	electricity bill-burial ground
cheque	101865 JWK Solicitors	272.00	additional fee request for report

101866	Mr S Brade	156.78	groundsman's pay & expenses
101867	Mrs D Brookes	831.72	clerk's salary
101868	Petty cash	5.40	postage
101869	HMRC	362.36	NIC & PAYE

2263 **Matters raised by members for future consideration**

A councillor had spoken to a disabled person from the village who takes his dog for a walk but has difficulty picking up any waste and this was of some concern. Contact with the Lancaster City Council Dog Warden had found that they are willing to speak to the person and give advice about this.

It was reported that a resident regularly picks up litter etc., especially on days when the bins have been emptied, sometimes leaving debris. The council records its thanks to him and like-minded residents.

The Walney Extension of the Off-shore Wind Farm; a summary of the results of a recent survey, a Community Newsletter and information about a Community Benefit Fund are being circulated to members.

2264 **Date of next meeting** Monday 15 February 2016 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.