

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 16 JUNE 2014 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors present Mr Stewart Scothern(SS)-Chairman, Mrs Joanne Leeman(JL), Mr Stephen Jones (SJ)
Miss June Cohen-Kingsley(JC-K), Mr Roland Stretch(RS)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

2035 To receive apologies for absence Cllr Moyna Hargest

Open Forum

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

Present for the Open Forum: City Cllr M Thomas, City Cllr S Rogerson

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr A P Jones

- No Police report was available but apparently crime statistics are being published on the Lancashire Constabulary website and are accessible there. It was reported that motor cycles had been heard being ridden round the recreation field. This was noted and any further occurrence will be reported to the Police.
- Cllr Thomas drew attention to the consultations being held by Lancaster City Council across the District on Land Allocation. The intention is to allocate certain areas of land for possible housing development over the next 15 or so years. The Parish Council has received queries from residents about its views and on this.

The visitors left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated

2036 To record Declarations of Interest None

2037 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 May 2014 as a true record. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

2038 Progress Reports *(for information only)*

- World War I exhibition 21 & 22 June; the formal opening by Mrs Joyce Casson will take place at 12 noon on the Saturday. The Mayor of Lancaster is also expected to be in attendance.
- The milestone on the A6 has taken this away by Lancaster City Council for safe keeping and possible restoration. The intention is that it will be reinstated once work on the bypass has been completed
- Canal bridges -the damage has been reported to the Canals and Rivers Trust which has said it will carry out an inspection but we are still waiting to hear from them.
- The Parish website is up & running again. Mr David Ruddick is the webmaster.
- The Parish Plan website is to close as the Webwise account has not been renewed this year.
- A complaint has been received about the untidiness of the village and the lack of attention to grass cutting and strimming. Lancaster City Council grounds maintenance team has been contacted.
- Complaints have been received about overhanging trees. In both cases the trees have Protection Orders on them and they are not on Parish Council Land. The complainants have been directed to contact the relevant land owners. The Council will offer support if necessary.
- BT Openreach has applied for Wayleaves permission to place a box for Broadband connections on land at the corner of the A6 and Manor Lane. In the absence of the claim to the land by anyone else the Parish Council has agreed to take responsibility and grant the request.
- Refusal of a retrospective planning application for retention of a fence at 1 Sunningdale Avenue; this is still being pursued by Lancaster City Council Enforcement Officers. There has been a 12 week appeal period which is coming to an end. Indications are that there is an intention to remove the fence.

2039 Administration

Lancaster City Council's Land Allocation Consultation; there are concerns about the potential erosion of the Green Belt if land was to be allocated for housing at the south of Slyne with Hest. However a

decision on a response to the consultation was deferred. This is to give councillors a further opportunity to visit the consultation events being organised by Lancaster City Council and to speak to Officers first hand.

Lancaster City Council's Lancaster District Local Heritage Assets list; this is to be considered over a period of time following the City Council's guidelines and any recommendations for the list will be reviewed and forwarded to the City Council.

2040 Financial matters

Resolution; to accept the monthly receipts and payments report presented by the clerk.

Current Account £2,536.71 Savings Account £69,917.78

An Independent Audit of the Accounts was carried out on 22 May by a member of the Independent Audit Panel and the relevant page of the Annual Return form has been completed. No matters were identified as needing the Council's attention.

Consideration of the review of councillors' allowances & expenses; these are only paid to elected members of the Council (three at the present time) (minute ref. 1760).

Resolution: to keep the allowances at the same level and to pay them to the elected members.

Consideration of the Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall Committee's application for a grant of £2000 towards the cost of an energy efficiency improvement project at Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall

Resolution: to approve a grant of £2000.

2041 Open spaces

Recreation Field; there is considerable concern and dissatisfaction that Newground have still not returned to complete the work, as agreed, on the football pitch and other areas of the field. Concerns have been raised about the safety of the surface of the football pitch. Also the Council has received comments about safety issues relating to the dipping pond and wetland area.

During the meeting councillors paid a visit to the site.

A meeting with the project manager and a representative of Newground is to be arranged to discuss these issues and to press for remedial work to be carried out as soon as possible.

The surface under the zip wire is very muddy and needs attention, the building up of the surface and installation of safety matting is to be looked into, maybe in consultation with the zip wire suppliers.

Embankment slide; this has been inspected and it is likely to prove difficult to move it through 90° as previously discussed. It was agreed that if there is no safe option for improvement that it should be demolished,

Safety around the pond and wetland area; the banking up of the edge of the pond and the cost of the erection of a suitable fence in-keeping with the area are to be investigated. It has already been agreed that the seats and picnic table should be moved back away from the pond to slightly higher ground and the Council is waiting for the work to be done. Some more work on the boggy area with perhaps more swales being created to direct the water is to be considered.

Board for the erection of the plaques, marking the Jubilee Field and acknowledging funders; a new supplier has been found and has quoted £350 for the supply of a board fashioned from a piece of natural yew. The price includes making the board and fixing the plaques to the board (option 2 of the designs received) There would be an extra charge for installing the board on the site.

Resolution: to accept this quotation and to order the board and its installation.

Gate at the middle entrance to the field (near to the Bowling Club); the gate is in very bad condition and difficult to close therefore is often left open. A new gate would not only improve the appearance of this entrance but should also greatly improve security. One quotation has been obtained for a metal gate with separate pedestrian gate, complete with hanging and latching post- £351 + VAT+ £80 delivery. It was agreed that a new gate should be fitted and also one at the southern entrance (opposite the church). Further enquiries about costs are to be made.

Risk Assessment and annual inspection of open spaces owned by the Council; councillors will carry out the inspection of designated areas.

2042 **Burial ground**

Development of the new burial area; Mr John Bradley, surveyor, has been asked to draw up a new plan for the burial ground.

Cllr Cohen-Kingsley and the clerk met Mr Peter Walton, arboriculturist, to discuss possible amendments to tree planting plans that had been approved by Lancaster City Council Planning. The suggestions for the exclusion of some trees from the plan were explained to the councillors. These changes will be necessary to allow the development of the new burial area. Agreement was given to these amendments and their approval is to be requested from City Council.

2043 **Foreshore**

An estimate of the cost of restoration work is still awaited.

It was noted that an outfall pipe on the shore has become exposed due to erosion. The Environment Agency is to be contacted.

2044 **Planning Applications**

Application No.

14/00491/FUL 11 Prospect Drive, Hest Bank, LA2 6HZ

14/00577/FUL 18 Manor Road, Slyne, LA2 6JY

No issues were raised on either of the above applications

14/00065/FUL Land east of the Shore, Hest Bank

The Parish Council objects strongly to the proposal for the building of two 2-storey dwellings for the following reasons: in summary

This is not a 'brownfield' site, as stated and there has never been any substantial development on it. The site is in the North Lancashire Green Belt and was formerly Strand Dub Wood. What trees are left form part of the coastal landscape and any development could have an adverse effect on them.

This development would be contrary to the City Council Policy relating to development on the open coast. The site lies within the Green Belt and Planning Policies make it clear that only limited categories of development are appropriate and the erection of new buildings will not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances. The Council cannot see that there are any exceptional circumstances and the erection of two 2-storey dwellings would detract from the openness of the Green Belt, would represent an intrusive feature in this open coastal location and have a damaging effect on the character and appearance of the area.

The road in front of the proposed development site is narrow, additional vehicle movement/parking could cause congestion and potentially a hazard at the level crossing.

The development should be considered with reference to the Local Plan Policies on Risk of Flooding. In recent winter storms the whole length of the road was badly flooded and almost impassable on several occasions.

2045 **Payment of Accounts**

Resolution: to authorise the transfer of £2,000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account.

Resolution: to pay the accounts as listed

	DD	Eon	10.29	electricity bill -burial ground
		BT	142.49	phone bill
Cheque	101703	Viking	69.13	stationery
	101704	Lancaster City Council	1101.60	grounds maintenance
	101705	Lloyds TSB Commercial Finance	26.67	OCCleaning, bus shelter windows
	101706	Mr R McGuire	140.80	groundsman's pay
	101707	Mrs D Brookes	835.47	clerk's salary & expenses
	101708	Petty cash	99.16	sundry items, including WWI banner

2046 **Matters raised by members for future consideration** none2047 **Date of next meeting** Monday 21 July 2014 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm