

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL  
held on MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2015 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Councillors present Mr Stewart Scothern, Miss June Cohen-Kingsley, Mr Roland Stretch,  
Mr Stephen Jones, Mrs Joanne Leeman

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

2201 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: City Cllr M Thomas, Mrs S Drake, Mrs J Bateson, Mrs J Savage, Mr E Hamer.  
Mrs J Hamer

Apologies were received from City Cllr S Rogerson

- Cllr Thomas drew attention to the meeting with councillors being set up by Lancaster City Council to discuss the Local District Plan and the development of housing needs and the Consultation Event at the Memorial Hall on 28th October which will be open to the public. Until now Slyne with Hest had not been mentioned as a possible housing area but a change in status of the area covered by the North Lancashire Green Belt could give rise to the potential for housing or other developments leading to an eventual merger of Lancaster, Slyne with Hest and Bolton-le-Sands along the A6 and M6/Heysham link corridors. Opinions on the Green Belt changes are being sought and this will need to be considered against the possible need for more houses, especially smaller properties and affordable housing, along with the infra-structure required.
- Mrs Drake, Mrs Bateman and Mrs Savage representing FROGS enquired about the progress being made with the drainage problems and restoration work at the recreation field as they felt that they could not move forward with their plans for fundraising for a MUGA until they knew the outcome. It was explained that the Council was doing its best to make progress but is still having problems in trying to resolve these issues. It would be supportive of any initiative made by them to provide improved facilities. It was suggested that if FROGS wished to progress with fund raising and the seeking of grants the group should become properly constituted and have a written plan of what they wish to achieve. Councillors would be prepared to give guidance on these.
- Mr & Mrs Hamer expressed an interest in joining the parish council.

The visitors, except Mr & Mrs Hamer, left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated.

2202 To record Declarations of Interest none

2203 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 July 2015 and the report of financial activities and planning matters between the July and September meetings as true records. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

2204 Progress Reports (*for information only*)

- Vacancies on the council; two people had expressed an interest in joining the Council and attended the meeting. A written application was requested and the Council will consider formal co-option at the next meeting.
- The Sea View Drive handrail is in place and a number of appreciative comments have been received.
- O'Connors are due to complete the work on the new fencing around the play area within the next week. The football posts are in place on the new pitch and Envirocare have been asked to give the whole area a good cut before the end of the contract. If the pitch needs attention over autumn & winter additional cuts will need to be requested.
- There has been no further contact from the Canals & Rivers Trust to discuss canal improvements.
- The 'Roll of Honour' plaque is now in place in the Memorial Hall.
- A report has been received from Lancashire County Council Rights Of Way Officer about a fence with 2 rungs having been placed across the path beyond Ancliffe Hall. Mr M Ashton, the lengthsman, is to be requested to check this out for the Council.

**2205 Administration**

Confirmation of the appointment of a groundsman: four applicants were interviewed on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July Cllrs Scothern, Cohen-Kingsley and Stretch and it was decided to appoint Mr Stuart Brade.

The employment will be for eight hours per week at £10 per hour, on a self-employed basis and Mr Brade will submit an invoice for his services each month. The date of commencement of employment being 1 August 2015.

Resolution: To approve the appointment of Mr Brade.

Neighbourhood Plan: the meeting in August discussed the formulation and writing of a Vision Statement, the next steps to be taken and the invitation of a planning consultant with knowledge of neighbourhood plans to the next meeting. There was no meeting in September and the next planned meeting is Monday 5 October.

**2206 Financial matters**

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

Current Account £3,250.66 Savings Account £77,310.49

Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015 -the audit has now been completed by BDO LLP.

No matters were raised by the Auditors which require attention by the Council.

Resolution; to approve and accept the audited Annual Return.

A notice of the conclusion of the audit is displayed on the main council notice board and posted on the Council's website as required.

Consideration of the insurance policy for 2015/16; the insurance is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. A quotation has been received from Zurich Municipal Insurance, the present insurers, and a second one was requested from Aon. However there was some dissatisfaction with Aon because of their slow responses.

Resolution: to accept the terms provided and to take out a policy with Zurich Insurance and to agree to pay the premium of £868.74 for the one-year cover.

**2207 Open Spaces**

Recreation field issues; the clerk has had two meetings with a solicitor at JWK Solicitors and supplied him with information about the issues at the recreation field. This has been passed on to a consultant who is willing to investigate the issues and would act as an expert witness. His time would be charged at £190 per hour plus VAT and it is estimated that the cost would be between £2000 and £2500. The Council feels that it needs to be clear whether or not it has an adequate and achievable legal case against the contractor and landscape architect with regard to the seeming defects in the recreation field refurbishment scheme and the delivery of the contract as desired. This will be the first step and when the report is received there will be further discussion on how to proceed. The resolving of the drainage problems will need to be looked at separately and decisions on the employment of drainage consultants made at a later stage.

Resolution: to give JWK Solicitors authority to proceed with the appointment of Mr Andrew Hill of Strange, Strange & Gardner of Manchester to carry out investigations.

Consideration of any issues arising from the open space inspections; bus shelters- some attention is needed -cleaning of inside of windows and some repainting -this will be followed up.

Consideration of safety notices for the recreation field; incidents of people using the field for golf practice and others riding mini-motorbikes on the field have been reported. These activities are against the Council's byelaws for Open Spaces but It was decided to keep the situation under review before making a decision on erecting notices.

Consideration of a request from the Slyne with Hest Cub Unit to place bee houses on the Memorial Hall field and at Peacock Lane garden; there were no objections and permission was granted.

**2208 Burial Ground**

Consecration of an area for Church of England burials: all obstacles have been cleared, and a Petition of Consecration has been made to the Bishop of Blackburn. This required the payment of £900 registry fees to Napthens Solicitors of Blackburn who act as Registrars for the Diocese of Blackburn.

Resolution: to give approval to the above.

The numbering the memorials and grave spaces; this has been advertised (posters, newsletter, website) with three months for anyone to make objections. The cost of the plastic discs is £0.75 +VAT each and approx. 550 will be required. Different colours are to be used for each section of the burial ground  
Resolution: to approve the identification of the grave spaces in this way and purchase the discs.

## 2209 Foreshore

An inspection of the foreshore has been carried out and it is noted that there are potholes and ruts in several places of the gravelled areas, causing the accumulation of water and some flooding after heavy rain. Restoration could be carried out by the lengthsman. This would entail ordering a quantity of stone and gravel and the hire of a mini-digger. As the condition of the surface is likely to get worse over the winter months it was decided to go ahead with the restoration work and to give M Ashton the authority to do this.

## 2210 Planning Applications Applications received

15/01044/FUL & 15/01045/LB, 39 Hatlex Lane, Hest Bank. LA2 6EZ  
 15/01072/FUL 17 Manor Lane, Slyne, LA2 6JF  
 15/00880/FUL 60 Coastal Road, Hest Bank, LA2 6HQ  
 15/01090/FUL Hillcroft Nursing Home, Throstle Grove, Slyne, LA2 6AX

No issues were raised on the above applications

15/01099/FUL 6 The Moorings, Mowbrick Lane, Hest Bank. LA2 6DJ  
 Some concern was expressed about the proposed size of the development in relation to other flats within the block and the large obtrusive dormer window and its impact on the visual aspect of this area at the side of the canal.

Notification of permission granted  
 15/00665/ADV Slyne Lodge, 92 Main Road, Slyne, LA2 6AZ

Notification of refusal of permission  
 15/00932/FUL 49 Hest Bank Lane, Hest Bank, LA2 6DB

## 2211 Payment of Accounts

Resolution: to authorise the transfer of £3,000 from the Savings Account to the Current Account.

Resolution: to pay the accounts as listed:

Cheque	101832	Printing Plus		
	101833	Travis Perkins Trading Co. Ltd.	61.15	open spaces maintenance materials
	101834	Envirocare Maintenance Solutions	2892.00	grass cutting -July & August
	101835	BDO LLP	240.00	audit fees
	101836	Mrs D Brookes	839.22	clerks salary & expenses
	101837	Petty cash	7.43	postage
	101838	Mr S Brade	220.00	groundsman's pay
	101839	Bay View Garden Centre	353.46	plants for tubs
	101840	Zurich Municipal Insurance	868.74	insurance premium (see 2206 above)

## 2212 Matters raised by members for future consideration

SS-construction of fence along the boundary of the wood on Hanging Green Lane

## 2213 Date of next meeting Monday 19 October 2015 at 7.30pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

