

HOTHERSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at The Pavilion at Hothersall Lodge

Date & time of Meeting: Monday 23rd October 2017 at 6.10pm

Present: Hothersall Councillors:

Forrester (Chair)
Bateman
Warren
Parry
Thompson
Gale

Ribble Valley Councillor: Dave Smith

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Maria Gee & RV Cllr Jim Rogerson
2. **Declarations of Interest** - none
3. **Public Participation** – Resident Mr Ray Pearson (see item in Any Other Business)
4. **The Minutes of the Meetings** held on 8 May, 26 June & 10 July 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Chairman Ian Forrester
5. **Matters Arising:**

Lancashire Assoc of Local Councils – the kind offer of payment of 2017/2018 joining fees from a visitor to one of the previous meetings has not materialised. Cllr Gale will look into the courses on offer and this will be revisited in the New Year.

Pot Holes & Flooding at Butcher Fold

Clerk updated meeting on thread of emails finally answered by LCC District Lead Officer Liam Kirby. LCC intervention level is set at any pothole over 40mm in depth. The flooding matter has been passed to Flood Risk Management Team who will look to put it in next year's capital programme – to be confirmed in Feb 2018. The Clerk advised that she is awaiting further clarification from Liam Kirby. Cllr Smith advised that Liam Kirby will no longer be in this post shortly. Cllr Smith will try to organise a site visit – Cllr Thompson & Clerk agreed to attend. Cllr Smith also advised that £5m made available for LCC highways had not benefitted any rural issues. Only 1 scheme was approved for Ribble Valley.

Japanese Knotweed on Blackburn Road. Clerk contacted RVBC once again who advised that this weed is to be notified to LCC Highways. Clerk has done this and is awaiting a response from David Bloomer. HPC agreed that the removal of this weed is one of the conditions in the BKW planning application and therefore should be dealt with in the process.

Broadband Cllr Maria Gee has been in discussion with a group from Chipping re B4RN and has offered to go forward with this. Ray Pearson advised that fibre optic cable has reached the fork by Fell View Cottage. At this time LCC (Hothersall Lodge) are not financing fibre optic to The Lodge.

Cllr Smith advised that Sean McGrath is involved in a project led by LCC aiming to improve broadband speeds around the region. Clerk will make contact for more information.

Decision. It was proposed and agreed that HP council delegate Cllr Maria Gee to take the matter forward. The Meeting decided to invite a representative from Chipping B4RN to our next ordinary meeting in January for further discussion. Clerk will liaise with Maria on this.

Parish Clerk vacancy after Parish Assembly in May 2018 & Clerk's remuneration – future.
Clerk had sought advice on this and read out email from Julie Buttle (Whittingham Parish Clerk):

Summary: there are two options:

- 1 Get the Council to consider if the Clerk is an employee of The Council – minimum wage, contract of employment etc. and paid a base set of hours, eg SLCC (Soc of Local Council Clerks) recommends 6hr a month.
2. See if a neighbouring bigger Council is prepared to 'jobshare' a clerk. The smaller Council (eg Hothersall) pays an honorarium for the time of the Clerk of the bigger council (piggybacking in their knowledge & experience)

After some discussion it was agreed that Hothersall PC do not want to get into employment contract etc and that Hothersall Clerk will draw up a simple job description and make contact with both Ribchester (Alan Ormand) & Longridge Councils (Jane Watton).

At this point the Clerk advised that the request form for 2018/2019 precept has arrived. It was agreed that the Clerk's duties have increased significantly and will remain that way for the future. Remuneration will therefore need to be financed from an increase in the annual precept. The meeting was advised that the current precept stands at £750 and had not in fact been increased in 10 years. After some discussion Cllr Thompson proposed that the precept for 2018-2109 be increased to £1000. This was seconded by Cllr Bateman. The meeting agreed that this should be explained to residents in the Spring 2018 newsletter.

6. **Correspondence:**

- HED/DPD consultation – update. Clerk has been advised by RVBC that this is now in hands of Secretary of State. An Inspector will be appointed and we will be contacted about possible public involvement in the New Year.
- Local Government Boundary - letter 29/08/17. Review now completed for Ribble Valley.
- Parliamentary Government Boundary – Longridge News Weds 18 Oct - RV Cllr Ken Hind urging residents to object
- Forest of Bowland Annual report 2016-2017.

7. **Committee Reports:**

*** Parish Councils' Liaison Committee 14/09/17**

Attended by Cllr Forrester who reported as follows:

- County Councillor Paul Rigby is Parish Champion.
- Failure of LCC Highways to reply to emails – to be investigated
- Concerns were raised regarding non-submission of amended plans to Parish councils.

Cllr Parry agreed to attend the next PC Liaison Committee meeting on Thursday 9th Nov 2017. She will mention Hothersall PC considering a 'jobshare' clerk.

8. Planning:

BKW Developments Ltd ref 3/2017/0317. Cllrs Forrester & Gale expressed concerns about the planned alterations to the junction at The Corporation Arms. They have had no response to their communications. Cllr Smith suggested HPC go back to David Bloomer at LCC Highways and cc Cllr Keith Iddon. Cllr Forrester will liaise with clerk regarding wording.

Hurst ref 3/2017/0602 – not appeared on planning committee agenda to date.

Hillside School Application ref LCC/2017/0068 – increase in car parking spaces - consultation has closed.

9. Finance:

- Bank balance is £1509.33
- 2016/2017 audit by BDO completed – no issues (External auditor certificate dated 30/07/17 available)
- Parish Precept for 2018/2019 has been dealt with under item 5 – Parish Clerk Vacancy.

10. Any Other Business:

- New stile near Leeces Wood – Cllr Thompson will discuss with installer and arrange modification.
- Debris from Brakes Catering vehicle incident near Bashalls Farm has now been removed.
- Cllr Gee had emailed other Cllrs regarding amendment to a housing planning application at Chapel Hill. (refs 3/2011/1071 & 3/2017/0961). Hothersall PC have not been consulted. Cllrs agreed that individual responses should be made regarding this.
- Organised Shoots on the Lane Resident Ray Pearson advised the meeting that he had reported an incident of fallen shot on his premises to the police. Clerk has been in contact with Duncan Thomas of British Assoc of Shooting & Conservation for guidelines etc – he has spoken to David Luke (Shoot Captain) and Clerk is in process of getting back in touch. Cllr Thompson felt that there are too many guns too early in the season. He agreed to make contact with the Shoot Captain (David Luke) as an affected landowner and as a parish councillor.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Next Meeting to be held on Monday 15th January 2018 6.00pm at The Pavilion Hothersall Lodge.

* PLEASE NOTE – A FULL SET OF MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCILS’ LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD/VIEW ON RVBC WEBSITE

Confirmed as a true record: Chairman..... Date.....

Clerk.....Date.....