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R. Shute  
15/5/23

# SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022

**Present** Cllr R Stretch -Chairman, Cllr J Cohen-Kingsley, Cllr A Connor, Cllr J Bateman  
Mrs J Walker, Mr M Holmes, Mrs J Holmes, Mr R Jardine, Mr D Ruddick,  
Mrs J Westwell, Mrs S Faithfull, Mr A Obertelli, Mr B Parker

**Apologies for absence** Cllr S Jones, City Cllr M Thomas

#### **Welcome**

Cllr Stretch welcomed the attendees and introduced the members of the Parish Council.

#### **Minutes of the 2021 Annual Assembly**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the 2021 meeting held on Monday 24 May 2021 as a true record and the minutes were duly

**Matters arising from the minutes** none

#### **Chairman's Report for 2021/22**

This is my first report as Chairman. Sadly the former Chairman, Cllr Stewart Scothern died in October 2021 and he will be missed. On the positive side, two new councillors, Joanne Bateman and Alan Connor joined the Council and are very active and involved with its work.

It is nice to report that the work to reduce flooding on the recreation field has been completed at last. The Council has ordered a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and its installation should be completed by early summer.

There are plenty of things to do but obviously the council cannot fund them all at once. Examples of work needed are, on the recreation field, update the children's play area, renew the paths and have a new fence by the pond area. There is also work needed on the foreshore area.

This year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and members are in the process of organising an event for the village on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Any help with this would be gratefully accepted.

It is sad to report that there seems to be an element in the village that seems to want to do wilful damage. If you have experienced any of this or know any of the people please let the council know.

The council is short of councillors so if you know anyone who might be interested the meetings are held every third Monday of the month in the Memorial Hall.

#### **Financial Statement**

Given by Mrs D Brookes, Responsible Financial Officer – A summary of receipts and expenditure in the financial year 2021/22 was distributed at the meeting and some of the details explained.

**The precept** for the year 2021/22 – that is the money claimed from Lancaster City Council for parish purposes- was £65,000, the same as the previous year, and includes funding for anticipated further work on the recreation field. Total receipts were £82,044

**Other receipts** were generally in line with budget expectations. The burial ground fees collected were similar to the previous year. The rents collected were as expected. VAT reclaimed on purchases tends to vary from year to year and is difficult to predict. A grant of £500 was received through the Lancashire County Council Members Grants Scheme for the planting of a small orchard towards the western edge of the memorial hall field to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Planting will be in the autumn and it is to be called the Jubilee orchard.

**Payments** The total payments for goods and services were £50,669. Staff costs include the salary paid to the clerk, NIC and PAYE contributions and payments. Payments are made to the groundskeeper for the general maintenance of open spaces and this includes grass cutting at the burial ground. A contractor is paid for grass cutting and grounds maintenance of the larger open spaces. The largest open space expenditure was on more drainage work on the recreation field and the construction of a raised path to replace the boardwalk.

Work was carried out on the road off Marine Drive that leads to the shore to prevent the parking of motor homes and to make the footpath safer. More signs were installed to discourage overnight parking on the foreshore

A seat was purchased to commemorate and honour the work done by the NHS during the Covid pandemic and it has been placed on the Peacock Lane garden

Reserves are held for further work on the recreation field and a planning application has been passed for a multi-use games area (MUGA) along with floodlighting. This work is expected to commence as soon as the conditions on the application have been discharged, hopefully by early summer.

### **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report**

Given by Mrs Jean Walker, Chair of the Group who remarked that this has been a long and slow progress but the end seems to be in sight. A required six week consultation was held in February & March with sixteen responses received. These will be forwarded to Lancaster City Council. The next step is for the City Council to appoint an examiner to check the Plan and assess whether it is legally compliant.

### **Open Forum**

Some comments were made about the closing of the old website and development of a new one which will be fully compliant with all regulations. There have been some difficulties with the firm asked to develop the site and in obtaining information for the change over and links with other sites which were incorporated in the previous site. Cllr Bateman is working on developing the new site and how it will be controlled. The Council is also to have a specific 'Facebook' page which can be used to disseminate information.

Mr D Ruddick raised concerns about the Council's decision to increase the rent paid by the Bowling Club (similar increases have been made to the rents of the Tennis Club and Football Club). It would seem that membership of the Bowling Club has declined and although membership fees have been increased, the Club could eventually be in financial difficulty. It was suggested that both the Bowling Club and Tennis Club might like to consider their membership policy and use of the facilities and open them up more to the public for ad hoc use.

Mr Parker commented on the Council's reaction and action to trees on an area of the recreation field which borders his house. An oak tree was felled during a severe storm. Also a branch from a damaged tree fell on to Mr Parker's property causing some damage. Immediate action was taken to help Mr Parker to clear some of the debris. The trees had been inspected and as this was storm damage it was suggested that there had been no negligence on the part of the Council. The trees in the particular area are covered by a Tree Protection Order and further advice is to be sought from Lancaster City Council's Arboricultural Officer.

Due to the fallen oak tree the southern path on to the recreation field had been closed for safety but it was reported that people were climbing over the locked gate and still accessing the path. The use and safety of the path is to be reconsidered.

In answer to an enquiry, it was stated that work on potholes and tarmacing of roads in the parish is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council and it was suggested that the more people complain about the problem the more likely that something will be done

The meeting was declared closed.