

SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the Covid19 pandemic and the Government's on-going social distancing restrictions it was not possible to hold the scheduled face to face meeting on Monday 15th June 2020.

Business was conducted by communication through e-mail and telephone. An agenda had been circulated and reports on matters to be considered sent to all council members. The agenda was also published on the noticeboard and website and members of the press and public who wished have an input invited to contact the clerk. At the meeting in March it was resolved that, if necessary, decisions will be delegated to the Chairman, deputy Chairman and one other councillor

Minutes

Councillors who responded Mr Stewart Scothern -Chairman, Mr Roland Stretch, Mr Stephen Jones, Mrs Tracey Scott, Miss June Cohen Kingsley

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

2867 To record the disqualification of Cllr N Whittall as a member of the Council due to failure to attend meetings for a period of sixth consecutive months without formal notification.

2868 To record Declarations of Interest none

2869 Minutes of the previous meeting

Approval was given to the minutes recording information received and decisions made on Monday 18 May 2020.

2870 Progress Reports (for information only)

- A grant of £500 has been received from Lancashire County Council for Public Right of Way works in the parish
- The High Sheriff of Lancashire is seeking nominations for people from across Lancashire who have gone above and beyond in supporting others to cope during the Covid19 lockdown. Up to 50 Awards will be made. Suggestions have been requested for nominees within the parish. Suggestions put forward are three businesses and two individuals and a decision will be needed on whom to nominate.

2871 Administration

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; work continues on minor amendments, it is thought that further small changes may be necessary to fall in line with Lancaster City Council's Local Plan. This is waiting approval. Maps for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan are being prepared.

The Lancaster City Council Green Infrastructure Strategy has been noted and circulated to councillors and the Neighbourhood Plan group.

Annual review of Standing Orders of the Council; approval given by all members.

RSPB lease for the sporting rights on the foreshore -this is a renewal of the lease and a copy was circulated to all members; resolved to give this approval and to be signed by Chair and Deputy Chair.

Proposed alterations at the Memorial Hall; the hall is managed as a charity by the Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall Committee, however it is a condition of the lease that the parish council as Trustee and Landlord gives permission for any major works at the hall. To comply with safeguarding and Covid 19 regulations, Infinity Preschool has requested the installation of three small sinks in the small hall which will entail installation of possibly considerable extra drainage. They would also like the height of the front and back gates raised and

other minor alterations made. As full details of the work that would be required and a quotation had not so far been received no decision made. However it was noted that objections have been made to this entailing any cost to the council. Government guidance will be followed for the re-opening of the hall.

Use of the Memorial Hall field for dog training classes; a request to use the field had been made by a person who under normal circumstances would be using the Memorial Hall. The field is a public open space however overall opinion seems to be that if used for this purpose it should be only a temporary measure due to the present circumstances and this is made clear to the person.

2872 Financial Matters

Approval was given to the monthly summary of receipts and payments

Current account £5109.13 Savings account £163,385.63

An internal review of the council's accounts for 2019/20 was carried out by Cllr S Scothern on Friday 5th June 2020 and a record completed.

Independent Internal Audit of the Accounts for 2019/20; this was carried out on Friday 5th June 2020 by a member of the Independent Audit Panel which is comprised of Responsible Financial Officers from the parish councils of Bolton-le-Sands, Halton and Slyne with Hest. The relevant page of the Annual Return form 2019/20 was completed by Mrs P Bradley, clerk to Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council. No matters were identified as needing the Council's attention.

Approval(i) was given to accept and record both of the above reports.

Audit 2020 - Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2020

Approval(ii) was given to the completion of the Annual Governance Statement.

It is noted, to comply with the external auditors requirements from 2019, regarding the exercise of public rights, that the answer 'No' is to be inserted to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement.

Approval(iii) was given to the Statement of Accounts completed by the Responsible Financial Officer.

The above are to be submitted to PKF Littlejohn PPL, the external auditor.

Review and approval of the payment of councillors' allowances; in compliance with regulations, these are paid to elected members of the Council (minute ref. 1760). The Chairman's allowance is £50 for the year and a Councillor's allowance is £10

Approval(iv) was given to retain the allowances at the same level and to pay them to the members.

2873 Open Spaces

Recreation field; contact has been made with Duncan Ross Contractors and they hope to be able to start work again soon following Government guidance, to fully resolve the drainage problems. A message has been received from BT that gutters and downpipes have been renewed on the telephone exchange to prevent water running on to the field causing some flooding. Plans for the development of the field are to be progressed.

Bowling Club hedge; professional advice has been sought and the hedge inspected under various conditions and the view is that drastic cutting back of the hedge would not provide a great deal of benefit in respect of improving the playing surface of the tennis courts as it would seem that they are in their own microclimate because of their position and the whole surrounding area. It is suggested that possibly about a foot could be removed to keep it tidy but any more would likely have a devastating effect on the condition of the hedge. No decision taken and left in abeyance but opinion expressed that the council should not be involved in any cost for work on the hedge.

However it is suggested that if there are safety issues as has been said, the Tennis Club should be carrying out a risk assessment on the condition of the surface of the courts before playing thus reducing the likelihood of an accident.

Consideration of the future upkeep of the open areas off Manor Avenue & Shady Lane; residents have raised

concerns about these areas. The grassed area by Manor Avenue is Lancaster City Council land and the area on Shady Lane opposite the school is County Council land. It has been suggested that in both cases the resident refers to the relevant authority and then reverts back to the parish council. No responses have yet been received.

Provision of an extra piece of equipment for Manor Lane play area; a decision was deferred in March; an intended meeting with Playdale had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. An offer for a toddler roundabout has been received from Caloo Ltd and a quotation for similar is to be sought from Playdale.

2874 **Planning applications**

Applications received

20/00486/FUL 62 Coastal Road, Hest Bank, LA2 6HQ

No objections to this application, provided that no privacy issues are raised by neighbours.

20/0065/TPO 116 Main Road, Slyne, LA2 6AZ

Concerns raised about the proposed work on this tree as it is thought that drastic reduction could lead to its future demise and therefore strict guidance is suggested.

2875 **Payment of Accounts**

Approval was given to the transfer of £2000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account

Approval was given to the payment of the accounts as listed:

	DD	EON	28.68	electricity bill -burial ground
Cheque	122312	Envirocare Maintenance Solutions	780.00	grounds maintenance -May
	122313	Mrs D Brookes	878.70	clerk's salary
	122314	Petty cash	47.98	postage & stationery
	122315	Mr S Brade	360.00	groundsman's pay

2876 **Matters raised by members for future consideration**

Condition of City Council's dog waste bins

2877 **Scheduled Date of next meeting**

Monday 20 July 2020 Arrangements to be confirmed