

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

A full coronavirus risk assessment had been carried out so that this could be held as a face-to-face meeting adhering to Covid19 regulations with social distancing and other safety measures in place.

Councillors present Mr Roland Stretch -Deputy Chair, Miss June Cohen-Kingsley, Mrs Tracey Scott,
Mr Stephen Jones, Mr Alan Connor, Mrs Joanne Bateman

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes

2976 **To receive apologies for absence** Chairman -Cllr S Scothern

Open Forum

Standing Orders were suspended

Present for Open Forum; City Cllr K Budden

Apologies were received from City Cllr M Thomas.

Cllr Budden confirmed that the planning application for a new building at St John's Hospice had been permitted and some work has commenced.

The Lancaster City Council is hoping to be back to full face-to-face council meetings in May within Government guidelines.

Cllr Budden explained that City Council have had some issues with litter collection due to the increase in the use of outdoor spaces especially after the easing of Covid lockdown measures.

In response to a question, it would seem that a Lancaster City Council team had been phoning people on its vulnerability list to check that they are alright and whether they needed any assistance.

Cllr Budden left the meeting and Standing Orders were reinstated

2977 **To record Declarations of Interest**

none

2978 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021.

They were duly signed by the Deputy Chairman

2979 **Progress Reports** *(for information only)*

- A complaint had been received about a nuisance relating to the accumulation of manure in a field off Shady Lane. The complainant has been supplied with information about the ownership of the field and it was suggested that Lancaster City Council Environmental Health Department was contacted.
- S Brade, groundsman has carried out an inspection of the play equipment. Further concerns about accumulation of litter within the play area are to be followed up. Lancaster City Council has already been contacted and requested to empty the litter bins on a weekly basis and another reminder will be sent.
- There has been a hold-up on the work at the VVV road –apparently there has been difficulty in resourcing suitable sized rocks. Several attempts have been made to contact the contractor for a date. A new contractor is to be approached by the clerk and if an urgent decision is needed agreement is to be sought from the full Council and overseen by the Deputy Chair and another councillor.

2980 **Administration**

Neighbourhood Plan; it is reported that excellent progress is being made with amendments; the Steering Group is to make some additions to the Plan to include proposed developments, for example, the MUGA, Covid memorial and Lancaster City Council's proposals for leaving some of the grassed areas as wild flower meadows. Information links and use of social media for putting out information were welcomed.

Thoughts were that ‘policing’ of the Plan should be through the parish council and city council and that a checking format for planning issues should be included in the Plan.

Website and social media; quotations had been obtained for updating the present website which is not fully secure nor fully compliant. The quotation from Tech-Hub (Northwest) is to be followed up by Cllrs Scott and Bateman for reporting at the next meeting. A number of protocols need to be adhered to for putting articles on social media and Cllr Batemen has drawn up a policy which is to be referred to the next meeting. Consideration will have to be given to the appointment of a person to oversee the website and social media content.

Replacement of a memorial tree on the church triangle area; a tree placed there over ten years ago has died and a request has been received to plant a replacement. Agreement was given to this.

Use of council owned open spaces; an enquiry had been received from someone about holding a fitness class on the Memorial Hall field. Also a person who uses the hall for a dog training class had asked about use of the field. It would seem that dog training sessions have been being held on both the recreation field and the Memorial Hall field. The Memorial Hall field is used by young people’s groups, for example, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs and the general opinion of the council is that it is not a suitable area for dog training. Views were expressed that consideration will need to be given to the adoption of a policy for the use of council open spaces, particularly following the installation of the MUGA at the recreation field.

Refurbishment and management of planters; -the planters are in need of some care and Stuart Brade has offered to carry out some work; also Envirocare, the grounds maintenance contractors, are to be approached about general upkeep. It was agreed to allocate up to £400 from the budget for plants and any work required.

Reanes Wood; further enquiries had been made about disturbances in Reanes Wood which is designated as a Biological Heritage Site. It would seem that the responsibility for the site and its protection lies with the landowner or tenant. It was agreed that the Council should write to both owner and tenant to point this out and to explain the concern about damage to the area.

Consideration of climate change and reducing carbon footprint -an Electricity Northwest virtual event was attended by Cllr Scott. Changes being made nationally and locally were discussed and ways that parish councils may be able to get involved considered. It is expected that there will be loan incentives and grants, for example, for the installation of electric charging points for vehicles.

2981 Financial Matters

Approval was given to the end of year summary of receipts and payments

Current account £4,162.48 Savings account £133,726.13

The precept of £65,000 for the financial year 2021/22 has now been received.

Arrangements have been made for an independent internal audit and a half year internal audit will also be carried out.

2982 Open Spaces

Recreation field; contact has been made with Duncan Ross Limited about work on the boardwalk and pond area but they cannot supply a date because of a backlog of work. Further concerns have been received about the condition of the boardwalk and safety and arrangements are to be made for it to be closed off with ‘heras’ fencing. The planning application for the MUGA has been submitted.

Consideration of the work required on the recreation field play area, a comprehensive quotation had been received from Lancaster City Council which included the complete replacement of the play tower along with repairs to other equipment at a total cost of £19,204+VAT. Even discounting the play tower at £7690 because this would be included in future refurbishment of the field, the quotation is well outside the council’s budget. An alternative is to be looked into and Cllrs Stretch, Scott and Connor are to meet on site.

Damage to the kiddies swings had been reported, it is thought that this was the result of vandalism. Cllr Connor has carried out repairs.

An offer of help to raise funds for work on the field was acknowledged and noted.

Covid memorial; further consideration has been given to the design and it is thought to be about 6m across including space for seats and it will be flat on the ground rather than raised as suggested but firm details are still awaited. The decision on an inscription was left in abeyance.

Bowling Club hedge; another request had been received about lowering the height of the hedge. The hedge is the responsibility of the Bowling Club but under the terms of the lease, the landlord's (Parish Council) permission is needed for any work to be done. Previous consultation with a professional tree surgeon has suggested that any drastic cutting back of the hedge would lead to its demise.

Resolution; to agree to one foot (30cms) being removed from the top of the hedge with work being done by a professional contractor to minimize damage and to make sure that work is carried out under tree maintenance restrictions

The Parish Council will not make any contribution to the cost. It is suggested that the Bowling Club liaises with the

Tennis Club as it is the latter that has made complaints about the height of the hedge.

Speeding vehicles in the village; reports have been received about checks recently carried out by the Police and a significant number of vehicles have been caught not adhering to the 20mph speed limit. This was on Hest Bank Lane but concerns were raised about other areas in the village where the speed limit is being ignored. Lancashire County Council Highways Department is to be contacted to see if any measures can be put in place to reduce speeding and improve safety.

2983 Burial Ground

A number of headstones, particularly on the older graves are becoming unstable. An attempt has been made to contact a person at Lancaster City Council to have the headstones tested but a reply is still awaited. Cllr Cohen Kingsley will carry out the bi-annual inspection of the graves. -left in abeyance

2984 Foreshore

Parking of caravans and motor homes on the foreshore and along the road to the former VVV Leisure Centre- a number of complaints have been received- signs have been erected on the foreshore stating no overnight parking and attempts are being made to get work done on the VVV road -see above.

2985 Planning applications

Applications received

21/00166/FUL 8 Sunningdale Crescent, Hest Bank, LA2 6DE
 21/00162/FUL Cote Farm, Strellas Lane, Slyne, LA5 8AB
 21/00120/FUL Beaumont Cote Manor, Strellas Lane, Slyne, LA5 8AB
 21/00390/PAD 28 Sunningdale Avenue, Hest Bank, LA2 6DF
 21/0042/TCA, 136 Main Road, Slyne, LA2 6BD
 21/0041/TPO Land rear of Holly Mount, Hasty Brow Road, Slyne, LA2 6AG
 21/0053/TPO St Luke's School, Shady Lane, Slyne, LA2 6JL

No major issues were raised on the above applications.

Application permitted

21/00070/FUL 47 Bay View Avenue, Slyne, LA2 6JS
 21/0028/TPO Alice Springs, Hasty Brow Road, Slyne, LA2 6AG

2986 Payment of Accounts

Approval was given to the transfer of £3000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account

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

Cheque	122385	Envirocare Maintenance Solutions	780.00	grounds maintenance -March
	122386	Duncan Ross Limited	1320.00	work on foreshore
	122387	Viking	37.63	stationery
	122388	Signs Express (Lancaster)	331.69	access signs for foreshore road
	122389	Lancaster City Council	152.93	waste collection at burial ground

122390 Mrs D Brookes
122391 Petty cash
122392 HMRC
122393 Mr S Brade

878.70 clerk's salary
12.81 sundry items
315.62 PAYE & NIC
464.00 groundsman's pay

2987 **Matters raised by members for future consideration**

none

2988 **Date of next meeting**

Annual Assembly Monday 17 May 2021 at 6.30pm
Annual Meeting of the Council Monday 17 May 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting was declared closed at 9.17pm