

Minutes of a meeting of Hadnall Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Hadnall Village Hall

23/075 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs John Harrison (Chairman), Nigel Clifford, Neil Duxbury, Harmesh Jassel, Andrew Marston, Sarah Parker.

Apologies: Council resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Andy Brisbourne (work commitment). SC Cllr Simon Jones had also sent his apologies.

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: 7 members of the public (6 left after item 23/081).

23/076 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following matters were raised:

- a) There was some discussion about possible names for the land at the entrance to Wedgefields (item 23/084). Suggestions made: 'Wedgefields Copse', Wedgefields Glade', 'Wynn's Way'. There was general consensus among those present to support the first suggestion. A resident praised the groundskeeping of that area.
- b) Concerns were raised about inconsiderate parking on Wedgefields Close at the end of the last school term. ND to speak to the new headteacher in case this problem reoccurs.
- c) A resident emphasised that the fencing at The Ease needs repair (item 23/086). It was also pointed out that the footpaths with The Ease need clearing of weeds/overgrowth and that the Rock Garden is in need of a revamp. Also the Bowling Club car park has a lot of weeds. (This would be the responsibility of the Bowling Club and/or Sansaw Estate).
- d) A resident reported that the tree opposite the shop has grown even more and that that the risk of the BT lines coming down in a storm is high. JH confirmed that Openreach engineers have been made aware of this on several occasions.

- e) It was reported that the hedge between the Village Hall and Village Green needs cutting.
- f) A discussion took place about the difficulty of getting people to help out in voluntary roles within the village.

23/077 CO-OPTION - There were no applications. Clerk to re-advertise.

23/078 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

23/079 MINUTES - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 10th July 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting. (Prop: AM. Sec: HJ. *Nem. con.*)

23/080 PROGRESS REPORT

- a) **Purchase of football goals for Village Green** – These have been delivered today.
- b) **Electricity supplier** – The first few invoices have been received from the new supplier. The average bill over the summer has been £52/month, compared to £125/month last year.
- c) **Older kids play equipment** – Nothing to report at this time.
- d) **Church Lane hedgerow cutting** – This has been done by Sansaw. The stretch by Hawkstone Close is on the Shropshire Council schedule. Clerk to check whether the agreement was for the hedge to be cut front, back and top.
- e) **Village Hall car park potholes and gate repair** – On the schedule of work (Sansaw).
- f) **Violet street lights** – Contractor still waiting for response from supplier.

23/081 OTHER REPORTS

Cllr Simon Jones sent a written report as follows:

Shropshire Council will be working in partnership with Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and Powys councils to work collaboratively on cross-border issues applying for funding from both the English and Welsh Governments, boosting investment into the Region. It is important to note that this will not be a Super-Council as each authority will retain

its own identity and independence and that they will carry on delivering services to residents and businesses as they do now.

At the end of June 2023, £34m of the spending reductions have been delivered or are underway towards reaching our £51.4m target this financial year. The Cabinet has considered and rejected the idea of filing a 114 notice.

West Mercia Police – The newsletter for Wem area was available and has been shared with councillors. The Clerk has just been informed that a summons should be sent before each meeting to get someone from WMP to attend. This will be done from now on.

Village Hall – Concern expressed about safety issues (especially with regard to Hadnall Explorers) arising from construction workers using the car park and roof of the Village Hall for access to the adjoining property. Clerk to contact Sansaw to clarify terms of access.

Community Led Plan – Representatives reported that they are at the point where a new questionnaire needs to be compiled and distributed to residents. Anyone who could contribute relevant skills to this would be very welcome. The group will meet soon. Residents can contact John Harrison for more information or to volunteer.

Maintenance working party – Council agreed to spend up to £50 on materials for basic maintenance tasks, working party to be organised in a few weeks' time. Expenditure to be taken from Chairman's Allowance. (Prop: JH. Sec: HJ. *Nem. con.*)

23/082 ALLEGATION OF FALSIFIED MINUTES

NC proposed that an open discussion be held 'concerning the circumstances leading to his allegations of falsified minutes and failure by the Chairman to report the issue to the standards committee to establish a protocol for direction of the clerk.'

Discussion took place, during which it was reiterated that NC's proposed amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2023 had been presented at the following meeting. There being no seconder, the amendments were not made, and the council resolved to accept the minutes as per the draft. Therefore responsibility for the acceptance of the minutes lies with Hadnall Parish Council rather than any individual.

The Chairman replied to the accusation that he had not reported this issue to the standards committee. He stated that he had not done so because NC had repeatedly said in writing that he done so himself. Copies of these emails were shown to NC.

The clerk shared guidance regarding the format of minutes from both the legal reference (*'Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration, Paul Clayden, 10th Edition'*:

7.39 Minutes) and the council's own Standing Orders (3 'Meetings Generally' T i-vii). She also reminded councillors that they have a clear right in law to have the results of the vote on any motion recorded in the minutes, provided that the request is made at the time of the vote.

NC was asked if he had a proposal to put to the council, but he did not. NC to send to other councillors the advice from SALC that he believes has been ignored.

23/083 PLANNING

a) Council considered the following **planning application**:

Reference: **23/03537/FUL**

Address: 1 Pool Road, Hadnall SY4 4BG.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension as a self-contained annex.

The Planning Advisory Group said that they have looked at this application and that no material considerations give grounds for any concerns.

HPC decision: Support

b) There were no further **planning applications** received in advance of this meeting.

c) Council noted that the following planning application has gone through on **appeal**:

Reference: **22/01290/FUL**

Address: Proposed residential development land to the south of Hall Drive, Hadnall.

Proposal - Erection of four detached dwellings with garages, alterations to access and associated works.

23/084 LAND AT WEDGEFIELDS

Council resolved that the area of land at the entrance to Wedgefields shall be known as 'Wedgefields Copse'. (Prop: AM. Sec: ND. *Nem. con.*)

23/085 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION and RoSPA REPORT

Council reviewed the findings from the internal quarterly inspection (01/08/2023 JH, AM) along with the results of the RoSPA inspection (06/03/2023). The following actions were considered:

- a) **Relaying of sub-base in play area**, as per quote provided by Playdale (£645, 16/03/2022) to flatten out the slightly sunken areas, especially by the swings. Not high risk. Council resolved not to carry out this work at this time.
- b) **Purchase of new picnic table/s** to replace the one by the play area which is in poor repair. Council resolved to purchase one recycled plastic wheelchair-accessible round picnic table at a cost of <£750. Clerk to research three suppliers for best value before ordering. (Prop: SP. Sec: HJ. *Nem. con.*)
- c) **Rubbing down and re-staining of other wooden seating**. This to be carried out by the Maintenance Working Party (see item 23/081).
- d) **Provision of signage at play area** to notify users how to report any problems. Council resolved not to carry out this work at this time.

23/086 THE EASE

Council considered the report which included quotes for repairs/replacement of the gates and fencing. It was resolved to replace the kissing gate on the east side and the full stretch of fencing on the west side of The Ease, and to budget to replace the rest in the future. The contract to be given to one of the two who had submitted comparable competitive quotes for this. (Prop: JH. Sec: ND. *Nem. con.*)

23/087 DEFIBRILLATOR - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

23/088 TRAINING

Councillors and clerk have full details of available training opportunities, which they may take up if desired. A log will be kept of all training undertaken. All are encouraged to take up any training that they think would be beneficial. This is in line with a recommendation sent to two of the Cllrs and the Clerk by the Shropshire Council Standards Sub-Committee.

NC raised complaints regarding the clerk's training and qualifications. He was advised by SP that the issues he wanted to discuss were not suitable for a public meeting but should be handled by the Staffing Committee.

23/089 PRINTER

Council agreed to share use of its printer with Atcham Parish Council, with ink and paper costs split equally.

23/090 FINANCE

a) Council noted the following **payment** made in August 2023:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
300.00	Clerk's salary (July)	LGA 1972 s112

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
367.37	Clerk's salary & expenses	LGA1972s112, LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5.
150.00	PAYE (months 4 and 5)	LGA 1972 s112
5.15	Final contribution to MS365 fees (UMPC)	LGA 1972 s142
229.90	Football goals for Village Green	LGA 1976 (miscellaneous provisions) Act s19
117.52	Electricity for street lighting	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3. Highways Act 1980 s301
75.60	Room hire for meetings (May-Sept)	LGA 1972, s134 (1-3)
550.00	Grounds maintenance (second quarter)	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10
35.00	Data Protection annual fee	Data Protection Act 2018

Council noted the following **receipts**:

Amount	Details	Power to accept
250.00	Bowling Club annual rent payment	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s. 19 (2)
191.92	Interest on CCLA account	LGA 1972 s111

- b) Council received and approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
 c) Council resolved to move up to £7000 from the current account to the CCLA investment account. (Prop: AM. Sec: JH. *Nem. con.*)

23/091 EMPLOYEE MATTERS

Council noted the updated Clerk/RFO Job Description that has been adopted (submitted by Staffing Committee).

23/092 CORRESPONDENCE

Resident – Query about hedge-cutting at Hawkstone Close (see item 23/080).

Resident – Query about hedge-cutting at 28 Blacksmiths (JH to follow up).

FixMyStreet – Faulty street lights have been reported at 4 Chapel Road and at the bus lay-by opposite the shop, and the mess left behind after repairs to the sewers.

Church – Request for access through The Ease for contractors to remove a dangerous tree in the churchyard. Council agreed to allow this, on condition that no damage is caused.

Resident – Enquiry about how to set up a local Fun Run. They have been advised to consult in the first place with local Park Run organisers or running clubs.

SALC AGM – 3rd November, 6pm-10pm Wroxeter Hotel.

Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project – conference 13th October 10am-4pm Montford Parish Hall.

Highways – Scheduled closure of A49 through Hadnall 25th Sept until 7th Oct, 9.30am-4pm, for carriageway repairs.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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