

Minutes of a meeting of Heskin Parish Council held on 16th February 2023 at Heskin Village Hall.

Present Cllr Mrs Bamber Chair, Cllr P Lloyd, Cllr E Forshaw, Cllr M Holden, Cllr AJ Singh, Cllr K Mather.

In attendance Mr A Whittaker, Clerk, one member of the public.

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2022.

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

2 Matters arising from the minutes

a) Trees on The Meadows. The Clerk reported that the work had been carried out and the Contractor paid. The Clerk also reported that Chorley Council had given a grant of £1900 to pay for the work.

b) Junction of Wood Lane and Park Hall Road. The Clerk presented a response from LCC which had been circulated to members indicating that road marking would be repainted. Cllr Holden suggested that LCC be asked to consider a mini roundabout at the junction. The suggestion was not supported but the Clerk was asked to write to Chorley Planning Department to raise this matter when considering the adjacent application for a 3 storey office block. It was reported that the owner of the field opposite (where the hedge had been removed) was considering making the field open to the public for recreation purposes. It was suggested that the owner makes a written submission to the appropriate body

3 Planning Matters

a) Central Lancashire Local Plan.

Officers from Chorley BC had attended the Village Hall to describe the proposals.

b) A Neighbourhood Plan for Heskin.

Correspondence had been circulated to members and a brief discussion ensued. Members resolved to note the correspondence.

4 Neighbourhood Priorities for Heskin.

Correspondence from Chorley was noted. No suggestions were put forward.

5 Parish Precept for 2023/2024.

a) The Clerk circulated details of anticipated balances at the end of the current financial year, anticipated expenditure in 2023/2024 and the anticipated balance at 31st March 2024. The details were discussed. A proposal to increase the Precept was proposed and seconded but the proposal was defeated. An amendment that the precept remain unaltered from the current year was proposed and seconded and approved.

A query was raised regarding the Best Kept Garden Vouchers and the Clerk was asked to enquire if the Voucher provider would provide them free of charge

b) Coronation Festivities.

Members agreed to hold a Tea Party for Pensioners in the Village Hall and to acquire china cups for all children under the age of 11 who reside in the village. A letter will be circulated.

6 Correspondence from LCC, LAPTC, CPRE.

All correspondence had been circulated to members. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes to Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. It was also agreed to continue the membership of Council for the Preservation of Rural England , CPRE

7 Authorisation of Payments made since the last meeting.

The list of payments was approved, a copy of which is filed with the minutes.

8 Removal of Bench from Withington Lane to Wood Lane. Urgent item.

The bench on Withington Lane is little used and the bench on Wood Lane opposite Kingsley House farm is broken and dangerous and needs removing urgently. Council agreed an estimate of approximately £200 to move the bench from Withington Lane to Wood Lane.

10 Date of next meeting 20th April 2023

9 Exclusion of Press and Public.

The member of the public present was asked to leave.

Confidential items regarding employees remuneration were discussed.

Confidential items

a) Remuneration of Lengthsmen . The National Living Wage will be increased from 1st April 2023 from £9.50 per hour to £10.42 per hour.

Members agreed the increase.

b) Clerks salary. The Clerk described the history of Clerks salary levels as agreed by the National Association of Local Councils and the current level of remuneration, and offered to leave the room.

Members agreed that with efect from April 2023 the hourly rate will be £12.06 per hour