Minutes of a meeting of Holbeach Parish Council on the 12th August 2019

Holbeach Parish Council

A meeting of Holbeach Parish Council was held on Monday 12th August 2019 at the Methodist Church Hall, Albert Walk, Holbeach commencing at 18:58 following the Open forum.


Seven members of the public were also in attendance.

Clerk: David Boyce
Apprentice Clerk: Brandi Rogan

Chairman Tony Lomax chaired the meeting.

Open forum 18:58

One member of the public asked for the Parish Councils support regarding appealing to Highways in respect to recent passed TRO’s down Fishpond Lane for yellow lines to be installed as he had been told by Highways there were insufficient funds available to do something about it. It was highlighted that once the new lines go in the obstructions for traffic are removed and traffic will flow faster where there is no footpath protection from this for any of the residents. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write on this Parishioners behalf to Highways and the County Councillor regarding this.

The Parish Council meeting opened at 19:08.

1. Apologies (Clerk)

   The Clerk reported that there were no apologies due or received.

2. Clerks Report – Vacancies on Town Ward, Hurn Ward and Drove

   The Clerk reported to members that following the elections of the 2nd May 2019 there were currently four vacancies, including two seats on Holbeach Hurn, one seat on Holbeach Drove and one on Holbeach Town which would remain available for co-option until such time that they are filled.

   The Clerk informed members that one person had applied for the vacancy on the Town ward and the Chairman invited any comment or reason as to why he should not be co-opted, to which no member offered any. Paul Gunn was co-opted onto the council, where he signed his declaration of interest and acceptance of office and was invited to join the meeting.

   The Clerk reported that, following the resignation of Paul Foyster, there was a vacancy on the Town ward, where the notices had been displayed to invite for an election had now expired and this vacancy was available for co-option.
3. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded of the book and that should they have any interest on any item to declare it in the book or during the meeting at any time.

4. Minutes of previous Meetings – 8th July 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the 8th July 2019 were agreed by members and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Police, District and County Matters
(a) In their absence, the Police left a report that there was a focus on speeding this month. Members offered no further requests to the Police.
(b) No District matters were brought to member’s attention as they were disbanded for the month.
(c) In County Councillor Nick Worth’s absence, there were no County matters to bring to Members attention. There was a request to the Clerk that Highways be notified that, following gritting down Spalding Road the drains were now blocked and flooding easily.

6. Highways Matters (Clerk)
(a) The Clerk reported the following road closures:
   - The A47 from Eye Green to Thorney from September 2019 to October 2019 for essential carriageway repairs from 20:00 to 06:00.
   - Holbeach St Marks on Lincoln Lane from Middle Marsh Road and St Marks Road for essential maintenance works from 03/09/2019 to the 24/09/2019.

7. Allotments (Cllr Graham Rudkin)
(a) The Chairman of Allotments report was accepted by the Council, including the improvement notices recommended.

8. Carters Park, Stukeley Grounds and Parish Playing Field (Cllr Kelly Wilson)
(a) The Chairman of Parks and Playing Fields reported that the costings for the play equipment at Castor to renovate were in excess of £5,000 and therefore would take the project to the full amount of the s.106 monies so recommended no further motions be tabled regarding this. There had been some reported tree damage in the Parks as well as Stukeley grounds which had been reported by the Clerk.
(b) It was agreed to correspond about the Deed of understanding and renegotiating the William Stukeley arrangement with LCC where the Clerk was requested to contact LCC. It was agreed to put the lease onto the agenda for next month.
(c) Cllr I Hutchinson presented two options for Netherfield playing field for its lay out and invited comments from members. There were questions raised regarding the use of the current football pitch which was noted as being limited due to the lack of changing facilities there.
(d) It was agreed to adopt 5 dog poo bag dispensers for the Parish in Carters Park, Carters Park Dog run, Holbeach Bank playing field, Netherfields Playing field and for Holbeach Hurn.
9. Cemeteries – All Saints, Park Road and Hallgate (Cllr Rachel Flood)
(a) The Chairman of Cemeteries and Closed Churchyard’s reported that the trees in Park Road needed attention and that she wished to pursue a regular maintenance programme moving forward. It was noted that All Saints churchyard had been left covered in debris after the bout of winds and that the flower bed was being completed. It was also noted that there were ongoing issues with the grass cutting at Hallgate cemetery still which would be monitored. Cllr Flood also made members aware that a donation has been offered of metal benches for the Hallgate cemetery which would be coming to the table next month.
(b) The Memorial inscriptions and burial reserved plots were duly signed as approved:

- Brooks – Reservation – Park Road – 182MM
- Smith – Memorial – Hallgate – CR A48
- Sylvester – Memorial – Park Road – 183P
- Flood – Memorial – Park Road – 172W
- Higgins – Reservation – Park Road – 171Z
- Hix – Reservation – Hallgate – A66
- Green – Memorial – Hallgate – WALL A1

One item was requested to go into closed session where it was agreed to put a notice on a grave that was in breach of the policies for removal of the excess items on it.

10. Holbeach Bank Playing Field (Cllr Eddie McNally)
(a) The Chairman of Holbeach Bank Playing Fields reported that he attended the 5 a side annual day with Cllr Flood where they both supported with some recycling. The club had put in for a grant from the Football Association for £4,700.

11. Planning (Cllr S Hutchinson)
(a) A vote was taken and it was agreed to appoint Cllr Eddie McNally as Chair of Planning.
(b) The Vice Chairman of Planning gave the report following the resignation of Cllr Foyster, where she updated members that all but three of the planning items had been commented on however no comments had been received from members. A reminder that only the overall comment would be put onto the portal and not individuals names or thoughts to help promote more comments from members.
(c) The planning working party report was received by members, where Cllr S Hutchinson informed members that focuses included the town plan and gaining stakeholders insights into this, as well as collating projects to put forward for section 106 money requests.
(d) It was agreed to appoint Cllrs Millie Howard and Paul Gunn to the planning working party

12. Property (Cllr Isobel Hutchinson)
(a) Chairman of Properties reported that the fire system had now been installed, with training being given to the office staff that she would be following up on to ensure checks were being made. The electrical condition report had also been received and Cllr I Hutchinson would seek prices on the works required. Cllr I Hutchinson had also
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had brought to her attention that the properties appeared to not be registered with Land Registry and has asked the Clerk to find costings for this.

13. Financial statement and presentation of payments for approval
(a) The Chairman of Finance Report including recommendations of Finance Working Party of 5th August 2019 was accepted by the Council.
(b) The Financial Statement was delivered by the Chair of Finance as follows:
BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31st July 2019
BANK ACCOUNTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT 50494844 £2,987.91
LESS UNPRESENTED CHEQUES/PAYMENTS £0.00
BUSINESS SAVER 90915394 £36,677.05
CCLA ACCOUNT £180,899.82
FIDELITY INVESTMENT £52,388.76
COIF £50.00
balance £273,003.54
CASH BOOK
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD £112,499.61
ADD RECEIPTS £240,377.27
£352,876.88
LESS PAYMENTS £79,873.34
balance £273,003.54
(c) The British Legion Grant application for £700.00 was agreed.
(d) The Holbeach in Bloom grant application for £2000.00 was agreed.

14. Fishpond Lane Nature Reserve (Cllr Tony Lomax)
(a) The Chairman reported that he would be spending some more time down at the pond to tidy it up in time for the In Bloom judging, as well as submitting his grant bid for a biodiversity assessment ready for further investment into the wildlife.

15. PR working party (Cllr Stephen Johnson)
(a) Members received the PR working party report and it was accepted.
(b) The printed notices policy was deliberated and one amendment was requested and agreed to include that no business cards or other notices are allowed in the cemeteries for the purpose of advertising by a private firm.

16. To agree to adopt the Remembrance Day parade

Cllr John Spencer explained to members that the British Legion needed the parade adopting for the purpose of public liability insurance however the Holbeach branch were facilitating the event in every other way, which was agreed by members. Cllr Spencer then invited members to attend.
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17. To appoint a representative to Holbeach United Football Club

Cllr Eddie McNally advised members that following attending their AGM with Cllr Manley it was requested from the football club to appoint representation to support a deepening of the relationship between the Parish Council and the club. It was agreed to appoint Cllrs Eddie McNally and Michelle Manley.

18. To appoint 3 representatives to the Holbeach United Charities (Cllr Isobel Hutchinson)

Cllr I Hutchinson corrected the aims of the agenda point in that there were vacancies of two on the George Farmer Educational Foundation and one for the Holbeach United Charities. It was agreed that Cllr Stephen Johnson be the additional member for the Holbeach United Charities and it was agreed that Cllr Millie Howard and Paul Gunn were to be representatives for the George Farmer Educational Foundation.

19. Staffing Matters

These were resolved to take in closed session where the following decisions were made:

- It was agreed to purchase another laptop of cost not exceeding £320.00 for the office staff to support the delivery of their function.

20. To agree on pursuing the Live and Local Lincolnshire Rural and Community Touring (Chairman Tony Lomax)

The Chairman presented to members the opportunity arisen that had been pursued by Cllr I Hutchinson for a talk. The benefits of bringing entertainment were discussed, including taking it out to the villages within the Parish. It was suggested that it would sit best with the PR Working party to follow up with, but with the ability to draft more members should it need to for facilitation. It was agreed to pursue this opportunity.

21. Any other business by leave of Chairman

There were no other matters arising.

22. Confirm date and venue of next Parish Council Meeting

It was agreed to meet on the 9th September 2019 at the Methodist Church Hall, Albert Walk, Holbeach.

23. Agenda items for next Meeting

- Stukeley Grounds lease
- Property registrations with Land Registry