

HECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Heckington Parish Council held in Heckington Village Hall, High Street, Heckington on Monday 25 July 2022 commencing at 1930hrs

Attendance:

Chairman P/Cllr Mrs J Palmer

Parish Councillors – Mr T Atkinson, Mrs M Cooke, Mr A Garlick, Mr R Higgs, Mr R Kemmett, Mr M West, Mr R Woods

County Councillor – Mr A Key

District Councillors – Mrs S Tarry

Minute Taker – Clerk, Ms J Hudson

Police Representative – None present

Press Representative – None present

Members of the Public – 7

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through Health & Safety, fire procedures etc
- 1.2 She confirmed that comments from Members of the Public MUST be made during the Public Participation section and not during other agenda items.
- 1.3 She confirmed that the combined 'public open surgery' with the local PCSO's went very well and that a number of Members of the Public took the opportunity to speak with Councillors and PCSOs regarding their concerns.

2. To receive apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies received and accepted from D/Cllr Mr S Ogden and P/Cllrs Mr M Jones and Mr D Long

3. To receive a declaration of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011

- 3.1 P/Cllr Mr R Higgs declared an interest in item 12 1 iv. (neighbour)

4. To consider any requests for dispensations received at or before the start of the meeting.

- 4.1 None received

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 27th June 2022

- 5.i Proposed by Cllr Mr M West, seconded by Cllr Mr R Kemmett it was **resolved that the minutes were approved and signed. (P/Cllr Mrs J Palmer abstained as she was not present. Unanimous vote of those present)**
- 5.ii.1 Matters arising – it was confirmed that new signs had been erected on the cemetery gates regarding entry of dogs, and that a new amendment application had been received regarding the Burton Road planning proposal.

6. Public Participation

- 6.1 P/Cllr Mr R Higgs raised concerns with parking around the Christopher Close area during Show weekend.
- 6.2 A resident referred to a previous resolution regarding the handover of maintenance of St Andrews Churchyard to North Kesteven District Council and pointed out that

the Parish Council had previously indicated a full public meeting was proposed prior to a decision being made, which it had not done. The Chairman stated that 'events had taken over events' and that during the research process due diligence had been completed to the satisfaction of the Council and its Members. The Vice Chairman also reminded those present that the matter had been discussed in open session at previous meetings. Other residents joined in expressing their concern that a public meeting had not been held.

- 6.3 A resident asked for confirmation as to who paid the legal fees regarding legal action taken as a result of the letter sent to residents in June 2021, and the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had paid them. She went on to state that action had been brought against the Council in respect of the contents of the letter, but that the Council's position had been upheld. The Vice Chairman also confirmed that the research into the transfer had also incurred part of the legal costs.

7. Financial Matters

- 7.i To approve payments as listed separately – **payments as listed below were approved unanimously**

Account movement to 25 July				
Date	Reference	Description	Debit	Credit
01-Jul-22	PCash92	Council Expenditure - Evolis clips	7.31	
01-Jul-22	BACS	Audit - Internal audit	240.00	
01-Jul-22	SOrder	Pension Contributions	30.85	
01-Jul-22	DDebit	Subscriptions ICO information commissions office	35.00	
04-Jul-22	Credit	Maintenance - Playing Fields resident refund		20.00
07-Jul-22	BCardJP	Maintenance - Cemetery displaypro signs	42.90	
07-Jul-22	Refund	Pension Contributions		30.85
08-Jul-22	SOrder	Pension Contributions	30.85	
08-Jul-22	Refund	Pension Contributions		89.14
08-Jul-22	Refund	Pension Contributions		30.85
11-Jul-22	SOrder	Pension Contributions	89.14	
12-Jul-22	BACS	Donaldsons DIY June account	72.73	
12-Jul-22	BACS	Maintenance - Village Pole for speed device LCC	200.00	
12-Jul-22	BACS	Hire of Rooms Village hall	20.00	
15-Jul-22	DDebit	Bank Charges	10.40	
15-Jul-22	SOrder	Pension Contributions	30.85	
15-Jul-22	DDebit	Electricity - Cemetery	27.93	
15-Jul-22	DDebit	Phone	95.23	
18-Jul-22	SOrder	Chairmans Allowance	65.00	
18-Jul-22	BACS	Pension Contributions - catch up payment	779.62	
20-Jul-22	DDebit	Water - Cemetery	15.99	
21-Jul-22	DDebit	Water - Allotments	172.53	
21-Jul-22	Trasfer	Transfer to Lloyds - Instant Account	10,000.00	
21-Jul-22	Trasfer	Transfer from Lloyds - Deposit Account		10,000.00

21-Jul-22	SOrder	Pension Contributions	30.85	
21-Jul-22	BACS	Maintenance - Village - displaypro signs for roads	33.80	
21-Jul-22	BACS	Maintenance - Cemetery new fuel tank	1,986.00	
25-Jul-22	Refund	Pension Contributions		119.99
25-Jul-22	Refund	Pension Contributions		30.85
25-Jul-22	BACS	Donaldsons DIY July account	26.30	
		SALARIES JULY	2,168.89	
		TOTAL	16,212.17	10,321.68
Pending payment on receipt of goods		Euromec - fuel tank and cable	601.44	
Pending Payment		DVLA - road tax	180.00	
Parish Council 2022 - 2023				
Balances Jul-22				
Account	Jul-22			
1 Lloyds - Instant Account	13,186.10			
2 Lloyds - Deposit Account	233,138.69			
3 Petty Cash Account	157.39			
Total	246,482.18			

7.i.1 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr R Higgs, seconded by P/Cllr Mr R Woods

7.i.2 Vote results – unanimous

7.i.3 Resolved – to approve payments as listed

7.i.4 The Clerk had also prepared and presented the first quarterly figures for inspection and comments as follows

Parish Council 2022-2023						
Cash Book Balance as at end March 22						
Account 1	12,931.47					
Account 2	169,332.88					
Petty Cash	122.04					
TOTAL	182,386.39					
Class	Set Budget for 2022-2023	Expenditure	Income	NET EXP APR-JUNE	BUDGET BALANCE JUNE 30th	Notes -
CI CIL Receipts						

and Expenditure						
A1 Audit	700.00	-	-	-	700.00	
B1 Bank Charges	275.00	26.10	-	26.10	248.90	
C1 Capital Equipment	34,463.09	354.75	-	354.75	34,108.34	Replacement Strimmer
C2 Chairmans Allowance	780.00	185.00	-	185.00	595.00	
C3 Christmas Decorations	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	
C4 Council Expenditure - Memorials etc	1,000.00	385.00	-	385.00	615.00	
C5 Councillor Expenses	150.00	-	-	-	150.00	
D1 Defibrillator	550.00	-	-	-	550.00	
D2 Donaldsons DIY	1,000.00	216.70	-	216.70	783.30	
D3 Donations	2,150.00	2,000.00	45.00	1,955.00	195.00	
E1 Election Expenses	15,250.00	-	-	-	15,250.00	
E2 Electricity - Cemetery	1,500.00	148.98	-	148.98	1,351.02	
E3 Electricity - Chambers	3,100.00	2,114.35	-	2,114.35	985.65	
F1 Fuel	2,000.00	877.38	-	877.38	1,122.62	
H1 Highways Verge Maintenance	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	
H2 Hire of Rooms	300.00	60.00	-	60.00	240.00	
I1 Inspections/Maint - Fire Safety	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	
I2 Inspections/Maint - Lift	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	
I3 Inspections/Maint - Play Areas	500.00	166.80	-	166.80	333.20	
I4 Inspections/Maint - SID	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	
I5 Insurance - Public Liability	3,250.00	-	-	-	3,250.00	
I6 Insurance - Vehicles (+ Tax)	2,500.00	1,222.50	-	1,222.50	1,277.50	
JU Jubilee Celebrations	10,000.00	3,697.22	-	3,697.22	6,302.78	
L1 Legal Fees	10,250.00	-	-	-	10,250.00	

M1 Maintenance - Allotments	2,000.00	-	-	-	2,000.00	
M2 Maintenance - CCTV	150.00	-	-	-	150.00	
M3 Maintenance - Cemetery	2,000.00	1,338.59	-	1,338.59	661.41	
M4 Maintenance - Chambers	8,000.00	167.74	-	167.74	7,832.26	
M5 Maintenance - Nilfisk Machine	3,000.00	269.72	-	269.72	2,730.28	
M6 Maintenance - Playing Fields	2,000.00	420.00	60.00	360.00	1,640.00	
M7 Maintenance - Polaris	3,000.00	-	-	-	3,000.00	
M8 Maintenance - Supplies	1,000.00	60.09	-	60.09	939.91	
M9 Maintenance - Village	1,650.00	390.19	-	390.19	1,259.81	
MP Maintenance - Digital	700.00	599.99	-	599.99	100.01	
MI Miscellaneous	250.00	2,000.00	136.00	1,864.00	-1,614.00	Cricket Donation
N1 NIC and PAYE	10,000.00	1,569.24	-	1,569.24	8,430.76	
O1 Office Supplies	1,600.00	26.34	-	26.34	1,573.66	
P1 Parish Hospitality	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	
P2 Pension Contributions	3,100.00	753.01	339.36	413.65	2,686.35	
P3 Pest and Weed Control	2,000.00	569.64	-	569.64	1,430.36	
P4 Phone	1,500.00	285.69	-	285.69	1,214.31	
P9 Public Works Loan	7,700.00	3,835.66	-	3,835.66	3,864.34	
R1 Rates - Cemetery	1,000.00	499.00	-	499.00	501.00	
R2 Rates - Chambers		-	-	-	-	
R3 Rates - Village Green	1,000.00	499.00	-	499.00	501.00	
S1 Salaries	40,000.00	7,907.23	-	7,907.23	32,092.77	
S2 Staff Clothing	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	
S3 Staff Training	800.00	-	-	-	800.00	
S4 Staff Travel	125.00	1.50	-	1.50	123.50	
S5 Subscriptions	300.00	-	-	-	300.00	
T1 Tree Works	7,500.00	1,000.22	-	1,000.22	6,499.78	
W1 Water - Allotments	600.00	51.81	-	51.81	548.19	
W2 Water -	250.00	18.38	-	18.38	231.62	

Cemetery						
W3 Water - Chambers	400.00	-	-	-	400.00	
Total	106,831.00	33,717.82	580.36	33,137.46	73,693.54	
Grand total	106,831.00					
Other Income		Actual	Forecast			Comments
Q1 Rent - Allotments			variable			
Q2 Rent - Playing Fields			150.00			Due Jan 2023
Q3 Rent - Village Green			0.00			
Q4 Rent - Western Power		170.00	170.00			
Q5 HMRC (VAT return)		1,542.26	variable			
Q6 Other income - donations/library fines		18.00	variable			
Z1 Bank Interest		5.60	variable			
Z2 Bus Shelter Cleaning Income			0.00			Service not currently provided to Ghale
Z3 Cemetery Income		833.72	variable			
Z4 Grass Cutting Income			0.00			
Z5 Lincs County Council Library		5,167.00	0.00			
Z6 NKDC - Grants (Litter pick)			0.00			
Z8 NKDC - Precept		52,740.00	0.00			
Z9 Photocopying Charges Income			variable			
Total Income to date		60,476.58				
Total Income to date(excl precept)		7,736.58				
Balances Jun 2022	actual					
Account						

1 Lloyds - Instant Account	9,042.98					
2 Lloyds - Deposit Account	243,138.69					
3 Petty Cash Account	164.7					
Total	252,346.37					
	Start of year	Current balance				
Capital Equipment	34,463.09					
CIL	6,746.21					
Election Expenses	15,250.00					
Legal Expenses	10,250.00					
Chambers Maintenance	8,000.00					
Cemetery	30,000.00					
C4 Council Memorials	1,000.00					
H1 Highways Verge Maint	1,000.00					
I2 Inspections Lift	1,000.00					
R1,2,3 Rates	2,000.00					
T1 Tree Works	5,000.00					
Jubilee Celebrations	10,000.00					
Total Ringfenced	124,709.30	-				
New Balance	127,637.07				(actual cash book balance minus ringfence)	
Forecast spend Jul-Mar	90,000.00	(based on 3 months of 10K)		90,000.00		
New balance	37,637.07				(actual new balance minus forecast spend)	
					(to carry over as 'spare	

					reserves')	
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(Please contact the office for a paper copy)

- 7.i.5 The current overspend on item 'MI - Miscellaneous' was explained and accepted to be the additional and ad hoc donation to the Cricket Club as previously ratified.
- 7.i.6 No other queries were raised and the quarterly figures were accepted as presented.
- 7.ii. To consider quotes for electricity providers send by Utility Aid brokers.
- 7.ii.1 The various energy supply options and quotes had previously been circulated to Councillors
- 7.ii.2 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr R Higgs, seconded by P/Cllr Mr R Kemmett
- 7.ii.3 Vote results – unanimous
- 7.ii.4 Resolved – for the Clerk to instruct Utility Aid brokers to transfer to the energy supplier considered the best value for money as per their quoted figures at the appropriate time. (Contract with Total Gas and Power ends November 2022, and will transfer to EDF at that time.)**
- 7.iii To discuss and accept Insurance renewal quote
- 7.iii.1 It was re-stated that Came & Company specialise in Council Insurance and therefore remain best placed to provide advice to the Council.
- 7.iii.2 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr R Higgs, seconded by P/Cllr Mr R Woods
- 7.iii.3 Vote results – unanimous
- 7.iii.4 Resolved – for the Clerk to accept the quote and advice as proposed by Came & Company to renew the Councils Insurance Policy with Hiscox at a cost of £2370.20.**
- 7.iv To review Financial Regulation 11.h in respect of spending/quote limits
- 7.iv.1 The advice detailed in the internal auditor's report was considered.
- 7.iv.2 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr A Garlick, seconded by P/Cllr Mr R Higgs
- 7.iv.3 Vote results unanimous
- 7.iv.4 Resolved – to revise and adopt the Financial Regulation 11.h, based on the internal auditor's advice**
- 7.iv.5 The Chairman reported that she had received confirmation that the initial costs for the materials in relation to the project to repurpose the old play area, had risen in line with general price rises. As the project is run by LCC, the Parish Council does not have a choice in which contractor is used for this work and the overall project had already been agreed. Therefore, the general increase to the cost of the materials was agreed to be inevitable in the current climate.
- 8. To receive a report from the Police – none present, but the C/Cllr Key reported that he was aware that there were some very active (relationship) money scams currently working and that people should be very cautious.**

9. To receive a report from the County Councillor and District Councillors

- 9.1 The C/Cllr was thanked for his involvement with highlighting the concerns about the Burton Road planning application with the Senior Development Management Officer, although he informed the meeting that he was very restricted in the type of comments he can make.
- 9.2 He reported that consideration was being given to reducing the speed limit on Howell (Heckington Road) from 60mph to at least 40mph and the Parish Council gave general support to this proposal.
- 9.3 He reported that some changes in staffing were proposed at the Sleaford Fire Station and that a consultation was taking place from July to August.
- 9.4 He wished the Heckington Show committee a successful weekend and thanked all the volunteers involved in some way.
- 9.5 The D/Cllr reported that she had met with residents of Stirling Court in respect of the Burton Road application and confirmed that she could only 'call it in' when there were strong planning issues, but would try her best to help raise the concerns.
- 9.6 She thanked the residents for offering cold drinks to the dustbin men during the very hot weather recently.

District Councillors left the meeting at 20.10pm

10. To receive a report from the Clerk

- 10.1 The Clerk reported a late received planning application approval reference number 22/0780/FUL and that the Solar Farm proposal representatives are scheduled to be at the Show for any questions.
- 10.2 The Clerk presented figures resulting from the recent ARCHER traffic report from the High Street, which concluded that the 4048 vehicles that passed in the week were travelling at an average speed of 21.9mph. There had only been one recorded collision in the area which was non-fatal. The conclusion was that there were not sufficient grounds to implement any fixed or mobile speed enforcement actions.
- 10.3 P/Cllr Mr A Garlick presented figures collated from the new SID devices on Sleaford Road and on Boston Road which indicated that the devices were having a positive effect in slowing drivers down. The Boston Road device recorded that 93% of inbound traffic, and 68% of outbound traffic was travelling at less than 30mph.

11. To receive reports from Councillor's relating to their affiliation to local organisations.

- 11.1 As item 10.3 above.

12. Planning Matters (The Parish Council does not have the power to approve nor reject applications – it is merely a consultee and can submit comments)

(1) Applications to be ratified

- i. 22/0920/TCA – carry out essential works as detailed in attached report – St Andrews Church, St Andrews Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
- ii. 22/0892/TPO – T1 Lime – reduce canopy by 2-3m – Land between 43 Millers Way and 32 Bramley Close, Heckington, Sleaford Lincolnshire, NG34 9JG
- iii. 22/0928/HOUS – PROPOSED ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT GARAGE – 46 Kyme Road, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RS
- iv. 22/0954/TCA – G1 – reduce conifers height by 1 metre below previous cuts; T1 – reduce Cherry by 2 metres; T2 – Prune weeping Birch off roof – 4 Cowgate, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9RL (RH declared an interest)
- v. 22/0748/FUL – Receipt of amended details – Millview medical Centre, 1 Sleaford Road, Heckington
- vi. 22/0990/TCA – T1 Ash – fell – 99 High Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9QU
- vii. 22/0746/OUT – Erection of 1 dwelling (outline with means of access to be considered) – 16 Burton Road, Heckington, Sleaford

(2) Applications approved

- I. 22/0426/FUL – Proposed change of use of land to allow for the siting of 2 no. shepherd's huts and 1 no. timber structure to be used as a holiday/spiritual retreats and associated activity room – Court Row Barn, Kyme Road, Heckington Fen
- II. 22/0581/ADV – Erection of illuminated sign displaying business names (Revision of 21/1783/ADV – Erection of illuminated sign displaying business name (restrospective)) – Abby Parks Farm Shop, Boston Road, East Heckington
- III. 22/0704/HOUS – Erection of single storey rear extensions with room in the roof – 18 Oak Way, Heckington, Sleaford

(3) Applications refused

- i. None received

(4) Applications withdrawn

- i. None received

(5) Prior notifications received (information only – no action required from HPC)

- i. None received

(6) Planning appeals

None received

13. To formally agree offering new allotment tenants an initial 'rent-free' period in order to tidy plots

13.1 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr T Atkinson, seconded by P/Cllr Mr M West

13.2 Vote results – unanimous

13.3 Resolved – to offer new allotment tenants an initial 'rent-free' period in order to tidy plots

14. To discuss on going costs of groundwork machinery – Nilfisk

- 14.1 The Chairman had previously notified Councillors of mechanical issues with the groundworks machinery (Nilfisk) via emails.
- 14.2 She explained to the meeting that the current machine has completed 5 seasons of work and it has recently broken down and required new a new fuel tank amongst many other parts.
- 14.3 Research information compiled by P/Cllr Mrs J Palmer in conjunction with the Vice Chairman had confirmed that, after looking at 5 other companies and machines, the only suitable replacement machine was an updated version of the same model from supplier Euromec.
- 14.4 She confirmed that at each precept meeting, a budget amount was added to the Capital Equipment reserves for this purpose and that it currently stood at £34,000.00.
- 14.5 She presented the quoted likely cost for a new machine (with a part exchange for the current machine) as £45,290.00
- 14.6 The remains of the budget for Jubilee celebrations is circa £6,000.
- 14.7 Any stock parts currently held by HPC would continue to fit the new machine.
- 14.8 The lead time for delivery would be 5-6 months as the machine comes from Denmark.
- 14.9 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr R Woods, seconded by P/Cllr Mrs M Cooke that any new order is put on hold until the end of this season.
- 14.9.1 Vote results – 2 x for, remainder against – not carried
- 14.10 Proposed by P/Cllr Mr R Higgs, seconded by P/Cllr Mr R Kemmett
- 14.11 Vote results – 5 x for, 2 x against – carried by majority
- 14.12 Resolved – that, for the purposes of value for money, the Chairman continued financial negotiations with Euromec and to agree placing an order up to £45,290 (with part exchange) for new machine, on the following basis -**
- other quotes had been sourced but the alternative machines were not suitable due to size and specifications
 - Euromec is the supplier of this specific machine and its parts
 - the current stock parts will not be wasted as they will fit the new machine
 - the current machine will likely require continuing maintenance at high costs due to its age
 - less money will be gained in part exchange over the next few seasons as the machine gets older

Intentionally blank – please go to next page...

There followed an interruption to the meeting, which P/Cllr Mrs M Cooke has requested form part of the minutes. The following is transcribed from the audio recording of the meeting.

Transcript starts at 58 mins 15 seconds

JP And funnily enough, this is what we found last time, which is why we ended up with the Nilfisk last time. Because of the size issue. They just don't make smaller, you know, they're humungous, some of them. I can't remember the name of the company, but we've done a full report. Because obviously we have to do due diligence, which we have employed to make sure that there isn't anything better on the market for our needs. And sadly, there isn't.

RW Seeing as we've just spent a lot of money, can we not defer it for 3 months

JP Well if we do, yeah we could, but if we do then the delivery won't be until the April/May/June next year. The lead time on them, they're made in Denmark, the lead time on them is...let me just tell you...yeah...its like 5 or 6 months....let me just tell you...if I can find it on the thing, I will tell you...30 weeks.

RW Yeah, we should get the money's worth out of.....

MC Excuse me - Did I just hear...did you say 'bitch' ?

AK I thought I heard that too

MC Did you say...something, you bitch ?

Resident – yes I was talking to Judy

AK I heard it here

MC I'm sorry, I am not accepting that full stop. Last time I was here someone called me a wanker, and now I have just heard 'something...you bitch'

JP I'm sorry, I didn't hear it, but no, that is not acceptable

MC I am not sitting here, giving up my time listening to somebody, a man, refer to - me? Janet? Any woman in this room as a bitch

JP Would you like to withdraw that statement Mr XX...

Resident – if that was interpreted that way, yes

MC I don't know any other way that a man will listen and say, when a woman is talking, 'bitch'

Resident – well...

MC *Not accepting that*

Resident – so you haven't heard the expression 'life's a bitch'?

MC *You weren't talking about life.*

Resident – I was talking about this situation

MC *No you weren't. I heard what you said*

JP *Well, at the end of the day Mr XX, you shouldn't be talking in the meeting anyway. I did ask for people to keep their comments to the public participation, because its most distracting for Julie to make notes, for a start.*

MC *I'd like it minuted, it wasn't minuted and I let it go last time that we were called wankers, but I want that minuted*

JP *Yep it will be Mandy. Are you happy to accept Mr XX's apology or would you like me to ask him to leave*

MC *....but I don't want to hear it again*

JP *No. Right. OK. Well, I'm sorry, as I say I actually didn't hear but...that doesn't make it any better. It was probably aimed at me anyway, so anyway, whatever. So back to this Nilfisk.....*

Transcript ends at 1 hour, 1 min, 28 seconds

15. Update on churchyard transfer to NKDC – discussion of email from Waste And Street Scene Manager and to agree to seek further legal advice

15.1 Since the agenda item, it had been found that the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance will cover the area until NKDC assume full responsibility for the area. Therefore no resolution was made.

16. To confirm the next full Council meeting as Monday 26th September 2022

16.1 Now that restrictions have lifted, it was confirmed that the meeting would return to the regular format and location. Therefore, the next meeting was confirmed as **Monday 26th September 2022 at 7pm, and to be held in the Parish Council Chambers, St Andrews Street, Heckington, Sleaford NG34 9RE**

17. To resolve to go into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

17.1 Item not required

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a good Show weekend and holiday. She closed the meeting at 2030hrs

Signed by the Chairman **Date**