

High Legh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5 July 2021 at High Legh Village Hall

Present: M Cooper (Chairman)
T Harrison S Ruddock
N Hennerley J Sykes
J Morton J Tuck
R Wright

In attendance: D Walker (Clerk) and A Braddock and Mrs Batchelor and 6 parishioners
Apologies: Cllr Adams and Borough Cllr K Parkinson

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May were confirmed.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wright for the Village Hall and Cllr Harrison for HS2/NPR.

3. Police

PCSO Emma Darroch reported a burglary on 6 May at a farm. Some black bags containing cannabis materials had been found on Moss Lane. Emma asked if residents see anything suspicious, they should report it to Council and police. At present Emma can't enforce speed as CE have lost 140 TROs. The police are monitoring speed and HGVs. The Rural Crime Team are also out and about at night. If anyone sees a dead badger please report immediately to CE.

4. Business from parishioners – none

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Cooper reported on the Regulation 14 Consultation and the Steering Committee meeting. There were mixed opinions and quite a lot of people had thought it was a development plan and a fait accompli. A discussion had taken place on whether the housing portion of the Plan should be left or to carry on. The housing issue was an important point that was raised in the first few surveys. There was a need for housing to be available for people who want to downsize and also for people to afford a first home in High Legh. The Planning Consultant is analysing the almost 2,000 comments and then the Steering Committee will decide the next steps.

6. Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated and Cllr Cooper went through the applications.

New applications:

21/2558M	Mill Farm, Moss Lane	Proposed covered outdoor riding area, conversion of existing storage barn to stabling and new timber stable building
21/2945M	Highgate House, Northwood Lane	Change of use of land to equestrian, including erection of proposed stable-block and menage.
21/2946M	Green Covert, Moss Lane	Two storey side and rear extensions, single storey rear ext and internal and external alterations
21/3134M	10 Robert Moffat	Proposed single storey rear side extension

There were a lot of undecided applications.

Cllr Wright proposed that the PC write to Esther McVey, MP about prior approvals. Cllr Wright to draft. Mr Holden-Ross said that we need to be vigilant about property developers using permitted development rights. Cllr Cooper said that as a PC we have no direct power with Planning. The PC are only asked to comment on certain applications. He encouraged parishioners to comment on the CE Planning website.

7. Traffic Sub-Committee

Cllr Sykes reported that the Inland Border Facility was not being used very much. He will organise for the mobile SID to be put out now that the restrictions have eased. Cllrs Sykes, Adams and Hennerley and the Clerk had attended the Highways Top Up Sessions. It was decided to talk to Cllr Parkinson to see what the priorities were. Highways work scheduled for this financial year:

- Patching on Pheasant Walk from Wrenshot Lane to Egerton.
- Renew road marking/patching – Whitley Lane junction and approach
- Kay Lane junction and approach
- Peacock Lane junction and approach

Cllr Ruddock had contacted TWM re speed data and an engineer will come out. Clerk to write to TWM re problems with the VSAs on the A50.

Clerk had sent a list of gullies which flood to Cllr Parkinson.

8. HS2/NPR

Cllr Hennerley reported that he had organised a successful walk around High Legh and about 90 people had participated. A walk from Lichfield to Wigan also passed through High Legh. HS2 are doing a series of webinars on ground investigations, utilities and update/Hybrid Bill. An event will be held at the Village Hall on 24 July from 12-5pm. Booking is essential.

9. Improvements, Amenities and Appearance Committee

Cllr Wright had reported the weeds on the motorway bridges. Cllr Morton said West Lane had overhanging branches and the pavement was narrow. Weeds all around the village. Cllr Ruddock had asked parents what piece of new equipment they would prefer. Two pieces were chosen. Clerk to contact Ansa. Clerk to contact a contractor to jet wash the Play Area and fingerposts.

Access from Woodlands Crescent to the Belfry field - Cllr Cooper reported that he had met with the residents of No 34 and asked them if they would consider letting the PC buy a strip of their garden to make a footpath. Very kindly they agreed to consider it and at the moment we are trying to get a land surveyor. It would be a fantastic opportunity for the community to benefit. The residents have now put up their own sign. The access is on private land.

A PROW application can take approximately 12 years but could be 15-20 years.

10. HLCA

Gail Coenen joined the meeting on behalf of the HLCA trustees to apologise for recent inappropriate communications from a CAC member who acted without the approval of the trustees and to thank the PC for their support and help in this matter and to explain the situation about the structural survey and where the trustees feel they are at the moment. In a normal landlord/tenant situation, the tenants are responsible for the general maintenance side of the property, and the landlord anything structural. Previously the CA have been able to take both these responsibilities, making the decisions about what needed to be done, when and how, and making recommendations to the PC. Funding is a separate matter and not what is being discussed. The CA could take on these responsibilities that are normally the landlords because we had volunteers who were competent and happy to do this, working alongside the PC. The recent communications about the structural survey had occurred because the VH maintenance leader was not prepared to take on this responsibility and felt the PC had been wrong to delegate it to the CA previously.

The situation the CA now find themselves in is without a maintenance lead but having been told by the outgoing person that the structural report suggested problems to the Hall that was

an imminent threat to life. Hence an email to the PC asking for confirmation the Hall was safe to remain open, which you confirmed, thank you.

What is important for the PC to understand is that the CA do not have a volunteer who is happy to take the lead on making decisions about what needs to be done structurally to the hall. That's not to say we couldn't help arrange the work, but the decisions about what needs to be done when needs to be passed to the PC for the time being. We have a volunteer to help us with the general maintenance work which is excellent, it's the structural items that were highlighted by the report etc that we cannot take responsibility for at the moment.

The Old School House needs some structural work. It was agreed that Cllrs Sykes and Wright will decide on the priority of work once they have met with a contractor and report back to the CA. Cllr Ruddock offered to help.

11. Climate Change and Environment Committee – a meeting will be held on 6 July.

12. Cycling & Walking

Cllr Hennerley reported that the Group have been meeting every 8 weeks. They strongly recommend that Pheasant Walk, Candelan Way, and part of Wrenshot Lane near the school become a 20mph area. The Cycling group has now had 3 rides and meets on the last Wednesday of the month from the Village Hall at 12.45pm. All abilities and very much a social ride with a choice of both on and off-road routes.

13. Finance

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment retrospectively:

Campbell's	£90.00
HLVH rent	£32.50
ChALC course for clerk	£25.00
CCA subscription	£50.00
Clerk's salary and expenses	£1,635.49

RESOLVED that the following be authorised for payment:

Campbell's	£120.00
Scottish Power electricity	£7.71
HLVH rent	£32.50

All agreed

14. Matters arising from the minutes and reports from councillors

i) Old School House – Cllr Sykes reported that he and Cllr Wright will be meeting a contractor to discuss the work needed following the Structural Survey. The Clerk had asked the gardener to remove the foliage blocking the gate. The hedge which was planted a few years ago was thriving and will be trimmed.

ii) Bus – Cllr Hennerley said that they were waiting for the results of the CE consultation.

iii) Broadband - Although there was a lot of interest (with nearly 200 saying they would be interested) only 38 actually registered.

iv) Communications – meeting arranged for 26 July.

15. New Business

- i) Boundary changes. High Legh will not be affected.
- ii) CE are setting up a Crowdfunding platform with SpaceHive.

16. Date of next meeting: Monday, 13 September at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.