

Minutes of the Husborne Crawley Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2023 in The Reading Room, Husborne Crawley starting at 8pm.

Present: Councillors – T Hopper, G Lang, B O’Rourke, S Pearston & Lyn Lyman (Clerk) and 1 resident.

In attendance: C B Cllr John Baker

After her long stay in hospital, Lyn was welcomed back.

1693. To accept Apologies:

No apologies received.

1693.b Election of Chairman:

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Pearston that Cllr Hopper become chairman for 6 months. This would give other Cllrs time to attend BATPC chairman training should they wish. This was seconded by Cllr Lang with all in agreement.

1694. Co-option of new Councillors:

Following the recent elections, there are vacancies for 3 Parish Cllrs.

Joe Murphy and Matt Taylor had shown interest.

Joe Murphy gave a short presentation as to what he could offer the Parish Council as a Parish Councillor. After discussion he was invited to fill a vacancy and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office form.

1695. To Elect Vice Chairman:

It was proposed by Cllr Hopper that Cllr Murphy become Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr O’Rourke with all in agreement.

1696. To nominate associated positions:

Play Equipment Inspector:	Cllr Hopper
Parish Liaison Representative:	The Clerk
Website:	The Clerk
No formal interaction with church and charity.	

1697. Declaration of Members’ Interests:

a) Declaration of members interest of a non-pecuniary nature:

(Having membership of a club, charity etc or a close relationship). Cllr Pearston – Charity and Reading Room Committee. Cllr Murphy – Reading Room Committee.

b) Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:

(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner). None.

1698. Open Forum:

Residents will have the chance to raise anything relevant to Parish Council business but they will not be able to discuss the subject more than once. A maximum of 2 minutes per subject will be allowed:

None.

1699. **To accept Minutes of previous Meeting:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 22nd May 2023 be signed as a true record of events.

1700. **To consider Matters arising:**

CB Cllr Baker had previously asked for speed checks. Once these have been carried out the data needs to be collated by CBC. Nothing further has been heard re the checks/data.

Action: JB

1701. **To accept accounts:**

Approx balance as at 27th September 2023: £21,041.49.

(Still need to amend the Clerks standing order). £5.28 x 12 (63.36) + further new rate

1702. **To Discuss future expenditure:**

The ongoing maintenance/upkeep of play equipment. Despite ROSPA having carried out their annual safety inspection in May, Ward Cllr Baker had asked for a representative from CBC to also carry out a safety inspection (although it was not known why). Both safety inspections raised the same issues. It was agreed to obtain quotes for any issues raised. Possibly use Wicksteed as they originally installed some of the equipment. Cllr Hopper to advise the Clerk what issues were raised.

Action: LL

Additional Defibrillator: Horsepool Lane residents had shown concern that the present defibrillators were so far away but it was pointed out that they do need an electricity supply. Peter George had said he is happy to carry on liaising with suppliers and looking after the defibrillator at The Reading Room. One village in Northamptonshire have issued every household with a fob which has the access code on it. Cllr Hopper said he will speak to Peter George to see what his thoughts are.

Action: TH

First Aid Training: Consideration needs to be given to trainers and what they offer as residents want to be trained on how to use defibrillators not just general first aid. Cllr Hopper will speak to Peter George and Peter Jones.

Action: TH

Donations for maintenance/upkeep of St James Church: After discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £200 to the church to help towards expenses. The blue sign outside the church was discussed and it was wondered whether the donation may be used for this as it now needs updating. Cllr Hopper agreed to speak to Peter George.

Action: TH

1703. **To discuss the state of paths on Turnpike Road:**

A meeting had been held with Ian Dalgarno regarding the footpath on Turnpike Road, Cllr Hopper and Ian Mills were also in attendance. The width/state of the footpath was discussed. A lot of the trees are owned by Bedford Estate. Some are privately owned too. Ward Cllr Baker will speak to CBC. Karen Rance at Bedford Estate is very helpful.

It was suggested a running log regarding the footpath be kept. School Travel plan/policy has been requested so it give more chance of getting things done.

1704. **To accept Reports:**

Ward Cllr Baker: At present they are campaigning to keep Ridgmont Lower School open although they do not have many pupils. CBC have a duty to keep it open.

5,000 homes in Marston Valley may not begin for a few years.

Planning for the Warehouse at Ridgmont is ongoing.

Ward Cllrs Bongo and Baker have been campaigning to get improvements made at M1 Junction 13.

CBC may be reviewing sizes of Parish Councils possibly around July 2024. We need to consider what number of Cllrs would suit our village. Whether 7 is fine or maybe 5. It was agreed 7 was the preferred number.

Potholes have been repaired in School Lane etc. Horsepool and roundabout by the White Horse. Speed limits need re-painting on the roads. Ward Cllr Baker will follow this up.

Action: JB

Perennial grass cutting: there are two teams cutting the grass - rural and urban teams doing two different areas. He is looking into this. The Clerk pointed out an area on Bedford Road which in fact doesn't get cut by either team.

St James Church: Harvest service on Sunday, followed by bring & share lunch at the Reading Room. Jazz night and various training sessions are to take place.

Speedwatch: Cllr Pearston said the sid has now been repaired and returned. Speedwatch sessions will re-commence next month.

1705. **To consider Correspondence / Planning:**

No items to consider.

1706. **Date of next meetings:**

Wednesday 22nd November 2023 starting at 8pm. Cllr Murphy gave his apologies.

Meeting closed: 9.40pm

T Hopper
Chairman