

These are the unadopted Crookham Village Parish Council Minutes of the 4 December 2023, held at 7.45 pm in the WI Hall, The Street, Crookham Village. Please refer to the Minutes of the January 2024 meeting for any amendments.

Present: Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman)
Cllr. Julia Ambler
Cllr. Philip Ashton
Cllr. Peter Bradley
Cllr. David Jackson
Cllr. Dr. Indra Sinka
Mrs. Angela Sayers (RFO)
Mrs. Carol Leversha (Clerk)

In attendance HCC Cllr. Stephen Parker and HDC Cllr. Tina Collins (in place of Cllr. Makepeace-Browne) and two residents of the parish.

MIN.179/23 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Friend sent apologies due to another work engagement. Apologies accepted.

MIN.180/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised he had attended a HALC meeting last Saturday, and two issues had arisen of concern. Events management – Risk Assessments will be required for gatherings of a certain number but both the people running the event and also the people who own the venue must do a risk assessment. HALC will be offering training on this. Resilience planning – Cllr. Ashton has put his name down for the training offered in January. This event is an attempt to join up of all the emergency plans drawn up by councils. He reminded Members of a letter received in relation to grant cuts for HVA and asking Parishes to raise concerns to this proposal. Members were concerned at this possibility and were happy to support the letter.

MIN.181/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6 NOVEMBER 2023

The Chairman referred to these page by page. Min. 160/23 to Min. 178/23 were then agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MIN.182/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA & DELEGATION OF DISPENSATION TO THE PROPER OFFICER (CLERK)

The Chairman advised Members to consider whether they had any disclosable interest in matters on the agenda and if so to declare them now or at the appropriate point on the agenda.

MIN.183/23 CONSIDER CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The Chairman reminded Members of their obligation to consider crime and disorder implications on any decision they might make at this meeting.

MIN.184/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (maximum of 3 minutes per speaker).

The Chairman asked permission to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

One resident asked about the enforcement in relation to the caravan on the Nyasaland site. She was advised that Cllr. Makepeace-Browne was following up on this. The residents thanked the Council for winning all 3 Nyasaland appeals. The other resident said enforcement had advised that there was a notice to be served as soon as the Inspector made his decision on Nyasaland. The resident asked about the thermal camera offered by Hart and was advised that a bid had been made to borrow it at the Climate Change meeting, but nothing further has been heard. He also enquired about the double yellow lines mentioned on the agenda. Cllr. Parker said extension of yellow lines needed a Traffic Regulation Order and he would need to be requested to initiate action. Cllr. Parker said if Members become aware of the need for new TROs, he will happily put it/them forward for consideration. His current focus is to try to make sure that we do not find ourselves repaying S106 money to a developer. In relation to Watery Lane there is no time element on S106.

The Chairman then re-convened the meeting.

MIN.185/23 NEWSLETTER

Cllr. Jackson advised this should now be done for early new year and 31 December is the deadline for contributions but the earlier the better. Articles promised so far are:

Arts Festival, CAB, Speed watch, Hareshill Community Centre, Solar panels and potentially an advert for Admin assistant.

MIN.186/23 RECRUITMENT (Assistant Clerk)

Cllr. Ambler said this was an information item. Our initial advert had brought in applications from abroad. The role has now been defined to a sensible point where we know the sort of person we want, and this is covered in the most recent advert for an Admin Assistant. Cllr. Jackson proposed that we put a QR code on the advert which would take applicants straight to the Council website.

MIN.187/23 HARESHILL COMMUNITY BUILDING (update)

Cllr. Julia Ambler advised this is going pretty well. There is still some work to do before it will be ready for handover and the front door is expected to be fitted in mid-February. Hart have been very supportive and have people working on our behalf, on the legal side of things. Members and staff are welcome to visit and have a look and a date will be offered in January. Cllr. Jackson asked about items required for its operation and was advised that we will have costs for the initial budget meeting. The RFO mentioned that Members need to decide whether to Tax the building when we acquire it. The Chairman asked if the Harehill budget required a separate meeting to consider it in depth and it was agreed that the RFO would meet with Cllr. Julia Ambler for this purpose.

MIN.188/23 CONSERVATION AREA (update)

Cllr. Julia Ambler advised that she was pleased to say that the latest and final draft has been produced and sent to Hart for comments. She wished to thank Cllrs. Jackson, Dr. Sinka and the Clerk for their invaluable assistance in proof reading it. She would like the document as it currently stands on the Website and this will kick start the consultation process. The Chairman will notify all the original respondents that there is a new version as well as other interested parties. It is hoped that it will get to Hart Cabinet for the 1 February 2024. Comments should be back in January and the Consultation statement put to Cabinet for adoption. Cllr. Jackson said he has a pdf shrinking programme which he could offer for sharing the document.

The Chairman said amongst all the thanks should be thanks to Cllr. Julia Ambler for the hundreds of hours she had spent on this document. These thanks were echoed by staff and Members.

MIN.189/23 SOLAR PV & HEAT PUMP PROJECT (update)

The Chairman advised we are still awaiting the scoping project brief which has been delayed. The consultant has advised he is now returning to work, and we are top of his list to action.

Meanwhile, we still await action from Npower in relation to an Export Meter and we await the issue of a DNO (which can take some months) for the Community Centre.

MIN.190/23 FINANCE**(i) Report of the RFO**

The RFO provided the following reports to the Council.

(ii) October 2023 Accounts**Notes****Income**

- 1) Bank Interest – Interest of £671.11 received on our Business Reserve Account

Expenditure

- 1) Professional Fee includes a payment to Menzies for £550 for VAT advice on the Apr – May – June 23 return.
- 2) *S137 – Chairman Allowance £40 to Poppy Appeal – BACS 27th Oct 23

September 2023

Balance sheet at Year End 31/10/23

Income & Expenditure Account for the month of October 2023 as detailed below.

Summary of Actual expenditure against budget for 01/04/23 to 31/10/23 with detailed notes against each cost.

Payments made in the month reconciliation – October 2023

Payments made in October 2023

Date	Num	Name	Net	Category
30/10/2023	DD	Orange Pixel	40.00	Website / Hosting
17/10/2023	DD	Orange Pixel	10.00	Website / Hosting
01/10/2023	DD	Hart District Council	524.00	Rates
16/10/2023	DD	Bank line	8.40	Bank charges
16/10/2023	DD	Intuit	42.00	Account Software
16/10/2023	DD	Npower	55.48	electricity
16/10/2023	DD	Castle Water	109.18	Water Rates
16/10/2023	DD	vodafone	86.10	Telephone/ Broadband
27/10/2023	DD	Total Energies	144.15	Gas
27/10/2023	DD	Payroll	5,837.81	Payroll
27/10/2023	BACS	Mobile fun	18.30	Website / Hosting
27/10/2023	BACS	Argent Creative Marketing Ltd	80.00	Website / Hosting
27/10/2023	BACS	Yateley Fencing	375.00	Repairs
27/10/2023	BACS	Larkstel Ltd	449.00	Refuse

27/10/2023	BACS	Crown conservatories & Windows	173.35	Repairs
27/10/2023	BACS	T3 Handyman	261.00	Repairs
27/10/2023	BACS	Viking	298.50	stationery/consumables
27/10/2023	BACS	Town & Countrycleaning Limited	1,093.04	Cleaning
27/10/2023	BACS	Menzies	550.00	Professional fees
27/10/2023	BACS	JRB Enterprise Ltd	498.00	street furniture maintenance
27/10/2023	BACS	Hart Roofing	390.00	Repairs
27/10/2023	BACS	*Royal British Legion fleet	40.00	Chairmans allowance
27/10/2023	BACS	Comfort Building Services Ltd	169.00	Electrics & Plumbing
27/10/2023	BACS	Richard Thorpe Fire Safety Services	166.00	Fire alarm maintenance
27/10/2023	BACS	K M Electrics	130.00	Electrics & Plumbing
27/10/2023	BACS	A Fisk	633.81	Communal Maintenance
27/10/2023	BACS	Sunshine Commercial Services Ltd	1,090.29	Grounds Maintenance
27/10/2023	BACS	HAGS SMP	60.00	Play Area Maintenance
23/10/2023	CHQ	Petty Cash Float	125.00	Petty Cash Float
		Total	13,457.41	

**Crookham Village Parish Council
Income & Expenditure Account
October 2023**

	<u>Total</u>
Income	
Bank Interest Earned	671.11
Hire of Facilities	5,289.70
Hire of Pitches	816.30
Total Income	<u>£ 6,777.11</u>

Expenditure	
Asset Maintenance and Repairs	2,657.10
Office Expenses	446.80
Professional Fees	600.40
Property Maintenance	2,871.36
Property Services	918.91
Salaries	5,837.81
*Sections 137	40.00
Total Expenditure	<u>£ 13,372.38</u>

Notes

- Petty Cash Expenditure in the month £39.97
- Petty Cash Float Advance £125.00
- Direct Debit authorisation – minute reference (Min. 027/23)
- *S137 the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 & 139 of the LGA 1972 should incur the above expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with said expenditure.
RESOLVED: The report of the RFO was agreed.

(iii) Annual Leaf Blowing

Members were updated as to the area to be done and the reasons behind it.

RESOLVED: Leaf blowing to be carried out in the sum of £800.

MIN.191/23 PLANNING

(i) Report of the Planning Committee

Cllr. Jackson presented his report. Nyasaland had been refused on all three applications. Lavendar Cottage wanted to replace some of the windows which had been refused by the Conservation Officer at Hart. Alterations at Hareshill will have to come back to the Council.

RESOLVED: The Report of the Planning Committee was agreed.

(ii) RBC 23/00794/REVP – Farnboro Airport Consultation

Cllr. Jackson introduced the application and invited debate. After a very in-depth discussion Members supported Cllr. Jackson's response to the Consultation.

RESOLVED: This Council objects for the following reasons:

- **Because the flow of aircraft movements is not even, the proposed increase in flights would result in protracted periods of intense aircraft movements resulting in a significant increase over existing noise intrusion affecting the area of our parish close to the flight path despite lying outside the plotted noise contours.**
- **The proposed change to numbers of weekend movements would result in a very significant increase in flights at even higher intensity than on other days, especially since weekend traffic tends to bunch at each end of the period.**
- **The business case is weak. The main winner would seem to be the new overseas owner whose investment would instantly increase in value. Meanwhile, enhanced contribution to the local economy would only slowly follow if claimed increases in demand were actually realised. Given that there is still lots of headroom within the current limits, such projections cannot be taken as very reliable nor likely to be realised for many years.**
- **Any revision of current permissions should also address the piercing noise made by certain turboprop aircraft that seem to fall outside current noise constraints.**

MIN.192/23 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATH MATTERS

(i) Lea Green Paths (update)

Cllr. Parker confirmed this is ongoing. Cllr. Jackson had produced a map, and his question was did Members believe this warranted supporting. Cllrs' Ambler had been on site when the school children were using it and there is a higher footfall using the muddy route than the "official" line. Where the developer is funding the upgrade for Fleet Town Council there is a big gap from where our boundary stops, and FTC starts. Cllr. Ashton had visited the site but would do so again at school time. Members were supportive of upgrading this route. Cllr. Bradley was appointed the Lead Member, with support from Cllr. Jackson, to contact FTC and begin a dialogue.

RESOLVED: Explore opportunities to provide this upgrade.

(ii) Dropped kerb – north side of The Street & Hitches Lane (update)

Cllr. Parker confirmed this is ongoing, but it is long term.

(iii) Pathway white lining and renewal of dbi yellow lines

Cllr Jackson briefed Members on both matters. He is going to raising with ZCRA to see if they will contribute towards the costs. The Clerk will seek a price for both jobs but separate the costs out - before the budget meeting.

(iv) F/p 5 – drainage issues

This had been reported to the HCC RoW officers. Cllr. Jackson will provide a photo of the area and Cllr. Parker will follow up when the Clerk gives him the HDC reference number.

MIN.193/23 MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL FACILITIES & LAND

(i) Report from Centre Managers

Report noted.

(ii) ZCC Car Park and Sang Access

The CMs had sent across a short report. The Chairman advised that Hart have not yet taken over the planting of the area, but it is understood that the unauthorised access through our hedge is covered in it. There was a very lengthy debate, but Members agreed to have a Private Car Park sign. Where to site the pole (bearing in mind the vandalised noticeboard from some years ago) will be given consideration. Wording needs to be confirmed.

RESOLVED: Private Car Park sign, fixings and pole to be purchased.

MIN.194/23 INFORMATION SHARING & AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Clerk advised that she had explored all avenues in relation to the possibility of bats in the tree to be felled at The Crescent. As a consequence, she believes we must engage the services of a bat ecologist before our tree contractor will undertake the work.

Meetings for 2024 will be as follows:

WI HALL 8 January - 5 February - 4 March - 8 April - 13 May – **Annual General Meeting**

HARESHILL 3 June **WI** 1 July

HARESHILL 2 Sept **WI** 7 Oct

HARESHILL 4 Nov **WI** 2 Dec

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place between 14 May and 1 June 2024.