

Carsington & Hopton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St Margaret's Church on Monday
23 January 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: H.L. Corbett (Chair), N. Edmiston, S. Mitchell and M. Wilson
Apologies: Councillor R. Miles
Also, in Attendance: Kath Gruber (Parish Clerk)
Councillor J. Rose (DDDC)
Councillor D. Murphy (DCC) from 7.38pm
2 members of the public

FC/0123/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Miles (ill).

FC/0123/02 Variation of Order of Business

None

FC/0123/03 Declaration of Members Interest

None

FC/0123/04 Exclusion of the Public

None

FC/0123/05 Public Speaking

Residents

Introduced themselves as new residents wanting to support the Parish Council.

Councillor Rose

Updated the Council on planning application 22/01011/Full.

Councillor Murphy

- Advised he had funding available.
- Agreed to look into matter of missing white lines on the Bypass.

FC/0123/06 Planning Applications

- a) Planning Applications - The Council discussed application T/22/00203/TCA, 22/01295/LBALT and 22/01213/FUL and **Resolved:** to lodge no objection comments on planning portal.
- b) Proposed solar scheme in Brassington – the Clerk advised the Council's questions had been sent and response awaited.
- c) Planning feedback – the Council discussed the need for openness and consistency and **Resolved:**
 - i. all councillors to response with comments, even if no objection
 - ii. Clerk to lodge comment on every application, even if no objection.

FC/0123/07 Wind Farm Applications

- a) Applications – none
- b) Administrative payment – the Council reviewed current arrangements and options and **Resolved:** that admin fee of £10 for any applications approved rather than 10% of value of grant.

FC/0123/08 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council **agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022 are a correct record under the provisions for approval and signed by the Chair

FC/0123/09 Budget Setting

- a) Draft budget for 2023/24 – the Council discussed the budget in detail and **Resolved:**
 - To approve the budget
 - To scrutinise variances against budget where occur
 - To transfer windfarm interest to current account
- b) Precept Options – the Council discussed the options in the report and **Resolved:** to increase precept by 4% on the basis of:
 - The tax base has decreased very slightly (probably due to small change in council tax support claims).
 - UK inflation rate will remain well above 3% for the whole of 2023 and the current forecast is that it will not return to target [2%] until mid-2025.
 - Carsington & Hopton Parish Council costs will rise as a result of inflation and it is financially prudent to keep in line with inflation.
 - A 4% increase equates to a £1.71 increase per annum which is 14p per month more than last year
 - Some large projects consulted on are coming to fruition in 2023/24 and will incur additional revenue costs of

FC/0123/10 Village Matters

- a) Defibrillators:
 - Hopton – Councillor Miles has replaced the light.
 - Carsington –Councillor Edmiston is arranging installation of new cabinet with contractor.
- b) Jubilee Tree plaque – Cllr Mitchell advised he had started work on this .
- c) Dog Waste – no issues reported.
- d) Donated Bulbs – the Council **Resolved:** to thank the Rotary for their generous donation of crocus bulbs, symbolising the eradication of polio and promote once bulbs flowered.
- e) Village planting budget – the Council reviewed the budget allocation and agreed that additional monies not required at this stage.
- f) Asset Register – it was noted that the handle to the Hopton noticeboard was broken as the wood had swollen due to weather conditions. It was **Resolved:** to arrange for the handle to be fixed when weather improves.

FC/0123/11 Village Plan Projects

- a) Speed Watch – Cllr Edmiston advised he was seeking an additional volunteer, and once that person trained, sessions would be scheduled for Spring.
- b) Options for replacing Badgers – Councillor Edmiston advised meeting with working group in Feb and he will bring a proposal to the March meeting.
- c) Bug Hotel – it was noted that contractor is extremely busy and efforts to contact him continue.

FC/0123/12 Report of the Clerk

Action Plan – progress noted.

FC/0123/13 Finance

- a) Payment of invoices - the Council considered the monthly payments as attached at Schedule 1 and approved the payments.
- b) Receipts – the Council noted receipts.
- c) Budget Summary – reviewed and noted.
- d) Bank Reconciliation – noted.

FC/0123/14 Correspondence

- a) General and Resident correspondence – reviewed and noted.
- b) The Council noted the contents of Dalc December 2022.

- c) Warm space initiative – the Council agreed there was no suitable venue for this.
- d) External Auditor – the Council noted the appointment of PKF.
- e) Public Path Order 14 – contents noted.

FC/0123/15 Items for information only/Next Agenda
None

FC/0123/17 Date and Time of Next meeting

Resolved: that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 27 March 2023 at 7pm in Saint Margaret's Church, Carsington. Councillor Corbett advised her attendance was dependent on lambing.

Meeting closed 7.52pm

SCHEDULE 1 – Payments

Code	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Insurance	Hiscox Insurance	65.35		65.35
IT Costs	Cloud Next	110.00	22.00	132.00
Expenses	Staff	15.30		15.30
Postage	Post Office	3.70		3.70
Subscription Costs	Nigel Davis	12.00		12.00
PAYE	HMRC	49.33		49.33
IT Costs	Adobe	18.96		18.96
Grounds Maintenance	Charles S Tallis	720.00		720.00
Salary	Staff	391.94		391.94
Pension	B&CE Pension	31.81		31.81
Subscription Costs	ICO	35.00		35.00
Pension	B&CE Pension	31.81		31.81
Insurance	Hiscox Insurance	65.35		65.35
Wind Farm Grant	Unity Bank			
Wind Farm Grant	St Margarets Churc	2,440.00		2,440.00
Church Hire	St Margarets Churc	110.00		110.00
Salary	Staff	318.94		318.94
Website	Cloud Next	49.98	10.00	59.98
Defibrillator	A Deptford	500.00	100.00	600.00
Bank Charges	Unity Bank	18.00		18.00
Insurance	Hiscox Insurance	65.35		65.35
Salary	Staff	338.82		338.82
Office Supplies	Kath Gruber	23.43		23.43
Postage	Post Office	2.05		2.05
Floral Displays	K&T Phillips-Moul	127.50		127.50
		Tot 5,544.62	132.00	5,676.62