

# Hulland Ward Parish Council

[www.hullandwardpc.co.uk](http://www.hullandwardpc.co.uk) – Email: [parishclerk@hullandwardpc.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@hullandwardpc.co.uk) – Tel: 07938 808730

## Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at Hulland Ward Millennium Village Hall On Monday 5 February 2024 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Cllr P Birkbeck (Chair), Cllrs: D Astle, D Balls, A Champion (Vice-Chair), k Dean and J Morgan, Cllr D Murphy (DCC) Mr T Sadler (representing Hulland Village) 1 Member of the Public. Mrs B Kirkham (Clerk)

### 1. Attendance & Apologies

Cllr Birkbeck welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs M Atkin, S Morgan and Ms L Redfern (representing Biggin Parish)

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on the 8 January 2024

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8 January 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

### 3. Outstanding items from the previous meeting

There were no outstanding items from the previous meeting.

### 4. Declaration of interests

Cllr Birkbeck declared a non-pecuniary interest as a School Governor. Cllr Champion declared a non-pecuniary interest as a clergyman in the Diocese of Derby.

### 5. Briefings/Comments:

#### a) District and County Councillors

Cllr Murphy was pleased to inform the Council that work on the Muggington Lane End/Intakes Lane Crossroads would take place before the end of the financial year. Work on improved road markings at Hulland Hollow were behind schedule, this was due to weather conditions. Four planning officers had now left the District Council, this was likely to impact on planning matters. The sheer volume and scale of potholes had been overwhelming; but many had now been repaired. Cllr Murphy was thanked for his work particularly in campaigning about pothole repairs.

#### b) Invited comments from Hulland and Biggin Parishes

Mr Sadler urged residents to support the local shops as they were a great asset to Hulland Ward and the surrounding villages. The Farm shop had recently won a Pork Pie award.

#### c) Invited comments from the public

There were no comments from members of the public.

### 6. Village Development:

#### a) Planning Appeal approval for 15 houses on land off Biggin View

There was no further information available, but it was noted that access to the site would be via the main road.

#### b) Update on Wheeldon Way Development

All 3-bedroom properties appear to have been sold off plan. The company are reluctant to speak to the Parish Council.

**7. Village Image & Environment:****a) Play Area Update**

Regular Inspections were being carried out and it was reported that the whole play area and the muga needed pressure washing. Clerk to obtain a quote for the work. The fence between the footpath and playing field still needs attention. Feedback from the Parish Council following the ROSPA Play Area inspection had been passed to the company concerned who had acknowledged receipt. **Action: Clerk**

**b) Update on Footpath Maintenance**

Cllr Champion to speak to the Village Handyman and ask for work to be carried out within the next month, so that the cost could be reclaimed under the Minor Maintenance Scheme. **Action: Cllr Champion**

**c) Speeding Issues – signs/community speed watch/speed watch signs/Petition for Average Speed Cameras in the Village**

Some volunteers were reluctant to attend community speed watch sessions during the winter months. Cllr Dean was trying to get groups from different villages to work together. A new initiative suggested turning cameras off on the signs, this means the sign still records speed but does not flash, this tests the impact of the cameras. There was no further news on the average speed cameras, this could be a long-term campaign, the Council discussed the possibility of a petition in Hlland Herald.

**d) Neighbourhood Watch**

Email had been sent out about missing cats in the village.

**e) Completion of the Transfer of the Playing Field to the Parish Council**

This matter to be carried forward to the next meeting.

**f) Potholes around the Village**

Some work has been done to repair many of the potholes. Work only seems to happen to the ones which have been reported. There was concern about the potholes on the estate. Clerk to report to County Highways. **Action: Clerk**

**g) Defibrillator**

Clerk to order new pads for defibrillator. **Action: Clerk**

**h) Moss Lane Flooding Issue**

The issue has been reported several times, there was concern that the road will soon collapse. Culvert and ditch need to be cleaned out. Clerk to report to Highways and request the road be closed or repaired. **Action: Clerk**

**8. Village Hall Committee Update**

Chair and Clerk to attend next Village Hall Committee Meeting. **Action: Chair & Clerk**

**9. Car Park Extension at the Village Hall**

Cllr Balls questioned whether the expenditure to provide an additional 29 car parking spaces was justified, particularly as costs had risen massively in the last 4 years since the plans were first proposed. The speed limit on Dog Lane had now been reduced to 30mph, so the parking on the side of the road should be less dangerous. Cllr Ball suggested that the matter should be discussed more, in the light of a declined use of the Hall, could the expenditure really be justified and was there a real need for additional parking? The Council resolved to discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

**10 Sale of land at Snappers Knowe, appointment of solicitors and clauses to be put on the sale****a) Approval of clauses on the sale of the land**

The Council resolved to accept the covenants as presented to the meeting. Clerk to forward details of the final covenants to the tenant and then forward to the Council's Solicitors. **Action: Clerk**

**b) Appointment of solicitors to act on behalf of the Council on the sale of the land**

The Council resolved to appoint Nigel Davis Solicitors to act on their behalf. **Action: Clerk.**

**11- Finance and Administration:****a) Website/Facebook Page Updates**

There was now a grant of £100 available towards the cost of purchasing a .gov.uk domain name. Clerk to attend briefing session in due course. The new speed sign data had been posted on Facebook and received some interaction from residents.

**b) Local Projects Fund – grant application for new Playing Field Gates**

The Clerk to apply for £1,000 grant towards the cost of new Playing Field gates and posts. **Action: Clerk**

**c) Annual Rent Increases for Parish Council owned land**

The Council resolved to approve a rent increase of 5.2% in line with the December retail price index.

**Action: Clerk**

**d) Approval of draft Village Mowing & Maintenance Contract from 1 April 2024**

The Council resolved to accept the contract as presented. Councillors were prepared to show prospective contractors around the village if a further explanation of the work was required. Clerk to invite tenders from interested parties. Closing date for tenders to be 28 February 2024.

**e) Precept & Budget for 24/25**

Councillors resolved to accept the budget as presented with a precept of £23,000 for 2024/2025.

**Action: Clerk**

**f) Update on Finances**

The balance in the current account was £35,615.75.

**g) Invoices and Expenses for approval at this meeting:**

The Council resolved to approve payment of the following invoices:

Darren Cartwright	404.00
Lester Lowe	132.00
CPRE Annual Subscription	36.00
Clerk's Salary	275.43
Nest Pensions	37.57
Clerk's Expenses	20.25

**12 Review & Update on Capital Projects**

This matter to be carried forward.

**13 Councillor's Reports & Observations**

- The community speed watch group would need more Hi-Viz jackets.
- Parking by some residents on Elm View was causing damage to verges.
- Vehicles parked on verges on Greenway, was causing damage and would make mowing difficult. Cllr Dean to speak to the SNT team. **Action: Cllr Dean**
- Despite lobbying by the Parish Council, it was unlikely that the Police & Crime Commissioner would take any action regarding the narrow entrance to the planned site of 15 houses.
- There were no grit bins on Biggin View, but as these houses were owned by a housing association, it would be their responsibility to provide a grit bin.
- One resident had questioned why the Parish Council had not planted a permanent Christmas tree near the Black Horse.
- It was noted that the Intakes Lane gate and entrance, previously reported, is still visible building work is ongoing
- Residents had questioned whether the Doctors Surgery would be closed permanently. It was understood the Surgery was now owned by a new group. This item to be on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**
- A hedge on intakes Lane near Alter Devil Chapel has been removed.

**14 Clerk's Report & Correspondence**

Most correspondence had been sent out by email including an email from the tenant on land adjoining Cat Hall Farm. The Council would review their capital assets in due course, including this land. The Clerk reported that the council had responsibilities under the Environment Act 2021, more information would be available at the next meeting.

**15 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 4 March 2024 at 7 pm in the Village Hall. Dates for future meetings were agreed as follows: 8 April, 13 May, 3 June, 8 July, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December. The meeting closed at 20:42.

Signed.....

Dated .....