

Hulland Ward Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held remotely on Monday 1 February 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present: Cllr P Birkbeck (Chair); Cllrs: J Scott (Vice-Chair), D Astle, M Atkin, D Lewis, C New and W Ward. Cllr I Ratcliffe (DCC), Ms L Redfern (rep Biggin Parish) and 2 members of the public. Mrs B Kirkham (Clerk)

1 Attendance & Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Morgan, Cllr Bright (DDDC) and Mr T Sadler (rep. Hulland Village)

2 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on the 11 January 2021

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 January 2021 as a true record of that meeting proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr New.

3 Outstanding items from previous meetings

- **Dog Lane sign** – the Clerk confirmed that the installation quote did include ‘pop riveting’ the Council therefore resolved to accept the quote of £170. *Action: Clerk*
- **Planning Application 20/01161/FUL – Blackbrook Farm** the comment on this application was delegated to Cllr Morgan, after looking at the application Cllr Morgan had advised that the Council should submit a ‘no objection’ comment to this application, this had been duly submitted by the Clerk.
- **Vice Chair** – Cllr Scott was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

4 Briefings and Comments

a) District and County Councillors

Cllr Ratcliffe updated Councillors on County Council issues. Cllr Ratcliffe agreed to pass on any information regarding the capital programme funding and possible improvements to the Waterlagg/Intakes Lane crossroads as soon as this was available. Clerk to send Cllr Ratcliffe more information about the outstanding Cultivation Licence application for Smithall Lane. *Action: Clerk*

b) Invited Comments from Hulland and Biggin Parishes

Ms Redfern for Biggin Parish stated that there was concern regarding the number of people visiting the area during the current lockdown, some people were not remaining on official footpaths, some dogs were not on leads and litter was being left behind.

c) Invited Comments from members of the Public

A member of the public stated that he had reported several missing road signs in the area.

Mr Neale reminded the Council that as he was no longer on the Council then someone may need to take on responsibility for inspection of the play area, the Council’s risk assessment should state how often the play area should be inspected.

5 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest on any items on the agenda.

6 Village Development

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

7 Village Image & Environment

a) Publicity Website

The Clerk reported that there was a temporary problem with the website, hopefully this would be rectified shortly.

b) Village Hall Car Park

An additional quote for the work had not been received. Final detailed plans would need to be submitted to the District Council before work could go ahead.

c) Playing Field Encroachment

A meeting was to be arranged with the Chair, Clerk and the residents. If the matter could not be satisfactorily resolved, then it may be necessary for a boundary dispute to be recorded on the property deeds.

d) Speeding Issues – Signs/Community Speed Watch

The police had recently held a speed trap in the village. Cllr Ward to arrange Community Speed Watch training. The battery charger leads had been repaired following vandalism at the village hall. *Action: Cllr Ward*

e) Parish Council Land

Work would go ahead on the fencing shortly. Some residents had installed access gates on to the Slangs Land.

f) Black Horse Triangle

Work by Aggregate Industries on the triangle had now been completed. Clerk to send letter of thanks to Aggregate Industries and the Landlords at the Black Horse Inn. *Action: Clerk*

g) Neighbourhood Watch

Signage had still not been delivered. Cllr Atkin reported that there were some parking issues on Moss Lane; the Greenway parking issue had been resolved satisfactorily. There were numerous scams around at present, some relating to Covid, Cllr Atkin was circulating the information to the Neighbourhood Watch group.

h) Refilling of Grit Bins

A volunteer had come forward with an offer to collect grit from Lester Lowes when they reopen, in the meantime the Clerk was to order grit from the County Council. *Action Clerk*

i) Layby on Smithall Lane

No decision had been received regarding the Cultivation Licence application, Cllr Ratcliffe to follow up.

8 Finance and Administration

a) Update on Finances

The balance in the current account was £20,674.52.

b) Invoices and Expenses for approval at this meeting

The Council approved the following items for payments:

Clerk's Salary	251.18
Nest Pensions	26.52
Clerk's Expenses	25.20

c) Budget for 2021/22

After discussion the Council agreed the budget as presented, but sponsorship may need to be sort to cover the cost of village Christmas trees this year.

d) Precept for 2021/22

The majority of the Council voted to set the precept at £15,500 for the 2021/22 financial year, this was an increase of £1,000. *Action: Clerk*

e) Co-option of New Parish Councillor – criteria and procedure for selection

The Council had received 3 expressions of interest in the Parish Councillor vacancy. The Council agreed to invite all 3 candidates to a short meeting, each candidate would be asked the same questions and then Councillors would be asked to vote.

f) Village Maintenance Contract

The contract was due to expire at the end of March. The Council resolved that the existing contractor should be asked to quote for the work for a further 3 years with the possibility of including the emptying of some of the dog waste bins around Hulland Ward.

g) Rent Increases for Parish Council Land

The Council agreed to apply a rent increase of 0.022% to tenants on Parish Council land.

h) Payroll Provider

The Clerk had obtained several quotes from payroll providers. The Clerk advised the Council to accept a quote of £84 per annum from Jill Marriott, this was duly agreed. *Action: Clerk*

i) Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Council resolved to appoint Jo Taylor as their Internal Auditor. *Action: Clerk*

j) Order for Planters for Summer 2021

The Council resolved to accept a quote for planters for Summer 2021 at a cost of £1,963. The Clerk to ask Plantscape to install the planters before the end of May 2021. *Action: Clerk*

9 Councillor's Reports and Observations

- Question about the road name for the road on the right fork of the Black Horse
- Concern about hole in the hedge at the telephone exchange, Clerk to write to Openreach and request that this is either repaired or a gate erected. *Action: Clerk*
- Food waste caddies had not been collected in Hulland Ward.
- Road repair required on the A517 near White House Farm, Cllr Ward to send video/photos to Clerk. *Action: Cllr Ward & Clerk*
- A suggestion to have a Memorial Garden to commemorate the people who had died as a result of Covid
- How are people being notified about changes to District Council bin collections? Clerk to send out an email to the Parish Council email list regarding changes to bin collections and Cllrs to put notice on village notice board. *Action: Cllrs & Clerk*
- Concern about dogs being exercised off the lead on Moss Lane, which can be dangerous in icy weather as vehicles unable to stop quickly.
- When spring bulbs were flowering Cllrs were asked to note if there were any gabs in planting and report to Cllr Lewis. *Action: Cllrs*
- Western Power would be pruning trees on the slangs on the 10 February, this had previously been agreed by the Parish Council.

10 Correspondence

All correspondence had been sent out by email.

11 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would be on Monday 1 March 2021 at 6.30 pm

Signed Dated 1 March 2021