

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HANKELOW PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 1 JULY 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor G Foster Chair
Councillor I Jones
Councillor A Lee
Councillor D Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public, including Mr J Durrant, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and Borough Councillor Rachel Bailey.

APOLOGIES Councillor C Fitzsimons

18 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Fitzsimons.

19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare any non-pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that business and in respect of disclosable interests to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

No declarations were made.

20 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2019**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7 May 2019 be approved as a correct record.

21 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Order No 1, members of the public were able to ask a question or to make a statement. The following issue was raised:

- Concern was expressed about the content of the letter received from Antoinette Sandbach MP, following the Parish Council's correspondence to her about the current approach to viability assessment and the potential national campaign to exploit a legal loophole which permits developers to avoid their obligations to provide affordable housing by using the 'viability assessment' argument. The response from Antoinette Sandbach enclosed a letter from Jake Perry, MP, which was considered to be unsatisfactory, as it was felt that this seemed to imply that housing developers need not build affordable housing, if they did not wish to. On this basis, it was felt that the response to the Parish Council from Antoinette Sandbach did not address the original concerns that were raised with her about the national issues associated with viability assessment. It was also noted that the Parish Council was still awaiting a response on this issue from Cheshire East Council.

The Clerk was asked to (a) forward the correspondence that was sent to Cheshire East Council about this matter to Borough Councillor Rachel Bailey to request that a response be provided to the Parish Council; and (b) write to Antoinette Sandbach, MP to express the Parish Council's disappointment in her response, reminding her that the issue related to a general policy principle rather than a specific development.

22 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

John Durrant, Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group, was in attendance at the meeting and advised that the first draft of Hankelow’s Neighbourhood Plan should be ready to be presented to Cheshire East within the next few weeks in preparation for Regulation 14 Consultation.

23 **RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE INTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Parish Council noted the Internal Auditor’s report and the recommendation that the Parish Council should submit a VAT return to reclaim the recoverable VAT.

RESOLVED: The Clerk make arrangements for the VAT to be recovered in line with the Auditor’s recommendations.

24 **AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved:

£70.00	ChALC – Attendance at Training course for Councillors Derek Smith and Carol Fitzsimons
£60.00	Weaver Financial Limited
£162.40	HMRC Tax on Clerk’s Salary
£100.00	Councillor G Foster (Chair’s Allowance) S15(2) of the Local Government Act 1972
£298.60	Clerk’s salary (March – June 2019)

25 **CORRESPONDENCE**

25.1 **Correspondence from the Canal and River Trust and ADAPT**

The Parish Council noted the correspondence from the Canal and River Trust and ADAPT in relation to the bid for the improved towpath.

25.2 **Correspondence from Antoinette Sandbach**

The letter from Antoinette Sandbach had already been discussed earlier in the agenda.

26 **SHARED INFORMATION**

26.1 The Chair had asked the Clerk to look into any specific legal insurance arrangements that were required by the Parish Council when hiring a meeting venue and to ensure that the existing insurance arrangements provided adequate cover, if required. Having made enquiries, the Parish Council noted the response from its insurance company which advised that the building venue owner had a responsibility to ensure that, when hiring their premises, they were safe for visitors and that should a claim for injury or damage arise due to a defect with the building then this should be directed to the building owner. The current insurance policy will respond to claims for injury or damage arising from the Parish Council’s activities in the building venue.

26.2 Members of the Parish Council commented on the successful Village Fete that had taken place on 18 June 2019. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chair of Hankelow Amenities Group, Val Morrey, to congratulate the Group on the success of the day and appreciation for the hard work and effort of the Group members in organising such a successful event.

26.3 Borough Councillor Rachel Bailey thanked the Parish Council for their support over the past number of years and advised about her future focus on addressing local rural economy priorities which included work in line with the pledge by Cheshire East Council

of being carbon neutral by 2025. Councillor Bailey described some of the work and activities that were being encouraged to reduce the carbon footprint.

27 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

28 **BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

A number of signatories were arranged in order that the Parish Council can manage its banking arrangements.

.....Chair

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and closed at 8.30pm