

HANKELow PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk

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Parish Councillors are summoned to a MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

DATE: MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2018
TIME: 7.30 pm
NOTE VENUE: HANKELow METHODIST CHAPEL
HANKELow



28 August 2018

Signed

To: Members of the Parish Council
(G Foster (Chairman), G Cope (Vice-Chairman), C Ainley, I Jones and A Lee)

cc: Cheshire East Ward Councillor Rachel Bailey

NOTES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Following adoption of Standing Orders (for the Regulation of Proceedings) at the meeting held on 2 July 2018, the Parish Council will no longer hold an informal forum prior to the start of the meeting.

The Standing Orders now provide for members of the public to raise issues under agenda item 4. A note of the subject heading of the issues raised will be included in the minutes, together with a note of any action to be taken by the Clerk.

Members of the public are encouraged to print off their own copies of the agenda from the village website (www.c8321983.myzen.co.uk). If paper copies of the agenda and/or any associated reports are required, please contact the Clerk who will arrange for copies to be made available at the meeting.

AGENDA

Members are asked to note that the symbol  against agenda items, indicates that a report is enclosed.


1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Whilst the Clerk can advise on the Code of Conduct and its interpretation, the decision to declare, or not, is the responsibility of the Parish Councillor, based on the particular circumstances.

3 MINUTES – 2 JULY 2018

To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2018. 

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Order No. 1, members of the public are able to ask a question or to make a statement.

Each member of the public is entitled to ask one question or make a statement. Questions or statements must be addressed to the Parish Council as a whole and not to individual parish councillors.

5 SALE/PURCHASE OF HANKELOW METHODIST CHURCH

The Clerk recently forwarded to Members e-mail exchanges in respect of the sale/purchase of Hankelow Methodist Chapel.

The Rev. Gary Windon has requested an informal meeting with either the Parish Council or the Steering Group to discuss the next steps following the outcome of the community questionnaire. This would include the Chapel's plans to continue to increase the use of the whole of the building with an increased variety of community activities from the Autumn onwards.

This matter has been discussed three times this year, including the July meeting. For ease of reference, extracts from the January and March meetings are appended below, together with an extract from the Parish Meeting held on 1 May 2018.

Minute No. 119: 2 Jan 2018

Members considered the Clerk's report following receipt of information from the Church Council in respect of the possible sale of the Methodist Church to the Parish Council on the understanding that the Council would lease back the church for the continuation of Sunday worship and other religious activities.

The purpose of the offer was to enable the Church building to become a community hub for the village.

Members agreed that this proposal was premature and before any decision was taken, there must be a consultation exercise with the residents of the parish.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council decline to make a decision in respect of the potential purchase of Hankelow Methodist Church, at this time.

Minute No. 134: 5 March 2018

Councillor Ainley referenced the previous meeting when Members received a letter from the Chapel Property Steward inviting the Parish Council to consider purchasing the Chapel for use as a community hub, but within that arrangement, to lease it back to the Chapel for Sunday worship and other religious activities.

Owing to a breakdown in communication, this proposal had been premature and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) had not had the opportunity to consider the proposal, nor to discuss it with Chapel representatives. This had led to rumours within the village and concern had been expressed by the regular congregation at the Chapel.

It was now reported that two Members of the NPSG had met with Reverend Gary Windon and the Chapel Property Steward on 1 February 2018 to discuss the Chapel's offer. At that meeting, it was made clear that the Chapel had a strong foreseeable future within the Methodist Circuit as its income from its services and other hires, exceeded expenditure and it was a valuable asset within the Methodist Circuit.

The Methodist Chapel proposed to work in partnership with the Parish Council and other users to expand the use of the Chapel so that it could provide both a hub for village activities and Chapel activities. This partnership may allow access to grants or other resources to increase the facilities offered.

The Chapel could, therefore, provide a hub for some of the desires expressed in a recent consultation, but key restrictions, e.g. alcohol and gambling, would be retained.

Parish Meeting: 1 May 2018

John Durrant from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group reported on progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, but also reported on the recent consultation exercise carried out by the Group.

At a 'drop-in' session in January 2018, residents had expressed the view that it was important that there should be a village hub to replace the loss of both The White Lion and Brookfield Golf Club. The Steering Group had decided that residents' wishes in respect of a village hub, should be sought before proceeding further with the draft Neighbourhood Plan. A questionnaire was delivered to each household.

The return rate was 79% and responses to the following were reported:

- Question 1: Should there be a community building?
90% responded 'yes'.
- Question 2: Did the Methodist Chapel provide an adequate village hub?
48% responded 'yes'
46% responded 'no' – the village needed a new facility.
- Question 3: Gave two options for a new facility –
39% responded to the effect that the village should explore the feasibility of purchasing the Chapel.
43% opted for allocation of land in order to secure a site for a new building.

The Steering Group would now produce a draft Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Parish Council for approval, prior to it being subject to the Regulation 14 Consultation (The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012).

6 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

6.1 Grant from Locality

To report that a grant of £4,265 from Groundwork UK (through Locality) has now been deposited in the Parish Council's bank account. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been notified.

This is slightly less than requested. The sum of £1,200 for printing was not accepted, partly because there was no formal quotation to support the request, but also because Locality carried out its own due diligence and noted that there are only 300 residents in the parish and commented that this was a very high figure for such a low population. The sum has been reduced to £600 and this is based on £3 per copy for 200 dwellings. Although the Chairman of the Steering Group based his assessment on 120 dwellings with another 20+ being built, the figure was uplifted to 200. This means that there will be 50 spares, if needed.

If the suggestion of additional copies was intended to include 'interested parties', this is unnecessary as each household in the parish will have its own copy and consultation with 'interested parties' as defined in the Regulations, is carried out electronically.

The funding date is from 3 August 2018 to 31 March 2019 and the Parish Council is able to commit funding immediately.

A copy of the grant offer is enclosed for Members only.

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6.2 Up-date on Progress from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Members of the Steering Group to report.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.1 Authorisation of Payments

The Parish Council is asked to approve the following payment:

£74.40 HMRC – Tax on Clerk's salary

7.2 Receipts and Payments Statement – Position at 30 June 2018

To receive a Receipts and Payments Statement showing the position at the half-year stage.

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8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are no planning applications for consultation. The following planning applications have been received since the last meeting. Notifications were sent to Members inviting them to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting if they wished comments to be sent to the Borough Council. No request was received.

18/3271N Brookfields Farm, Longhill Lane
 (Agricultural slurry lagoon for storage of cattle slurry)
18/2425N Brookfields Farm (Agricultural building to house a milking parlour)
18/2426N Brookfields Farm (Agricultural building to house livestock)
18/2424N Brookfields Farm (Agricultural building to house livestock)

9 SHARED INFORMATION

Parish Councillors are invited to share information or report on attendance at any recent meetings of outside bodies. Decisions cannot be taken under this item.

This is also an opportunity for Borough Councillor Rachel Bailey to report on Cheshire East Council matters of interest.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5 November 2018

If required, the Clerk can produce a first draft of the budget for 2019-2020.