

Minutes of the Meeting of Hawton Parish Council held in the All Saints Church, Hawton on Wednesday, 29th November 2023

Present: **Councillor I Brownhill (Chair)**
 Councillor D Adams
 Councillor Mrs K Adams
 Councillor K Sutton

Also present District Councillor Allen and Haynes and Mr Walker, President of the Notts Association of Local Councils

HPC23-051 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Pykett, Cllr Mrs Saddington and District Cllr Kellas.

HPC23-052 Declarations of Interest

It was AGREED that any declarations of interest would be stated by Members as required during the meeting.

HPC23-053 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 27th September 2023

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2023 were accepted as a true and correct record.

The Chair asked that a summary of actions taken be produced by the Clerk for future meetings.

HPC23-054 Public Session

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 6.31pm to allow questions from the public present.

As President of Notts ALC, Mr Walker thanked Members for standing to represent their community for the next 4 years. There were many Parishes in the County that were still operating with casual vacancies.

On a personal note, Mr Walker thanked Members for their best wishes on his retirement from the District Council. It had been a pleasure to serve the village during his 36 year tenure. Councillor thanked Mr Walker for his service and for his guidance during his term as Chairman.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 6.33pm.

HPC23-055 County Councillor Session

There was no report as Councillor Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.

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HPC23-056 District Councillor Session

The Chair suspended the meeting at 6.34pm to allow the District Councillor report.

Councillor Haynes advised that in the future a written report will be sent to the Clerk to update Members after the Parish Council meeting.

The Community Grant Scheme has been revised and is now open for applications. The amount has been increased to £20,000 per individual grant, but the budget has been reduced from £151,000 to £100,000. Parish Councils are no longer eligible to apply to the scheme. If there was anything that the Parish Council considered it could apply to the scheme for they were encouraged to discuss it with District Members.

The Palace Theatre Pantomime would be running up to Christmas, and free parking would be available at weekends and on Bank Holidays up to 29th December in District Council car parks.

Confirmation had been received that EMR were no longer going to close their ticket office at the Castle station. No confirmation had yet been received from LNER regarding Northgate. The District Council had objected to both closures.

Councillor Haynes referred to the combined meeting with Urban & Civic. District Council Members had a meeting with the Director of Planning on 13th December to get a better understanding of the District Council's position with U&C and the Southern Relief Road. Any information will be fed back to Members of the Parish Council.

The Chair thanked Councillor Haynes for his report and reconvened the meeting at 6.40pm.

HPC23-057 Parish Council Matters

(a) **To receive feedback on the meeting held with Urban & Civic and other agencies on Thursday, 23rd November 2023**

The Clerk updated Members on the meeting held with Urban & Civic and senior members of the County Council and Via, regarding the road closure proposals for the Southern Relief Road and communication issues. This meeting had been attended by Cllrs Pykett and Adams, County Councillor Mrs Saddington, District Cllrs Kellas and Haynes and the Clerk.

A further meeting would be arranged for the end of January 2024.

Members noted the recent email from Urban & Civic detailing works into the New Year, which was of benefit.

It was considered that the Parish Council still needed to lobby on:

- Temporary/permanent traffic lights on the bridge
- A footpath at the southern end of the village

- Clarity on the use of the remaining land owned by Urban & Civic and the potential transfer of that to the Parish Council for community use

- (b) **To receive feedback on the Remembrance Event held on 11th November**
Councillor Mrs Adams advised that the event had been well attended by both Hawton residents and residents from Cotham.
- (c) **To note arrangements for the Christmas Fayre on 2nd December 2023 and the switching on of the Christmas tree lights**
Councillor Mrs Adams reported that arrangements for the event were well in hand.
- (d) **To discuss matters raised by Cotham Parish Meeting**
Members noted correspondence received from Cotham Parish Meeting regarding the possibility of combining with Hawton to create a joint Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that advice had been received from Democratic Services at Newark & Sherwood District Council who advised that the petition received from Cotham Parish Meeting for a Parish Council didn't meet the 50% threshold required. There had been no evidence or explanation of community need. As such, if this were taken to Committee it would not be supported as there was insufficient demonstration of need.

If a merger with Hawton Parish Council were proposed, this might sit more favourably with the District Council as it would create a larger parish which would be more sustainable going forward. However, this would have to be supported by both communities and there would need to be a demonstration of benefit.

After discussion, it was not considered that this should be pursued.

Councillor Mrs Adams did not support this view as it was considered that the Cotham community needed support.

- (e) **To note correspondence received from National Highways regarding Notification of Essential Maintenance Works on the A52 Saxondale Roundabout**
Members received and noted the correspondence outlining work on the A52 Saxondale Roundabout.
- (f) **To receive feedback on the Bantycok Quarry Liaison Meeting**
Members noted that a recent meeting had been attended by Cllrs D Adams and Pykett.

The next meeting was at 10am on 5th December and would include a quarry tour.

HPC23-058 Planning

(a) **Applications**

There were none to consider.

(b) **Decision Notice**

23/01525/S73M – Solar Farm, The Grange, Cotham Lane, Hawton – Variation to condition 1 and 2 attached to planning permission 22/00732/S73M to amend the approved plans to allow changes to the String inverters and LV panel, Fencing and Gates, Racking detail and Access Track

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for the alterations as outlined.

HPC23-059 Financial Matters

(a) To consider accounts for payments:

Members considered and approved the following accounts for payment:

- Remembrance Costs - £121.90
- Mayor of Newark's Early Haig Appeal - £20 – Poppy Wreath
- Morris Cast Signs - £5,694 – Village Gateway Sign Deposit
- Clerk's Wages – Aug to Nov - £188.06
- HMRC PAYE – Aug to Nov - £47.02
- Backdated Clerk's Wages – Apr to July - £13.60
- Backdated PAYE – April to July - £3.40
- Millers Farms - Christmas Tree - £70

(b) To note any receipts:

There were none.

(c) To note the Council's financial position as at 29th November 2023

Members noted the Council's financial position as at 29th November 2023 with the account balance being £48,040.75.

The Clerk confirmed that an application had been submitted to NatWest to open a 95 day Deposit Account.

(d) To note the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay award backdated to 1st April 2023

Members received and noted information regarding the Local Government Services pay award. The Clerk's increase would be applied from 1st April 2023 and backpay calculated.

(e) To consider budget priorities for the 2023/24 financial year in advance of Precept setting in January

The Clerk asked Members to consider any budget priorities they would like to see included in the 2023/24 financial year. The Precept would need to be considered at the January meeting.

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HPC23-060 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils

There was nothing to report.

HPC23-061 Correspondence

(a) There was none to receive.

HPC23-062 Items for Notification

The Chair asked for a regular standing item to be on the agenda for Middlebeck.

HPC23-063 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 24th January 2024 at 6.30pm.

A schedule of meetings to May 2024 to be circulated to Members.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

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