



Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7:30pm, The meeting was held virtually using Zoom video technology.

Present: Cllr Susan Moore, Cllr Cynthia Samson, Cllr John Smith & Cllr Brian Tolver (Chair of Handforth Parish Council)

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Parish Clerk
Eighty Nine members of the public and press on Zoom.
Plus circa 467 members of the public and press livestreamed on YouTube.

The video can be watched on YouTube by following this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvOOP3STGZILUSuTHdRtF-A>

PART A

21/08/1 To receive apologies for absence.

No Apologies received, Cllrs Brewerton and Burhill were absent from the meeting.

21/08/2 To note Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (DPI).

None.

21/08/3 Open Forum- Comment and questions concerning items on this agenda may be put to the Council by the public during this period. Matters which, in the Chairman's view require debate and/or a discussion will be referred to the next Committee/Council meeting, as appropriate. The Public Forum is restricted to 15 minutes, unless the Chairman allows otherwise.

A resident commented on item 21/08/11 and noted he was pleased that the Parish Council were declaring a climate emergency in Handforth.

A resident commented on item 21/08/7 and felt that there needed to be a coordinated approach, he also invited Councillors to declare their individual opinion on the subject.

Most Councillors noted their opposition to the proposal, with the exception of Cllr Tolver who said he would base his views on public opinion of the subject.

A resident noted with regard to item 21/08/7 that he had worked with Cllr Burkhill in 2009 when a similar scheme was proposed by the local authority and that over the course of three evenings they had collected over 700 signatures against any proposal to merge with Wilmslow.

A resident commented on item 21/08/9 and indicated that there were a number of sites in Handforth which needed attention.

Noted that there was further impassioned debate regarding item 21/08/7.

21/08/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 17th February 2021.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 17th February 2021.

Motion Carried: Three in favour with one abstention.

21/08/5 To approve and sign the order of payment of accounts for March 2021.

Cllr Moore proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to approve and sign the order of payment of accounts for March 2021 totalling £5,412.72.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/6 MOTION: To receive recommendation from the HPC finance committee with respect to the grant application received from Handforth 1st Scouts for the sum of £500.00 towards the cost of replacement tents.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to award the full requested grant value to 1st Handforth Scout of £500.00.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/7 MOTION: To discuss the Cheshire East Community Governance Review which seeks to merge Handforth Parish Council with Wilmslow Town Council and to agree the following:

- An agreed response from Handforth Parish Council to the Cheshire East Community Governance Review to be submitted at the start of the consultation period on 25th March 2021.

This item underwent a great deal of debate noting that factors in relation to identity tests and viability tests needed to be met in order to be called a separate community. It was also noted that under the Local Government Act 1972 all councils involved in grouping or a merger had to give their consent.

It was felt that HPC's response should be to object to the proposed, merger or grouping.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson that HPC's agreed position was to object to any merger or grouping with both Chorley PC and Wilmslow TC.

**Motion Carried: Three in Favour with One abstention.
(Cllrs Moore, Samson & Smith in Favour, Cllr Tolver Abstained).**

- A leaflet campaign to all residents of Handforth to raise awareness of the consultation process and a resume of the position of Handforth Parish Council; to cost up to a maximum of £2,500.00.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to a leaflet campaign to raise awareness of the consultation process and a resume of the position of Handforth Parish Council. The contents of the leaflet to be agreed via Zoom meeting.

Resolved: Unanimously.

- To discuss any other options which the Parish Council might take in response to the Review.

21/08/8 MOTION: To agree a donation of £100.00 to the Handforth Scarecrow Festival.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver to a donation of £100.00 towards the Handforth Scarecrow Festival.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/9 MOTION: To set up a community woodland management group to look after those areas of woodland we have left e.g. Hall road and behind Boots.

Cllr Tolver noted that there were S106 monies available to contribute towards this from the Care Home development off Hall Road.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/10 MOTION: To look the feasibility of setting up wildlife habitats e.g. beehives, bat boxes etc. in various locations around Handforth using money from the Greener Handforth budget. Identifying and creating walks around the area which could be managed and used educationally.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/11 MOTION: To declare a climate emergency in Handforth.

Members considered whether there was a professional body which could be approached who could draw up a document containing guidelines for how this would be achieved.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/12 MOTION: To set up a working group of like-minded people to discuss climate change and associated things & how best we can help in Handforth.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/08/13 MOTION: To confirm the date of the next Handforth Parish Council meeting.

PART B

Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960. Exclusion of press and public due to the business of the meeting being of a confidential and personal nature.

21/08/14 MOTION: To agree remuneration of the clerk for one weeks missed holiday in 20/21.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to remunerate the clerk for one weeks missed holiday in 20/21.

Resolved: Unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9:27pm.

Chair..... Date.....