



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Town Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7:30pm, held at Handforth Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.**

Present: Cllr Sam Milward, Cllr Susan Moore, Cllr Cynthia Samson, Cllr John Smith (Chair of Handforth Town Council), Cllr Julie Smith & Cllr Kerry Sullivan

Also, present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Town Clerk  
Four members of the public.

The video can be watched on YouTube by following this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNIRoV6ujZg24I634xDmhQ/>

21/32/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

21/32/2 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.

21/32/3 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. Items not pertaining to the agenda may also be taken at this time at the Chairman's discretion. The Public Forum is restricted to 15 minutes and strictly 3 minutes per person, unless the Chairman allows otherwise.

A resident enquired as to the income and expenditure accounts in relation to the Handforth Youth Centre. – Noted these were not yet available.

A resident thanked councillors for their attendance at a recent event organised by Friends of Handforth Station. They also enquired as to where the council was up to with possible court proceedings in relation to the company, Avensure. – Noted nothing succinct at present, a request for documentation had been made, but nothing had been forthcoming.

A resident enquired as to the status of the on-going CE Standards investigation and informed councillors that he had made an FOI request to CE regarding the costs for this investigation. He noted that an undated publication of the “Honford Star” had been received by residents and would the Town Council wish to give it any consideration.

Noted that the Town Council were considering courses of action in response to the publication.

21/32/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 09<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 09<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

21/32/5 To receive a report from the PCSO.

The PCSO sent the Town Council the following report:

- Following on from our last update where we reported 5 arrests in relation to Burglaries & Theft of Motor Vehicles, we have had a significant drop off in incidents. We have had 1 burglary in the last month, even though this is a vast improvement on recent months we’re continuing with the ongoing operation which has seen more officers in effected locations during keys times.
- Our operation to deal with seasonal crime retail crime is still ongoing & has already seen arrests & positive action taken against offenders.
- Extra staff have been on duty over the weekends in December to deal and address any issues relating to the night-time economy. This has seen several licensing visits conducted with positive action taken in relation to any breaches of premises licence. We have also made arrests relating to drug & public order offences.
- A traffic enforcement day was ran from Handforth Dean last week involving local officers & Wilmslow Fire. We were focused on the A34 & A555, during the day 10 motorists were dealt with for numerous offences which included, driving while using a handheld device, driving without a licence, to name just a few.

As well as enforcement action being taken by ourselves the fire service were also giving out advice on winter safety & checking tyres.

21/32/6 To approve and sign the order of payments for December 2021.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve, and sign the order of payments for December 2021 totalling £18,557.51.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

21/32/7 To receive a report from Ward Councillor Julie Smith.

Ward Councillor gave a report to the Town Council and residents as below:

Following the last meeting where a member of the public asked if we could provide activities for teenagers in Handforth, myself and Sue Bradshaw from the CE Youth Services team spent 3.5 hours in the Paddock on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November where we had invited any teenagers to come and speak to us and tell us what they wanted. We spoke to one, a relative of Sue's.

As a result of this disappointing consultation myself, Sue Bradshaw and PCSO Gareth Harding spent a couple of hours the following Thursday evening walking around Meriton Road Park, Stanley Hall Park, Henbury Road Park, and the Paddock in order to speak to the reported groups of teenagers who gather in these areas. We spoke to a group of 3 in the Paddock who had come from Wilmslow and did not live in Handforth. We also spoke to 2 in Henbury Road Park who suggested a "hang out shelter" with benches in Meriton Road Park. We did not meet any other teenagers.

There is already an existing senior youth club at the Youth Centre for 12–18-year-olds, held on Monday evenings.

The special needs youth club I spoke about in the last meeting, "Sendsational Stay and Play" has now been running for 4 weeks and has been well attended by an average of 10-12 families each week. This is such a valuable service and fulfils an obvious need in our community. Cheshire East have agreed that this voluntary group can use the Youth Centre free of charge for 6 months which takes the financial pressure off the group organisers. I would like to thank the organisers for their hard work in making this initiative such a great success.

I spoke about the Woodland Trust in the last meeting and the fact that community groups are able to apply for free trees to be planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. I can report that Friends of Stanley Hall Park have applied for 100 meters of hedgerow which it is hoped will also help with the drainage problems.

I have also heard from Cheshire East that Mersey Forest are looking for larger projects to fund which is not limited to council owned land. Schools and farmers can also apply.

21/32/8 MOTION: To consider a grant application received from Handforth Hall Tennis Club to completely relay the top court for safety reasons. Grant requested £1,000.00.

Cllr John Smith proposed to defer this item to the next meeting as the representative from HHTC was unable to attend, seconded by Cllr Samson.

**Motion Carried: Five in favour with one against.**

21/32/9 MOTION: Following receipt of further correspondence from CE regarding the Handforth Youth Centre; to authorise the submission of the required application form.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to authorise the submission of the required application form to the CE legal team.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

21/32/10 To receive the Interim Audit Report for financial year 21-22.

Cllr Samson proposed to defer this item until the January finance committee meeting, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

21/32/11 MOTION: To agree the HTC meeting dates for 2022.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to agree the proposed HTC meeting dates for 2022.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

21/32/12 To receive notices and correspondence.  
CE Audit and Governance committee meeting tbh 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Cllr John Smith noted that this was the CE committee meeting which was being held to discuss the outcome of the investigation into the standards of conduct by former Handforth Parish Councillors. The meeting will have an open public forum item before commencement of deliberations by the committee and encouraged interested parties to attend.

Cllr Moore wish to add for the record what an absolute disgrace she felt Cheshire East Council had behaving in the conducting of this investigation and report in that it had taken an extremely long time to bring the matter to any conclusion and publication. Noted that the initial complaint had been submitted in July 2020 and that this committee meeting was taking place in January 2022!

21/32/13 To agree the date of the next HTC meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The date of the next HTC meeting for 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 was unanimously agreed without a vote.

The meeting closed at 7:57pm.

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