

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Handforth Parish Council**  
**held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm, the meeting was held**  
**using Zoom video technology**

**Meeting Recording:**

**Access Passcode:** j\$!6ACN1

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/u\\_9pvFc3Agk8PXv624iz3bmDW\\_CxBfP4fu9CT\\_TyxYJmMFC25g9PHMu0Wj3oDnbx.tmlfhWDDtNAvslG4](https://zoom.us/rec/share/u_9pvFc3Agk8PXv624iz3bmDW_CxBfP4fu9CT_TyxYJmMFC25g9PHMu0Wj3oDnbx.tmlfhWDDtNAvslG4)

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Tolver (Chair of Handforth Parish Council); Susan Moore (Vice-Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee); Cynthia Samson; and John Smith.

**Also Present:** Mrs Jackie Weaver (Clerk to the meeting) and twenty eight members of the public.

At the commencement of the meeting Cllr Tolver began a prepared statement. When challenged by Cllr Smith that the meeting was properly convened by two councillors and the agenda was set Cllr Tolver unexpectedly left the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt he was not removed from the meeting. Cllr Smith was then elected to take the Chair.

**21/03/1** To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

**21/03/2** 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).

There were none.

**21/03/3** 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 number of points were raised by members of the public these included:

Why was the Clerk suspended?

Cllr Smith explained that the Council Chairman (Cllr Tolver) had suspended the Clerk following the declaration of the vacancy due to a councillor not having attended a

meeting for a period of six consecutive months. Since there had been no proceedings brought since the beginning of the suspension it was now time to resolve this situation.

There was also support for the reinstatement from other members of the public present.

Thanks was expressed to Alan Murdock, M Bishop and Cllr Smith for their sterling efforts in drafting the submission to the Local Transport Plan consultation.

It was queried why the minutes of all meetings have not been made available.

Cllr Smith responded that it has been a challenging time operating without a clerk but that although the website could not be updated the minutes could be shared in an alternative forum such as facebook.

There had been some concerns about the adoption of the budget and precept request agreed at the last meeting but Cllr Smith was able to confirm that the process had gone through Cheshire East Council now.

Peter Moore wished to thank the Councillors present for their efforts on behalf of the residents of Handforth during the pandemic.

**21/03/4**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 subject to the amendment on page 3 of 'yar' to 'year'.

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/5**

To approve and sign the order of payment of account for January 2021.

Cllr Samson asked when the Hope Central payment would be released and it was agreed that this would take place when the clerk returns to work.

Webhosting is stated as £2 per month which should read £12 per month.

Cllr Samson asked if there were any outstanding payments needing to be made and was advised by Cllr Smith that he was not aware of any but that the Clerk retained the cheque book.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to approve the payment of accounts.

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/6** MOTION: To agree the submission to the Local Transport Plan consultation objectives for Handforth.

At the Chairman's discretion Roger Small was invited to speak. He stated that in his capacity as a member of Friends of Handforth Station and the Neighbourhood Plan Group he attended the relevant CE Planning Committee where parking at Handforth Station was discussed. He was dismayed that Cllr Birkhill (also in attendance) stated that no parking survey had been undertaken and that the splay was inadequate. Cllr Birkhill then proposed that the item be deferred. This was confusing as Cllr Birkhill was less than clear whether he was for or against the proposal.

Cllr Samson stated that there were errors on the bus services which was an important issue for local resident. It may be that Handforth Parish Council is approached to give some funding to retain or improve the services.

Cllr Smith expressed concern that CE had written to the Chairman asking for a meeting but these opportunities had not been conveyed to other members.

***It was agreed that Cllr Smith would contact Craig Brown to arrange such a meeting.***

Cllr Samson thanked the authors for developing such a comprehensive document.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to agree the submission.

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/7** MOTION: To adopt the submitted Handforth Car Parking report.

Cllr Smith expressed concern that the allocation of permits to the Garden Village residents might be to the detriment of the existing Handforth residents. He did not want to see the introduction of a 2 tier system.

There were a number of other concerns expressed including the number of disabled spaces and that any revenue would go to CE Council.

Cllr Moor proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to agree adoption of the Car Parking Report with the addition of an explanatory paragraph. Alan Murdoch was specifically thanked for his work on this.

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/8** MOTION: To consider:

a) Reconvening the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Roger Small reminded members that the Group had never been dissolved and continues to work on behalf of the community with regard to planning matters;

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to defer this item

**Resolved: Unanimously**

b) Updating the Neighbourhood Plan

Roger Small agreed that this was an important job but should be delayed until there is unity within the Council.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to defer this item

**Resolved: Unanimously**

c) Suggest a project list in priority order sourced from the Neighbourhood Plan

Both Roger Small and Alan Murdoch expressed concern at the final amount of monies to be received through S106 or CIL payment.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to defer this item

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/9** SPECIAL MOTION: Recission of Motion 21/01/5 (Cllrs Moore, Samson and Smith)

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to rescind this motion

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/10** SPECIAL MOTION: Recission of Motion 21/02/5 (Cllrs Moore, Samson and Smith)

Cllr Moore proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith to rescind this motion

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/11** MOTION: To dissolve the Employment Committee.

Cllr Moore expressed concern about the way in which the Committee had operated for example excluding members that would not sign a confidentiality agreement. Cllr Samson had been regularly excluded from participating in meetings.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to dissolve the Employment Committee and to write to Cllrs Tolver; Birkhill and Brewerton advising them of the decision.

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/12** MOTION: To confirm the date of the next Handforth Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**.

Cllrs Samson and Moore thanked members of the public for their interest and reminded them that they could get in touch with Councillors outside of meetings.

### **PART B**

Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the press and public will be excluded from this part of the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business.

**21/03/13** SPECIAL MOTION: Rescission of Motion 20/13/03 (Cllr Moore, Samson and Smith)

Members discussed the ongoing suspension of the Clerk and agreed that no progress had been brought to Council by the Chairman responsible for the suspension and therefore the suspension must be lifted.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to rescind this motion

**Resolved: Unanimously**

**21/03/14** MOTION: To confirm the reinstatement of Mr A Comiskey Dawson to the office of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore that the Clerk be reinstated with immediate effect and the fact to be relayed to Cheshire East Council and other interested parties.

**Resolved: Unanimously**

The Meeting closed at .....