



**Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Town Council held on
Tuesday 09th November 2021 at 7:30pm, held at Handforth
Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.**

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

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

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

21/30/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr John Smith noted that on 18th October the chairman councillor and the clerk had received the resignation of Brian Tolver; this vacancy has been advertised through the proper channels.

Apologies received from Cllrs Samson & Sullivan.

21/30/2 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.

21/30/3 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 21/30/9 and enquired as to how the CGR consultation was progressing as well as the HTC survey. They indicated that if HTC had a spare "Save Our Parish" board it could be placed on footpath 91 at the Hall Road to Handforth Dean section.

A resident commented on item 21/30/11 and noted that they felt the bill was scandalous and that HTC should fight against paying it.

A resident commented on item 21/30/8 and indicated that it would be good to see some profit and loss statements before taking further action as it could become a burden on the taxpayer.

The same resident commented under item 21/30/11 that it was appalling that none of those responsible for incurring the bill had turned up to a meeting to defend their actions.

A resident noted under item 21/30/11 that he had received correspondence from the Monitoring Officer that the CE hearing sub-committee members were being made aware of the contract ahead of the full hearing.

A resident commented under item 21/30/8 that in the past there had been a working group to discuss this, but felt the item should be deferred.

The resident noted under item 21/30/10 that HTC had budgeted for the Queen's Platinum jubilee and was that what this money was for.

The resident also enquired under item 21/30/11 as to whether this needed to be discussed further if the council was not liable.

21/30/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 12th October 2021.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 12th October 2021.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/30/5 To receive a report from the PCSO.

The PCSO provided the following report:

- Burglaries – 4 since the beginning of Sept - 3 males arrested, 2 for handling stolen goods & the 3rd for burglary.
- Stolen motor vehicles – 11 since the beginning of sept – 3 males arrested on 04/11/21 in relation to this jobs.
- Operation Flip flop will be in place to deal with seasonal crime throughout December, this will see an increase in staff at key times & locations.

- Lastly:

‘On Wednesday 24 March 2021 we received a report of a 75-year-old woman from Handforth having been the victim of a robbery as she walked home from a supermarket that afternoon’.

After a six-month investigation, led by your local PC Matthew Rowbotham & thanks to the strength of the evidence that had been gathered the offender pleading guilty to the robbery.

At Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 13th October, he was handed a prison sentence of four-and-a-half years.

We would very much like to take this opportunity to thank all of the local businesses that provided us with CCTV. With a particular thanks going to Moore Secure & the CCTV provided by the Handforth Town Council which was the reason we were able to ID the offender.

Without this a successful prosecution would have been very unlikely.

21/30/6 To approve and sign the order of payments for November 2021.

Cllr Moore proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to approve, and sign the order of payments for November 2021 totalling £16,077.96.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/30/7 MOTION: To consider a grant application received from St Benedict’s primary school for the purchase of two “bug hotels” and associated equipment as part of an ongoing ecological project. Grant requested £909.90.

Cllr John Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to defer this item until the next meeting where further information could be obtained.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/30/8 MOTION: Following initial discussions with the relevant officers at Cheshire East Council, to formally gain council approval to agree to the asset transfer request of Handforth Youth Centre from Cheshire East Council to Handforth Town Council via Freehold or Leasehold and to take over all running and associated costs and income of the centre.

Cllr John Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to amend the wording of this motion to: To Sanction initial discussions with the relevant officers at Cheshire East Council regarding the asset transfer request of Handforth

Youth Centre. Once more information has been determined a vote on the transfer be brought back to full council.

Resolved: Unanimously.

21/30/9 To discuss matters concerning the ongoing CE Community Governance Review.

Noted that so far the HTC survey had received 512 responses, 487 of which were against the proposed merger, with 23 in favour and 2 “Don’t know” The town council has purchased a number of “Save Our Parish” boards which have been installed around the area. One of which, placed next to the notice board on the Paddock, has been vandalised. Fortunately, the incident was captured on the Town Council CCTV system and the footage will be forwarded to the police.

Councillors noted that they had run a number of community engagement sessions at the Paddock over the last 4/5 Saturday’s discussing the CGR with residents. These had been well attended.

21/30/10 MOTION: To consider the following: The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022, by inviting people to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee.

Cllr Julie Smith informed all those present that the Woodland Trust was giving away thousands of trees to community groups to plant as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative. She noted that all community groups could apply.

21/30/11 MOTION: To discuss the recent correspondence from Avensure regarding the settlement figure on a contract entered into by former Cllr Tolver in January 2021 in respect to the sum of £5,388.00 including VAT.

Cllr Moore approached Avensure to speak to them rather than exchange emails; she noted that they were very difficult to get in touch with. After finally getting hold of a senior manager and eventually passed onto a director she discussed the situation between the parties in depth. Following on from this conversation, Avensure provided the settlement figure at 60% of contract cost value £4,490.00 plus VAT.

Other requests for information including a clear copy of the contract and a breakdown of service use was not received.

Cllr Smith indicated that at present there was no agreement just a disputed contract. He had also been made aware that the CE Monitoring Officer will be informing the CE Hearing subcommittee about this matter.

21/30/12 Update on green space project and Tree project undertaken in conjunction with Transition Wilmslow.

Cllr Moore, referring to the Hall Road Woods, adjacent to Hall Road, informed residents that as part of the S106 agreement for the sanctuary site a large amount of money was made available specifically for the improvement to the path and woodland in general. So far contractors have been in and removed a large amount of dead and dangerous trees. This is part of a bigger job which will continue. It is hoped that the improvements to the path can be implemented before the end of this financial year. Progress is being made, but is dependent on further tree felling.

21/30/13 To discuss a number of green initiative schools' projects.

Cllr Moore noted that she had been asked by Transition Wilmslow to approach the schools in Wilmslow to discuss a number of green initiatives particularly hedge and tree planting. Assistance as available from transition Wilmslow with filling in forms and planting new trees. Cllr Moore felt this should be extended to Handforth and will be talking to schools here. Cllr Moore also noted that she would be meeting with Emma Houghton to discuss the Japanese Knotweed problem in the Bollin Valley.

21/30/14 To review the Town Council projects list.

The list was reviewed, and Councillors invited to add any further projects to the list.

21/30/15 MOTION: To allow a 15-minute discussion forum for items not pertaining to the agenda.

A resident noted that a small amount of CIL money should be falling due to the council and recommended that the council wait until they have built up an amount so they could tackle larger projects.

Cllr Julie Smith noted that a number of Cheshire East Ward councillors were forming a working group to attempt to unlock the vast quantity of S106 monies which were almost impossible to access at CE, owing to the specifications in the legal agreements drawn up by CE with developers.

A resident asked if the Town Council would consider a project to involve teenagers in at some point.

21/30/16 To receive notices and correspondence.
Remembrance Sunday November 14th 10am – meet at Youth Centre.
Dick Whittington Pantomime Friday 26th November 4pm and 7pm – Youth Centre.
Handforth Christmas Lights Switch on Saturday November 27th 2pm – The Paddock.

21/30/17 To agree the date of the next HTC meeting to be held on 14th December 2021.

Councillors agreed without a vote that the next HTC meeting would be held on 14th December 2021.

The meeting closed at 9:11pm.

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