



Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Town Council held on Tuesday 08th February 2022 at 7:30pm, held at Handforth Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.

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

Also, present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Town Clerk
One PCSO
Six members of the public.

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

Part A

Cllr John Smith made the following Chairman's statement at the start of the meeting:

Following the HTC meeting of 14th December 2021, adverse comments regarding HTC councillors have been made on Facebook and Twitter.

These comments have caused considerable upset to HTC members and have even resulted in derogatory accusations being made to the child of a Town Councillor.

In no way shape or form is HTC racist, nor would any member of HTC tolerate any racist comments or behaviour.

I would point out that the first chairman of Handforth Parish Council was from the BAME community and was voted for by a councillor who is a member of the current HTC.

22/05/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

22/05/2 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.

22/05/3 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 commented on item 22/05/11 and noted that the item referred to the tank track which took armoured fighting vehicles from the main line to Handforth, they suggested that a lectern be installed at the location to describe some of this history. The resident noted they would speak on item 22/05/9 if the council wished for some further input once the item arose. A resident noted under item 22/05/11 that they had had a close shave with a pedestrian at the location and agreed it was a good idea and that the hedgerow should be monitored and cut back when appropriate. A resident noted that today the Cheshire PCC had announced their plans to increase the police precept by 4.4% and also noted an announcement by the PCC to reduce the number of PCSO's in Cheshire to 160, down from the current circa 200. He asked if HTC could swiftly advise the PCC how much we all value PCSO's.

22/05/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 18th January 2022.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 18th January 2022.

Resolved: unanimously.

22/05/5 To receive a report from the PCSO.

The PCSO reported the following:

- It was not a surprise to hear about the reduction in the number of PCSO's from the PCC; this would be achieved through natural wastage and would still hit the current baseline for Cheshire of having 122 PCSO's, one for every CE electoral ward.
- Noted that there had previously been an increase in ASB and criminal damage, but this had now dropped off, mainly due to inclement weather and also increased monitoring and reporting on social media.

- Grid thefts – a total of 13 had been reported in the Handforth area.
- Noted that there had been reports of a suspicious male seen in the woods behind Handforth Grange School, whilst it was felt it would be harmless, no chances could be taken, and police maintained an increased visible presence in the area.
- There had been a number of reports of trading standards issues in Handforth with age-inappropriate items being sold to underage children. Trading Standards were conducting further visits to premises where age restricted products were sold.
- As part of the on-going Operation Shield a number of Selecta DNA kits had been given out to residents in response to increased burglaries in the area. In the past Handforth Council had funded a large number of these kits and the area in which they were distributed had suffered a noticeable reduction in the number of burglaries over recent years.
- Noted that the Residents Voice survey operated by Cheshire Police had received a great deal of uptake amongst Handforth Residents. An example was shown to councillors and an explanation of how the survey worked. Results came in once every two weeks and the PCSO would undertake to see how these results could be passed on to the Town Council.

22/05/6 To approve and sign the order of payments for February 2022.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve, and sign the order of payments for February 2022 totalling £15,059.11.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/7 To receive a report from Ward Councillor Julie Smith.

In early April D&G will end their contract to operate the 130-bus service which currently runs from Macclesfield to Wythenshawe hospital and is the only bus service through Handforth. In January Cheshire East put the contract out to tender and we are expecting the results by next Monday 14th February. It is thought that the service will be taken up by another operator and the transition will be continuous.

The missing drain covers are now in the process of being replaced and the police are in receipt of details of the people thought to have been responsible for stealing them. It is vital that missing drain covers are reported as soon as possible to prevent injuries. We unfortunately had one casualty where a child fell down one whilst getting out of a car and had to be hauled out by 2 adults. The child was extremely upset but thankfully only suffered cuts and bruises. This could have been so much worse had the child been younger.

Yesterday we had the first of 5 community skip days. This was held on Meriton road and was very successful, the next will be on 28th February and details will be posted the week before. It's hoped that by holding these regular events the instances of fly tipping will be reduced. HTC were thanked by residents for funding the skips.

There will be a community litter pick on Saturday 12th March with volunteers meeting in the Paddock at 1pm in the usual place.

I've spent some time this month distributing Winter Warmth supplies to some of our most vulnerable residents. Cheshire East received a government grant to purchase blankets, hot water bottles, slow cookers, oil filled radiators, duvets and lots of draught excluders, gloves, hats, thermal socks and thermos flasks which were given to the residents free of charge in the hope that they can now keep warm in the light of rocketing fuel charges.

SENSational stay and play and the junior youth club are going from strength to strength and more children are benefiting from the opportunity to attend. Our local PCSO even attended on Sunday to discuss the possibility of setting up a database of vulnerable children in case they ever get separated from their carers. There is an existing scheme called the Herbert protocol which is available for residents with dementia.

The repair cafe run by Transition Wilmslow, which saw a tremendous response when it last took place in Handforth is coming back to Aroma Cafe at St. Chads on Saturday 5th March. This is a brilliant incentive which, as well as helping repair items also teaches people the skills they need to repair things themselves.

I had the privilege of helping the Time Out group obtain permission from Emerson to plant up the raised flowerbeds in the Paddock. Emerson agreed to prepare the flowerbeds and donate some plants to the group for their project. Again, this is yet another brilliant group in our community teaching adults with complex needs the life skills they need.

I was happy to spend a blustery couple of hours helping other Friends of Handforth Station volunteers tidy up the railway station a couple of weeks ago. At the same time some of the members installed the latest artwork at the top of the Northbound platform which looks excellent.

Cheshire East have announced the latest round of crowdfunding for any local projects. The idea behind this is that a project is submitted to CEC for approval then a crowdfunding page is set up so that residents can contribute to the costs, alongside this there is a team from Spacehive can help to create, fund, and deliver your project. The full details can be found on the Cheshire East website.

I have received some long-awaited good news today that Cheshire East Highways have finally been commissioned to construct the Spath Lane parking scheme which Cllr John Smith started working on in 2015 and which I took over in 2019. Whilst it is not as extensive as the originally planned scheme, it will alleviate the double parking on one of the most congested areas on Spath Lane estate. There are two further locations on the estate which I will continue to pursue with Highways to provide even more parking.

22/05/8 MOTION: To agree to host another pantomime production as per earlier years in November / December 2022 (up to three performances of Aladdin) up to a maximum value of £3,500.00.

A discussion arose discussing how best to ensure that all who purchased a ticket actually turned up on the evening. It was felt that increasing ticket prices was unfair, however it was agreed that if an individual did not turn up for their scheduled performance, then they could be potentially refused a ticket sale the following year.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to agree the above and to host another pantomime production as per earlier years in November / December 2022 (up to three performances of Aladdin) up to a maximum value of £3,500.00.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/9 MOTION: To invite the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan steering group to develop the Handforth CIL 123 projects infrastructure list based on evidence gained during the formation of the neighbourhood plan.

It was agreed to amend the wording of the item and replace “CIL projects infrastructure list” with “Infrastructure delivery plan.” Also, Cllr Moore indicated her previous involvement with the steering group and councillors were agreed she should continue in her role.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to invite the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan steering group to develop the Handforth infrastructure

delivery plan based on evidence gained during the formation of the neighbourhood plan.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/10 MOTION: To agree to spend up to £500.00 for the delivery of AED and CPR training sessions to residents of Handforth.

Cllr John Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to add “in the interim” to the motion, and for the motion to be returned to council to request additional funds if and when required.

Resolved: Unanimously.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to agree to spend up to £500.00 in the interim for the delivery of AED and CPR training sessions to residents of Handforth.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/11 MOTION: To agree the purchase and install of a new footpath sign on Hall Road / Brereton Road up to £110.00.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to agree the purchase, and install of a new footpath sign on Hall Road / Brereton Road up to £110.00.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/12 MOTION: To review and agree any received Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Award applications.

The application received from “Ferndale” was approved for £300.00
The application from St Benedict’s School was deferred until the next meeting to allow the school’s youth council to attend to present their application.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/13 MOTION: To confirm the bank account signatories.

Cllr Samson proposed Cllr John Smith to act as a bank signatory, seconded by Cllr Sullivan.

Resolved: Unanimously.

Cllr John Smith proposed Cllr Samson to act as a bank signatory, seconded by Cllr Sullivan.

Resolved: Unanimously.

Cllr Sullivan proposed Cllr Moore to act as a bank signatory, seconded by Cllr Samson.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/05/14 To receive notices and correspondence.

Cllr John Smith announced that HTC had now received a number of bills for some of the By-elections which had taken place in Handforth in 2021.

1. 6th May election caused by Mrs Jean Thompson vacating seat for non-attendance at meetings. Declared well in advance of PCC elections – therefore lower cost at £5,703.00.
2. 22nd July election caused by resignation of Mr Aled Brewerton which could have been avoided if Mr Brian Tolver (the then chairman) had accepted Mr Aled Brewerton’s resignation in March 21 and Mr Aled Brewerton hadn’t incorrectly sent resignation letter to the CE Monitoring Officer. Would have fallen into PCC elections in May and been lower cost; this did not happen and so the election cost in this instance was £7,905.00
3. 23rd Dec elections caused by resignation of Mr Brian Tolver who could have resigned much sooner (possibly in advance of PCC elections). Was granted dispensation in July 21 and never attended a meeting again.

22/05/15 To agree the date of the next HTC meeting to be held on 08th March 2022.

It was agreed without a vote that the next HTC meeting would be held on 08th March 2022.

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.

22/05/16 MOTION: To discuss recent social media posts concerning HTC.

Noted that Cllr John Smith passed the chair onto the vice-chair, Cllr Moore for the Part B section of this meeting.
In view of the nature of Part B meeting discussions the clerk can only comment that a discussion was held regarding social media posts and the outcomes were inconclusive.

The meeting closed at 9:54pm.

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

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