



**Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Town Council held on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7:30pm, held at Handforth Youth Centre,  
Old Road, Handforth.**

Present: Cllr Sam Milward, Cllr Susan Moore, Cllr R 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  
Eight members of the public  
One PCSO

The video can be watched on YouTube by following this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNIRoV6ujZq24I634xDmhQ/>

22/16/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

22/16/2 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).

Cllr Moore declared a pecuniary interest in item 22/16/15 and would leave the  
room during debate and would not vote on this item.

22/16/3 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 spoke to item 22/16/10 and noted that at the last meeting of Friends of Meriton Road Park, the group had expressed its wish to remain independent from any overarching parks group and would not be joining the group as proposed. The resident cited conflict of interest between FOMRP, HMES and HTC.

A resident questioned the Town Councils proposed asset transfer of the War memorial and claimed that this had already been predetermined because maintenance had been budgeted for.

Owing to its deferral from the previous meeting Cllr John Smith brought forward item 22/16/17.

22/16/17 To receive a report from Cllr John Smith following the CEC vote held on 27<sup>th</sup> April regarding the Community Governance review.

### **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

At the last Town meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021, we advised about the recommendations of the CEC Governance Committee. This suggested that the Handforth Parish Council amalgamate with Wilmslow and Chorley councils. At the HPC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 council voted against the merger. A period of consultation by CEC commenced online. Handforth councillors also canvassed residents via a form delivered to Handforth households requesting support in voting against this proposal. Councillors also spent Saturday mornings for 6 weeks in the Paddock requesting the support of residents.

In November 2021, part of The Honford Star which, according to CEC Ward Cllr Burkhill, was produced by him and ex Cllrs Tolver and Brewerton explaining how Handforth would be much better off being controlled from Wilmslow and having decisions of how to spend Handforth funds being made by Wilmslow Cllrs.

Handforth residents saw through this.

There were 1128 responses from Handforth residents. 510 direct to CEC online and 617 via the HTC leaflet. To ensure propriety, signatures and postcodes were recorded on the leaflet. Of the 510 online, 437 or 86% were against the merger. Of the 617 leaflets, 591 or 96% were against the merger.

It should be noted that of the 4800 total responses received by CEC, the 1128 submitted by Handforth residents represent 23.5% of the total. This shows how strongly residents felt about remaining independent. A significant message to Cllr Burkhill and his associates.

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at a special meeting of the full council, Cheshire East Cllrs took a final vote on the matter. The independence of Handforth was part of a vote to accept the recommendations of the Sub Committee to allow Handforth to maintain independence. Of our 2 CEC Ward Cllrs, Cllr Julie Smith voted for the recommendations for Handforth to remain independent,

Cllr Burkhill voted against Handforth remaining independent, even though the numbers in the consultation were published weeks ago showing the strength of Handforth views against amalgamation. Evidently totally out of touch with Handforth residents. The magnitude of the response to the CEC consultation by Handforth residents made it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for CEC to ignore.

22/16/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council Annual meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council Annual meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

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

22/16/5 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Cllr Nisa wished to note that she was opposed to item 22/12/10 in the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (However noted that no vote was taken on the item).

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Motion Carried: Six in favour with one abstention.**

22/16/6 To receive a report from the PCSO.

The PCSO noted that since his report to the last meeting there had been a very minor increase in thefts and burglaries. However, that had been an increase in the number of thefts from vehicles.

Noted that there had been one report of burglary and one report of attempted burglary.

The police were aware of concerns by residents of speeding on both the A34 and A555 and that there had been a number of operations involving traffic officers to combat this. The police had now, after conferring with a West Midlands force begun a new operation in which officers would now request

insurance details from those causing offences and speak to the insurance companies of those involved to enquire whether they were insured to race, thus nulling, and voiding their insurance policies. This had been successful in the West Midlands.

22/16/7 To approve and sign the order of payments for June 2022.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to approve, and sign the order of payments for June 2022 totalling £7,386.48.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/8 To receive a report from Ward Councillor Julie Smith.

Cllr Julie Smith reported the following:

Following the last meeting I met with Will McKellar from Citizens Advice Bureau with a view to starting sessions in Handforth Library. He is now in the process of recruiting advisors to enable this to start as soon as possible.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May I attended the Cheshire East mayor making ceremony at Tatton Park where Cllr David Marren was invested as Mayor for Cheshire East 2022/23.

The end of May was mostly taken up with the Jubilee celebrations throughout the village which were enjoyed by hundreds of residents. I attended 10 events, some with other HTC councillors and the organisers and residents sent grateful thanks to HTC for the funding which allowed them to celebrate this important milestone. I'd like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of events and the volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the events were safe and enjoyed by everyone who attended and special thanks to Chris Wiggins and colleagues of CWS Services who provided transport and manpower to deliver furniture and gazebos free of charge.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June I had a meeting with Tom Barton, the CEO of Everybody Health and Leisure which is a charity working in partnership with Cheshire East. The charity's main focus is to provide "Leisure for life" and "Help people live well for longer" They offer a wide range of services including health and fitness memberships for residents of all ages and are interested in bringing their services to Handforth. We discussed various initiatives for Handforth including Bikeability which is similar to cycling proficiency, promoting tennis and the use of the 5 aside pitch here at the youth centre. He will be contacting Ashley in the next couple of months to arrange a meeting with HTC about how to take things forward.

With regards to the 5 aside pitch. HTC were granted £5,000.00 of the £10,000.00 cost of repairing the floodlights. Janet Taylor, on behalf of Junior

Youth Club then applied to the Police Crime Commissioner for the additional £5,000.00 match funding, which was awarded. Thanks to Janet for her hard work in securing this funding.

Cllr John Smith and I joined 1<sup>st</sup> Handforth cub scouts for an evening litter pick in Meriton Road Park which was very well attended.

There will be a community litter pick on 25<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm. As usual people are being asked to meet in the Paddock to collect equipment.

Onward Housing will be providing a community skip on Delamere Road, Spath Lane on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 11am to 2pm.

22/16/9

MOTION: To receive formal notification of Transfer of the Handforth War Memorial from the Handforth Community War Memorial Foundation and to agree this Asset Transfer to Handforth Town Council along with associated maintenance costs.

To begin the item the vice-chairman of the Handforth Community War Memorial Foundation, noted that there had been some informal discussion regarding any possible transfer with HTC's clerk in 2021 and that the decision to request the transfer was agreed by the Foundation trustees in December 2021 he then read out the following for all present:

When we sat down at our first meeting as a group of 8 trustees in early 2015 to discuss merits of having a War Memorial in Handforth, to remember our fallen heroes, we had no idea of the struggles that would be encountered along the way. These ranged from opposition to a Memorial, finding the right site, getting planning permission, dealing with all the main utility services, charity registration and then there was the "easier part" collecting money to fund the project.

On that particular point I would like to mention several of the main benefactors – Handforth Parish Council, Wilmslow Town Council, Wilmslow Dean Rotary, Wilmslow Aid Trust, and many of our local businesses that were very generous in their donations. I would also like to mention the many, many people who contributed through our regular collections at Handforth Dean and various fund-raising events.

Eventually all these obstacles were overcome and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 the War Memorial was unveiled, and has since served as a wonderful working landmark for the community and is now considered a show piece for visitors and passing traffic.

From day one, this venture was for the "community" and the trustees now feel the time is right to pass the administration and future well-being of the War Memorial over to the Town Council for safe keeping.

As a trustee and I speak for all of the other trustees, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been a part of this wonderful community project and we know that the Town Council will continue to ensure that its foreseeable future is in safe hands.

Although we do have some funds left in the trustee's bank account the amount is very small and it has been decided that this will be passed over to a charity of our choice in due course and the bank account closed. This will save trying to move the money into the Handforth Town Council's account which would be a nightmare with administration.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to agree the Asset Transfer of the War Memorial from Handforth Community war Memorial Foundation to Handforth Town Council along with associated maintenance costs.

**Motion Carried: Six in favour with one abstention.**

22/16/10 MOTION: To create a Friends of Handforth Parks Group to monitor and review all aspects of all Handforth's Parks whose activities will include but not be limited to fundraising for all of Handforth's Parks.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to defer this item.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/11 MOTION: To receive a grant application from St Marys Methodist Church – Handforth towards partial costs of replacing the main hall windows with double glazing. Grant requested £2,000.00.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward to grant the full requested amount of £2,000.00 to St Mary's Methodist Church with the condition that, if the church received additional funding to complete this elsewhere, any balance remaining from the £2,000.00 be returned to the Town Council.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/12 MOTION: To receive a grant application from Handforth Library towards the costs of the Summer Reading Challenge 2022. Grant Requested £350.00.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to approve the grant for the full amount of £350.00 and to also preapprove a second grant of £350.00 for the next financial year 23/24 for that financial year's library summer reading challenge.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/13 MOTION: To support the Time Out group with their organisation of a “Summer Fun Day” in the Paddock in August 2022 with financial assistance up to a maximum of £200.00.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Milward that whilst HTC supported the Time Out Group and their summer fun day, that HTC requested that any funding sought be followed through the HTC grant application process.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/14 MOTION: To receive recommendation from the HTC Environment committee for the purchase of air quality monitoring equipment up to a maximum value of £600.00.

This item was deferred by the HTC Environment Committee at their meeting held earlier in the evening.

22/16/15 MOTION: to agree the installation of 2 x additional CCTV cameras in Handforth as part of HTC’s commitment to the detection and prevention of crime up to the value of £1,148.00 plus VAT.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to agree the installation of 2 x additional CCTV cameras in Handforth as part of HTC’s commitment to the detection and prevention of crime up to the value of £1,148.00 plus VAT.

**Motion Carried: Six in favour with one abstention.**

22/16/16 MOTION: To consider the purchase of 2 x map display boards and the production of a professional map of Handforth with places of interest clearly marked up to the value of £1,100.00 plus VAT.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve the purchase of 2 x map display boards and the production of both the maps plus one extra which could be displayed at Handforth station.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/17 To receive a report from Cllr John Smith following the CEC vote held on 27<sup>th</sup> April regarding the Community Governance review.

This item was moved up the agenda by the Chairman.

22/16/18 MOTION: To set up a working group to consider changes to the website to reflect the responses from members of public. This to be a long-term project with a view to having the changes set up ready for the renewal of the contract next year.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to set up the working group as laid out above and that Cllr Moore would take the lead on this item.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/16/19 To receive notices and correspondence.

22/16/20 To agree the date of the next HTC meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

It was agreed without a vote that the next HTC meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The meeting closed at 8:55pm.

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