



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Town Council held on Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> March 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

Ten members of the public, including four members of St Benedict's School Youth Council

The video can be watched on YouTube by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNIRoV6ujZq24I634xDmhQ/>

Cllr John Smith made the following Chairman's statement at the start of the meeting: I think I would speak for all residents in condemning the actions of Russia in invading Ukraine with no provocation.

22/07/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

22/07/2 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 Samson declared an interest in item 22/07/9 as a resident of Pickmere Road and would not vote on the application.

Cllr Julie Smith declared an interest in item 22/07/9 as a volunteer for the Handforth Junior Youth Club and would not vote on the application.

Cllr John Smith declared an interest in item 22/07/9 as he was also chair of Friends of Stanley Hall Park.

22/07/3 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 made comment on a recent article published on Wilmslow.co.uk and noted there was no provision to make a comment on the article and after contacting the editor, was told, this was for legal reasons. The resident also noted that there was no substance to the CE audit & governance committee summary and enquired would any members be attending the committee meeting. The resident also made an enquiry regarding the Aversure Contract.

CLlr John Smith noted that he had been contacted by the BBC for comment following publication of recent articles, however, would not pass comment until after Thursday's meeting.

22/07/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 08<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

CLlr Milward proposed, seconded by CLlr Julie Smith to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 08<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/07/5 To receive a report from the PCSO.

No report received this month.

22/07/6 To approve and sign the order of payments for March 2022.

CLlr Sullivan proposed, seconded by CLlr Moore to approve, and sign the order of payments for March 2022 totalling £18,733.28.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/07/7 To receive a report from Ward Councillor Julie Smith.

Councillor Julie Smith presented the following report:

On 2nd February I attended the Northern Planning Committee meeting on which the application for 9 apartments at Cypress House was being considered. As I was already pre-determined on this application I could not sit

on the committee and instead spoke against the development as a ward councillor. The application was refused.

I have been informed today that the application considered by HTC planning committee on the independent living accommodation at 1 School Road has been granted.

The CEC full council meeting took place on 24th February and the main agenda item was the budget for 22/23. I voted in favour of the 2.99% increase in council tax as the money is needed to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. There is also an additional £19million being invested into roads maintenance over the next 3 years.

ON 28<sup>th</sup> February, a skip was provided for the South Ward and due to a suitable location being unavailable it was decided to place it on the Youth Centre car park. It was very well received and filled in the allotted time. I attended a Friends of Handforth Station “tidy up day” again and am pleased to report that there wasn’t anywhere near the amount of rubbish to collect than there was last month. I discussed the scruffy footbridge with Hugh Everett, and he is looking into getting a volunteer group from Network Rail to come and work with community volunteers to tidy it up, hopefully repainting, highlighting the step edges and installing some solar lighting to make it a safer way to cross the tracks. I also offered to borrow a mobile pressure washer and clean the platform shelter roof so that they look presentable when coming down the steps onto the platform. A nice idea would be to cover them in turf and sow wildflowers which is something I think we should look at doing with the disused bus shelters on Spath Lane. Apparently the streetlight at the top of the Northbound platform is quite dim so I have asked for CEC to increase the illumination on it to clearly light the path from the top of the platform to the pavement.

The long-awaited re-lining of Grangeway / Wilmslow Road is scheduled to take place this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March where upon completion we hope that the bad parking issues will be resolved.

I took part in a community collection of donations for Ukraine in the Paddock last Saturday. This was an overwhelming success thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community.

There will be a community litter-pick in the village this coming Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March and this time we have even more equipment so hopefully no one will be left out.

Friends of Stanley Hall Park have had lots of saplings donated by The Woodland Trust and there will be a community planting event on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 10-3.

ANSA have been extremely busy in both Meriton Road Park and Stanley Hall Park this month planting lots of different trees. Thanks to CEC and ANSA.

At the start of lockdown 2 years ago, Cllr Sue Moore and myself set up Neighbours helping Neighbours which was a scheme whereby volunteers from around the village offered their services helping the most vulnerable in our community by shopping, collecting prescriptions and helping where needed. We had more than 85 volunteers and practically every road in Handforth covered and their work was invaluable. We have been given some money by Cheshire East to lay on an event to thank the volunteers for their community spirit and are having a party at the Railway Public House on Friday 08<sup>th</sup> April and will be inviting them all along. Finally, I have bought 50 Ukrainian flags which Ashley and Paul will put on the lamp posts throughout the village to show our support for Ukraine.

22/07/8 MOTION: To receive an update on previously awarded grant applications from 21-22.

All those groups who had received a grant award in the last twelve months were approached for feedback, all provided receipts for their activities and most groups gave a degree of feedback on the success of their project.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to accept this.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/07/9 MOTION: To review and agree any received Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award applications.

- St Benedict's School - £500.00

Representatives from St Benedict's Youth council attended the meeting and spoke to their application for a Queens Platinum Jubilee Award. They thanked HTC for previous grant contributions and outlined their plans for a celebration to be held in June at St Benedict's school.

Councillors were delighted that the youth council could attend and were extremely impressed at how they spoke at a Town Council meeting.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to agree the £500.00 award for St Benedict's School.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

- Gwyneth Morley Court residents - £300.00

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to agree the £300.00 award for Gwyneth Morley Court residents.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

- Deanview residents - £50.00

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to agree the £50.00 award for Deanview residents.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

- Handforth Junior Youth Club - £500.00

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to agree the £500.00 award for Handforth Junior Youth club.

**Motion Carried: Five in favour with two abstentions.**

- Pickmere Road residents - £500.00

Cllr John Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to agree the £500.00 award for Pickmere Road residents.

**Motion carried: Five in favour with one abstention.**

- Friends of Handforth Station - £400.50

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to agree the £400.50 award for Friends of Handforth Station.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/07/10 MOTION: To discuss and agree a trial (to be held over the Easter School holidays) for the provision of lunches to those children in Handforth currently receiving free school meals who would otherwise go without a midday meal; subject to the maximum amount provided by the 22-23 HTC youth provision budget.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Moore to defer this item as a number of details around this had changed very suddenly.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

22/07/11 To receive notices and correspondence.

Cllr Smith noted that Avensure had sent the council a letter before action, along with the contracts for two other companies sent by Avensure possibly in error. Cllr Smith then noted the contents of a letter sent back from the Town Council to Avensure. Full details of which can be requested from the

clerk or viewed on the HTC YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNIRoV6ujZq24I634xDmhQ/>

22/07/12 To agree the date of the next HTC meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

It was agreed, without a vote, that the date of the next HTC meeting would be 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The meeting closed at 8:09pm.

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