



**Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Town Council held on
Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7:45pm, 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
Six members of the public

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

22/12/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

22/12/2 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.

22/12/3 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 representative from Citizens Advice North (Will McKellar) attended the meeting to address councillors and indicated that the Citizens Advice were looking to reintroduce their services to Handforth following a much-reduced

service level following on from the Covid pandemic. The service used to operate from the Handforth Health centre on a Thursday afternoon and attracted low footfall of 3 to 4 people during its operation. For the record he noted that Citizens Advice North was not looking for funding from the Town Council, but some local knowledge on the best location to operate, as well as an idea of timings to be suggested by the Town Council.

All councillors were fully in favour of the idea and made a number of suggestions around location; the library was felt to be a suitable venue as there were other resources available as well as a private room. It was noted that there could be potential to use the Handforth Youth Centre in the coming months as well.

A resident enquired under item 22/12/10 about who's responsibility this group would fall under.

Cllr John Smith noted that he would allow comment when the item came up for discussion.

22/12/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 12th April 2022.

Cllr Julie Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council meeting of 12th April 2022.

Motion Carried: Six in favour with One abstention.

22/12/5 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council Finance Committee meeting of 12th April 2022.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve, and sign the minutes of the Handforth Town Council Finance Committee meeting of 12th April 2022.

Motion Carried: Six in favour with One abstention.

22/12/6 To receive a report from the PCSO.

The PCSO reported the following:

- 1 attempt Burglary
- 1 Burglary
- 5 reports of sus activity

We have had a higher than usual reports of dog bites/ "dangerous dogs" fortunatley none of these reports has involved a dog biting a person.

17 reports of “concern For Safety” involving Mental Health or Alcohol. This again is higher than usual & due to 3 regulars struggling at the moment. This has created a lot of demand & has been very time consuming for Gareth & Matthew.

We are currently trying get our summer plan in place in relation to youth engagement & patrols.

22/12/7 To approve and sign the order of payments for May 2022.

Cllr Moore proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve, and sign the order of payments for May 2022 totalling £15,270.45.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/12/8 To receive a report from Ward Councillor Julie Smith.

Cllr Julie Smith gave the following report:

I started the month dressed as the Easter Bunny for a community event on Colshaw Estate organised by CETRA, the residents Association. I also visited 2 of the Handforth scarecrow displays as the Easter Bunny.

On Bank Holiday Monday myself and Cllr. John Smith visited the Oakenclough Centre where Transition Wilmslow were holding an open day in the market garden and where we discovered that ‘worm charming’ was actually a thing.

On 25th April we held another successful skip day, this time on Knowle Park. These events are very popular with residents, and I believe instances of fly tipping have been reduced as a result. Hopefully, we can continue to do them going forward.

I have been informed that the installation of the Handforth to Wilmslow cycle path has been delayed however it is hoped that it will take place following receipt of the next tranche of the governments Active Travel Grant.

This week I am expecting to be given a date when the ‘SLOW’ road markings on Station Rd. will be done.

On 27th April I attended the Cheshire East full council meeting where council voted on the community governance recommendations made by the subcommittee. I am pleased to report that I voted in accordance with the wishes of our residents and as a result Handforth will remain independent of Wilmslow and we can continue to support and strengthen our wonderful community.

I have been informed that Network Rail have agreed to clean and repaint the footbridge over the railway from Old Rd to Church Rd within the next 6-8 months.

Janet Taylor, on behalf of Junior youth club has applied to Tesco for a grant in order to renovate the courtyard at the youth centre. The project will involve removing all the debris and installing planters and hanging baskets and it is planned that the members of all 3 youth clubs will be involved with PCSO Gareth and his colleagues helping with the heavy lifting. I am also hoping to involve some of the Always Active group members so this can be a fully inclusive project integrating the young and elderly in our community.

A couple of months ago at a licensing committee meeting, I raised a query around school transport, specifically taxis and whether there is a more cost-effective way of providing transport to schools. Following a Freedom of Information request we discovered that Cheshire East spend £231,959.67 per week to transport 887 pupils to and from schools in the borough. A number of these children are pupils at schools which provide education for those with Special Educational Needs, and I want to make it clear that my interest in finding a more economical solution is in no way an attack on either the children or the parents of these children. I simply think that any money saved could be better spent providing more desperately needed resources for the children. Apparently this issue will be on the agenda for the May meeting of the Children & Families Committee to review.

In addition to the above I have also dealt with reporting potholes, having fallen trees removed, writing letters to assist residents to find alternative properties, having traffic lights re-synchronised, pelican crossing audible signals increased, graffiti removed, volunteering at all 3 youth clubs and a Saturday morning spent cleaning signs and litter picking at the station.

22/12/9 MOTION: To review and agree any received Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award applications.

- Southacre Drive residents - £300.00

Members to note that the value given out under the current scheme has reached £5,050.00 of the £5,000.00 allocated budget. Consideration could be given to utilising Community Grant budget allocation to satisfy this final QPJ Award.

Councillors noted the success of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award scheme and felt it only right to grant this final award application by virement of funds from the community grants budget to the QPJA budget.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Julie Smith to grant £300.00 to the residents of South Acre Drive.

Resolved: Unanimously.

22/12/10

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 John Smith noted that he had brought this motion forward on behalf of a local resident who was interested in forming an overarching Friends of Parks in Handforth Group following reduction in CE capital and revenue budgets for spending on parks.

The resident responsible for the request spoke and informed councillors of the following:

During a meeting prior to lockdown between Friends of Stanley Hall Park/ANSA/CEC on the finances available for parks in Handforth, it became apparent that of the 6 parks in Handforth, only 2 were actively improved although money had been allocated to at least one other. This is because nobody requests improvements or maintenance for parks unless there is an active Friends group in existence and an idea was mooted that perhaps the existing Friends groups could consider expanding their role to encompass all parks in Handforth.

Currently 2 "Friends of the Park" groups exist in Handforth, one in Meriton Road and one in Stanley Hall Park on Spath Lane estate, these groups actively work with ANSA and Cheshire East Council with the aim of providing equipment and facilities most needed for the particular age groups and needs of the residents. Neither park is exclusive to its area, both groups are fully inclusive, and parks are available at all times for all users.

The member of a second parks group in attendance spoke and noted that their group was not in favour of adding another tier over their individual group and noted the many drawbacks and other implications that one group might have.

Cllr John Smith invited the first speaker to draw up a "one page" document which could be circulated to councillors for comment and would be shared with both existing park groups.

The item was then deferred to the next meeting without a vote.

22/12/11

To receive a report from Cllr John Smith following the CEC vote held on 27th April regarding the Community Governance review.

Cllr John Smith noted that the meeting had run on considerably longer than anticipated and that he would give this report at the next HTC meeting.

22/12/12 To receive notices and correspondence.

22/12/13 To agree the date of the next HTC meeting to be held on 14th June 2022.

It was agreed without a vote that the date of the next HTC meeting would be 14th June 2022.

The meeting closed at 8:42pm.

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