

## MINUTES

### HIGHAM ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL Annual Parish Council Meeting



Date: Monday 4th May 2021  
Time: 7.00 pm online via Zoom (actual start time 7.10pm due to internet issues)  
Present: Cllrs B Golder, D Waterton, A Jenkins, Steve Gayton, A Grimes, Ivan Ould, J Collett  
A Perkins (Parish Clerk),

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#### 1) APOLOGIES

Cllr K Whitehead

#### 2) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL

Brian Golder stood down as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Brian Golder was nominated to stand as Chairman.

Nominated: Cllr A Jenkins

Seconded: Cllr S Gayton

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and all who attended voted for Brian Golder to stand as Chairman.

Brian Golder was therefore duly re-elected as Chairman of Higham on the Hill Parish Council.

#### 3) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, the country went into lockdown due to COVID 19. Consequently the business of the Parish Council was reduced to the minimum and councillors and clerk had to master the use of Zoom to enable meetings to take place. Meetings continue to be held via Zoom however normal face to face meetings will resume after 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

At long last the footpath on Nuneaton Lane was edged back by LCC which greatly improved access for pedestrians however we have not given up hope of achieving a better surface when LCC finances allow.

The new Meadow at the rear of Hilary Bevins Close continues to improve and was named by the pupils of Higham on the Hill Primary School, with Moo Meadow being the favourite. We also became members of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust whose expertise we hope to harness to improve the biodiversity of the area. We were successful in our bid to LCC Shire Environment Grant and were awarded funds to provide an interpretation board and 6 bat boxes.

We were also successful in being awarded a grant from the Parishes and Communities Fund to improve outside spaces and a kissing gate was installed on the path near Ravenscroft Farm leading to Barr Lane (T52).

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A full and comprehensive audit of parish assets was undertaken and also a survey of aged trees on Parish Council land and the Old Churchyard. Tree works will be carried out in 2021 according to priority identified in the survey.

One of the two vehicle activated signs became faulty and has now been repaired however traffic volume and speed remains an issue and has been reported again to LCC Highways Community Speed Initiative.

New signage was purchased for King George V Field regarding dogs and motorised vehicles and the Annual Rospa Inspection found the play equipment to be in good order. The roof on the play tower was painted to improve weather resistance. The benches outside the school were also sanded back and painted.

#### **Future plans**

We hope the Party in the Park will still be able to go ahead in July 2021 but we will have to wait and see what the situation is regarding COVID-19. A full risk assessment has been prepared and will be adapted to meet government guidelines and ensure compliance.

I would take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow councillors who readily give up their time to try and improve the village and its amenities to benefit of everyone.

I would also like to thank our parish clerk who has set up and steered us through our Zoom meetings and who ensures that we follow the rules on accountability and transparency.

On behalf of the Parish Council, we hope everyone one of you keeps safe, in these uncertain times.

Brian Golder

#### 4) **REPORT FROM HIGHAM CHARITIES**

No meetings had taken place in the previous 12 months and no monies had been received or spent.

For Higham Charities Brian Golder agreed to continue as the Parish Council liaison.

#### 5) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following nomination was made for Vice Chair:

Ann Jenkins  
Nominated by Cllr D Waterton  
Seconded by Cllr B Golder

There were no other nominations.

A vote was taken and all who attended voted for Ann Jenkins to stand as Vice-Chair.

#### 6) **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was agreed that no amendments were required to the Standing Orders for Higham on the Hill Parish Council and so they were accepted and approved as a correct version.

7) **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Financial Regulations for Higham on the Hill Parish Council were reviewed. It was agreed that no amendments were required so they were accepted and approved as a correct version.

8) **REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER**

The asset register was reviewed. 8 Grit Bins had been identified and added to the register.

9) **INSURANCE COVER**

The insurance cover was confirmed as relevant and at the appropriate level however the clerk to investigate whether regular risk assessments of the play equipment should be carried out by the council and if so, how these should be recorded. The policy will need to be reviewed in November 2021 and renewal quotations requested. The LTA with BHIB will cease in January 2022.

**Action: Parish Clerk to enquire**

10) **REVIEW OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES**

A review was undertaken of the subscriptions paid to other bodies, being Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC), Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT) and were agreed.

This concluded the business of the Annual Parish Council meeting; the meeting was closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_

Dated 4/6/2021