

HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTS OF AN ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH JULY 2023
IN THE NEW PAVILION AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

Ms Yvonne Hart (Chairperson)
Mr Colin Everett
Mrs Wendy Harris
Mrs Ann Warner (Clerk)

Members of the Public:

Mrs Rosemary Gainsford
DC Louise Pearce (LibDem)

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from PCSO Heather Burrows, County Councillor David Barnard, Parish Councillor Martin Thurlow and Parish Councillor Susan Young. These were accepted and approved by the Parish Council.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated to all the Parish Councillors were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chairperson Ms Yvonne Hart.

3. Matters to report:

3.1 Police Update: There was no representative from the Police Authority. However, during the month of June there has been a number of incidents of vandalism in the village notable items taken from parishioners' gardens and the Bowls club. These have been reported to the Police.

3.2 District Councillors report:

District Councillor Louise Pearce reported that there is a proposal to raise the general parking fee by 10p but only pay for the time you are there and not on a fixed parking ticket. There is still time to object to this proposal. There is also at Hitchin Train Station a proposal to have no ticket office. Louise Pearce would also like to place her reports on our local Facebook, Website and Noticeboards. The Parish Council agreed that this was a very good idea.
A report from Louise Pearce is attached and will be displayed on the Holwell Parish Website.

County Councillor David Barnard has awarded the Parish Council with a grant for £500 towards tiling and mirrors in the toilets and changing rooms in the New Pavilion.

3.3 Recreation Ground Issues:

Hire agreement for new Pavilion: The clerk produced a draft hire agreement for all hirers to complete and sign before using the Pavilion. The Parish Council discussed all issues relating to the hirer, costings, numbers the Pavilion can hold, types of functions, cleaning and parking. Adjustments were made and the clerk was instructed to finalise the document.

Pavilion – the clerk reported that she had spoken to the Builder, and he promised to return and complete the snagging list. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Lloyd and list the items which need attention and ask for a date for the completion of the work.

Cricket and Football Clubs – Hire of the square and pitch were discussed, and it was agreed that this would be reviewed at the beginning of the 2024 season.

Mr Alex Ham our groundsman reported that the gang mowers are near the end of their life, and we need to seriously look at replacing them. Mr Ham agreed to get 3 quotes for the replacement of these. The Parish Council will be looking at raising funds to pay for their replacement.

The Parish Council has passed the first phase of the Football Foundation grant for a 5-year maintenance programme on the recreation ground. The Parish Council would need to employ a professional groundsman for this period and the grant would pay for this. The clerk and Parish Councillor Wendy Harris are making enquiries regarding this.

The hard standing for the Vic Harvey bench has now been completed.

3.4 Children's Play Area:

The clerk was instructed to contact CPM Playgrounds regarding the repair of the safety surface as there had been no reply from previous e-mails.

3.5 Rights of Way update: - access to play area from Holwell Road to children's play area.

The clerk reported that she had e-mailed Rights of Way officer Richard Cuthbert after every Parish Council meeting for the last year and still not received an answer. The clerk agreed to write again but would also copy in County Councillor David Barnard to see if this would make a difference.

3.6. Highways:

It was reported that there is a hole at the junction of Holwell Road and Bedford Road, the entrance to the village of Holwell. The Holwell Road sign also needs replacing and the sign on the Bedford Road is bent and needs to be repaired. District Councillor Louise Pearce offered to report this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Parish Paths – it was reported by Parishioner Rosemary Gainsford that the way marker along the Bedford Road, is in the ditch and needs to be replaced and the Bridleway is overgrown. The clerk will report these matters.

4. Finance:

The following payments were paid between meetings:

Evolution Tree Works Limited	-£360.00	tree inspection and removal of branches encroaching over the Pavilion
Mr C Smith	-£200.00	labour + materials £144.76 Hardstanding for bench on recreation ground
CPRE	- £36.00	Subscription
Octopus DD	-£172.00	Electricity supply for July

Castle Water ongoing dispute is being dealt with by Parish Councillor Wendy Harris who will update the Parish Council at the next Parish council meeting.

5. Correspondence: All correspondence has been circulated to the Parish Councillors.

6. Matters for special consideration:

Planning - Glendale, 2 Waterloo Lane, Holwell – 1 2- Bed detached dwelling including parking, landscaping and creation of vehicular access.

The Parish Council has no objection but with proviso that all mature trees (Ash) are protected and hedgerow retained.

Suggest dates for removal of Hawthorn suckers in the Recreation ground and clearing the path in recreation ground car park are to be arranged.

Volunteers would be welcome.

Community Garden - pending

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 in the Pavilion at 7.00p.m. All Parishioners are welcome.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting closed at 9.00p.m.