



DRAFT Minutes of a meeting of Hilldale Parish Council

Thursday 6th March 2025, 7.00pm

at Hilldale Village Hall

Participants: Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr S Ashcroft, Cllr I Bell, Cllr D Whittington, Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk) and Cllr Katie Jukes.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
 - a. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors in relation to items on the agenda
 - b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests
 - c. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriateNone received
3. **Public Participation: To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation.** Cllr Jukes advised she has just returned from a flooding event in Ormskirk and spoke of the use of involving multi-agencies in order to address and take flooding issues forward.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting - to resolve to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23.01.25.** It was resolved to approve the minutes proposed by the Cllr Ashcroft, seconded by the Chairman and unanimously ratified by all.
5. **Parish Clerks Report (previously circulated).** The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk enquired if the Parish Councillors had considered the quotation (previously circulated) for painting the toilets. It was ratified to seek an additional quotation. The Clerk advised of obtaining details of a new handyman and will obtain quotes for the outstanding small tasks in the village hall and circulate for approval.
6. **Items for information - reports from outside bodies.** None
7. **To discuss and resolve that the Clerk contacts LCC Highways to request that wooden posts be added to the white posts round the edge of the grassed area at the Chorley Road/Maltkiln Lane, Hilldale, junction in the manner of the wooden posts recently added to the edge of the grassed area at the junction of Tannersmith Lane/Halfpenny Lane/Hall Green Lane, Mawdesley.** It was ratified the Clerk contact LCC Highways Department to request this.
8. **To discuss correspondence received from a resident regarding land drainage at Hillside Ave and agree a way forward.** Following discussion, it was confirmed the Parish Council is not responsible for the unadopted road. However, in order to provide some support to residents it was ratified that the Parish Council should write to residents on Hillside Avenue to establish if they wish to request a multi-agency meeting (possibly via zoom) with relevant parties. Cllr Jukes confirmed she has all the relevant contacts should residents wish to take this forward.
9. **To receive an update on the stage curtain.** The Clerk confirmed she met the contractor on site following the installation of the curtain which provides options for either a black or grey background.

10. **To discuss progress of the SpID questionnaires.** 27 responses were received, 96% of these stated there was a need for a SpID in Hilldale. Given this information together with the suggested sites it was ratified to go ahead with the purchase of a solar SpID and solar panels for all 3 locations (subject to budget provision). The Clerk will investigate if there are costs for the posts as when the project commenced LCC provided free of charge.
11. **To discuss and agree on the purchase of a SpID prior to grant funding ending on 31.03.25.** The Clerk confirmed that West Lancashire Council have agreed to roll over the grant funding to 31.03.26. The Clerk to obtain final costings.
12. **To receive and update on the coppicing of the hazel on the field.** The second hazel has been coppiced with the cut offs being offered to residents (advertised on noticeboards). The Clerk will also advise the HCA for their Facebook page.
13. **To receive an update on this year's applications for capital grant from WLBC.** The Clerk has submitted a grant application for a picnic bench with accessibility for a wheelchair/pram.
14. **To confirm the precept for the 2025/26 financial year has been forwarded to WLBC.** The Clerk confirmed this had been sent to WLBC.
15. **To pass a resolution to agree the Parish Council standing orders** - approved
16. **To pass a resolution to agree financial regulations** - approved
17. **To pass a resolution to agree risk management policy statement** - approved
18. **To pass a resolution to agree the internal auditor and fee – Heelis and Lodge,** approved
19. **To pass a resolution to agree the risk management register** - approved
20. **To pass a resolution to agree the parish council asset register** - approved
21. **To review the village hall kitchen, hire fee for 2025/26 and agree a way forward.**
Following discussion, it was ratified to continue with the existing charge of £5.00 and not to impose an increase.
22. **To receive the budget monitoring report receipts/payments summary to the end of quarter three (2024/25) for members to note.** Cllrs noted quarter three monitoring report with no queries raised.
23. **To consider and resolve the Year End Health Check service offered by Scribe.** It was ratified to go ahead with the year-end check from Scribe.
24. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable to planning applications together with any received after the agenda is published.** None
25. **To consider and approve the schedule of account for payment.** Approved
26. **Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments.** Approved
27. **Staffing Review – in view of the confidential nature of this item, members of the public and press may be excluded at this point.** A note of this minute is contained in a separate note.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.10

Clerk: Trish Grimshaw E mail: Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Signed..... G WARD, CHAIRMAN, Dated