



HIGHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Highwood Village Hall (foyer)**

In Attendance

Cllr P Latham (Chairman)
Cllr T Horsnell (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr D Cameron
Cllr S Gill
Cllr K Latham-Pearmain
Cllr S Maclean
Cllr U Maher
Clerk

61/23 Declaration of Interests

None declared.

62/23 Apologies for Absence

None received.

63/23 Cllr Mike Steel/Cllr Nicolette Chambers

Cllr Steel and Cllr Chambers were not present. Cllr Chambers sent the following update:

- The last few years has seen the closure of 85 swimming pools, 50 libraries, 270 Post Offices and 12,000 shops.
- Most local authorities will be bankrupt within the next three years.
- The income derived from car parking has reduced as a result of the low footfall.
- The allowances for housing rates have been reduced.
- There is still a high number of homeless people and the council is keen to build affordable housing.
- The recent decision on Public Space Protection Orders in Hylands Park has been called in.

64/23 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 17th July 2023 were approved and signed.

65/23 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

66/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

- The Council received a clear audit, with a note regarding the incorrect asset value, which has been amended and noted formally under item 68/23.
- The Clerk is attending the EALC AGM on Thursday 21st September.
- Gigaclear has requested a meeting with Councillors which will be declined.
- Annual leave requested for October approved.



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67/23 Reports from Representatives

No updates for this meeting.

68/23 Finance

(a) **It was resolved** to approve the payments made since the last meeting as follows:

Tracey Poole	£120.00
PKF Littlejohn	£378.00
DW Maintenance	£562.00
Fusion Technology	£49.60
Solopress	£537.55
Staffing	£1,280.86

(b) The budget update was received without comment.

(c) The amendment to the asset value on Section 3 of the Annual Governance Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2022/23 was noted.

(d) **It was resolved** to pay Fusion Technology by Direct Debit.

69/23 Planning

(a) The following submission made outside of a meeting was noted:

23/01261/FUL

Radley Green Farm, Radley Green Road – Proposed change of use from Agricultural Building (Use Class Sui Generis) to Commercial Use (Use Class E) industrial use suitable for residential areas – **no objection**.

70/23 Environment

(a) Previous contractors will be asked to requote for the fencing at the Edney Common play area. The quotes received will be presented at a future meeting for consideration.

(b) It was agreed to look at replacing the roundabout and swings at the Edney Common play area. Contractors will be approached to provide a design and quote for consideration at a future meeting.

(c) It was suggested to include sensory equipment in the request in 70/23(b).

(d) The CCTV project was discussed. Further information will be presented to residents.

71/23 General Information

The following matters were raised:

a) The 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in June 2024 was noted. There are no events planned.

b) Parking problems in Edney Common have been reported to Cllr Chambers.

c) The grassed area in Sparrows Close is not being maintained.

d) There is a planning enforcement issue due to cars parked in Nathans Lane.

e) The Church Farm hedgerow is overgrown and impeding the footpath.

f) The meeting dates for 2024 were set for the third Monday every other month, as follows: 15th January; 18th March; 20th May; 15th July; 16th September; 18th November.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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