



**THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF  
THE HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**Present:** Cllr. A Pearson (Chair)  
Cllr. J Robson, Cllr. A Wallace, Cllr. W Todd, Cllr. A Hird, Cllr. K Spencer,  
Cllr. D Dixon  
Durham County Cllr. D Oliver & Cllr. M McGaun  
I Robson (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.07pm

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Agree minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **Resolved** that minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 27th October 2022 be accepted as a true and correct record.

**4. Public Participation**

None

**5. Chairman's Report**

This month has been eventful with two events held. At the beginning of the month we remembered the fallen of the Parish on Remembrance Weekend. In the lead up to that event the Poppy Net was on display at the crossroads which looked as splendid as ever. The Chair thanked all those who helped install the Poppy Net onto the tree frame in St John's Church Garden.

The Remembrance Service & Parade on 13<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm had a good number of attendees and was well represented by organisations both within and outside the village, such as The Royal British Legion, Richard Holden, MP's Office & Durham County Council, and the chair offered thanks on behalf of the council to all those who came along to the event.

Subsequently the Poppy Net was replaced on the tree frame by the Christmas Lights and the 'switch-on' event occurred prior to this meeting and was attended by c.115 people. Thank you to all who helped install the lights and to those who attended the 'switch-on' event, including Castleside Primary School and Consett Brass who provided the live music.

## 6. County Councillor Report

County Cllrs. D Oliver & M. McGaun provided the following update:

- Highways
  - A68 – halfway through repainting & road sign improvements
  - Maudville \ Drover Rd – road markings to improve safety to be completed soon.
- Warm Hubs – hot topic within Durham County at present.
- Application plans for 84 houses at Todd Hill recommended for refusal (small number of houses would have been in within Healeyfield Parish).
- Update on Durham County Council's Budgetary position.
- Electoral Review of Durham County Council to rebalance the number of electors per County Councillor, c. 4,000 each. This includes a reduction in County Councillors to 98, down 28 from the current 126.

It was **Resolved** to accept the County Councillors report and for Parish Councillors to comment individually upon the DCC Electoral Review if they wish.

## 7. Correspondence

- a. Councillors heard about a letter received from Northern Powergrid advising that the council had been successful in its' bid for a grant to fund local power resilience projects.

It was **Resolved** to receive the letter with thanks.

- b. Councillors heard about a letter received from Richard Holden, MP confirming his support for the Northern Powergrid grant.

It was **Resolved** to send a letter to Richard Holden, MP, thanking him for his support and advising that the council had been successful in its' bid.

## 8. Finance

- a. It was **Resolved** that the following accounts be approved for payment.

### Accounts for Payment

Date	Description	Supplier	Budget Category	Net	VAT	Total
27/10/2022	Printer Ink Subscription	HP Instant Ink	General Admin	3.74	0.75	4.49
01/11/2022	Storage	Grove Methodist Church	Donations (Local Gov Misc Prov Act 1935)	100.00	0.00	100.00
24/11/2022	Nov Salary	Ian Robson	Salaries	475.15	0.00	475.15
24/11/2022	Salary following backdated pay award	Lisa Standish	Salaries	95.20	0.00	95.20
24/11/2022	Nov Income Tax	HMRC	Salaries	142.60	0.00	142.60
24/11/2022	Scarecrow Cup engraving	J Robson	Autumn Festival	6.50	0.00	6.50
24/11/2022	3 x Council Training Sessions	CDALC	Councillor Training	30.00	0.00	30.00
24/11/2022	Remembrance Day Road Closure	Beacon Traffic Management	Village Projects	400.00	80.00	480.00
24/11/2022	Castleside Club room booking dep	A Hird	Village Projects	30.00	0.00	30.00

## **b. Responsible Finance Officers Report**

### **Account Balance Summary Update**

Within budget on reconciliation

Bank Statement - £17,715.83

Less uncleared payments - £679.45

Balance as of 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 - £17,036.38

The RFO reported that:

- GMS cheque had been delivered
- Easy PC Accounts trial has started (3 months)

It was **Resolved** to accept the RFO report.

## **c. Budget setting 2023/2024**

The clerk presented the draft budget and following discussion a revised budget was agreed to meet the financial requirement of the Parish Council for 2023/24.

Budgeted costs are £15,215 with an estimated income of £15,249. The King's Coronation as well as the usual maintenance and running costs, e.g., Parish Wood, are to be covered by this budget.

It was **Resolved** to approve the budget as detailed above.

## **d. Set Precept Demand**

It was **Resolved** to raise the Precept from 24.90 to 25.95 (5%) to ensure that budgeted costs are met, and reserves are not depleted further.

## **9. Clerk's Report**

- Plaques from Bench 2 held at Clerks address.
  - Cllr. A Wallace offered to take the plaques and refit to bench 2
- Clerk presented the draft dates for 2023 Parish Council meetings (last Thursday of each month, excl. August & December)
  - It was **Resolved** to approve the draft meeting schedule for 2023, and for the clerk to proceed with booking the Village Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting room.
- The clerk reported on the progress regarding the investigation into the possibility of creating a zero/low hours handyperson position to assist with parish maintenance.

It was **Resolved** to go to advert for a handyperson position, based upon a job description, hours, salary and recruitment process to be fully discussed at a subsequent meeting.

It was **Resolved** to accept the Clerk's report

## 10. Planning Applications

None received during the period

## 11. WW1 Trail Lectern & Way Marker installation

- a. The clerk presented two quotes from suppliers for the installation of the WW1 lectern:  
Quote 1: £562 & Quote 2: £890

It was **Resolved** to approve allocate the work to quote 1, Durham County Council.

- b. Councillors discussed the WW1 trail way marker installation

It was **Resolved** for a group of councillors to walk the trail and determine where the way markers need to be installed and determine the way forward from there. Cllr. J Robson to arrange.

## 12. Westminster Boundary Review - Impact on Lanchester Ward and Healeyfield

- a. County Cllr's briefed upon the Westminster boundary review and the changes which have proposed, including the removal of the North West Durham constituency. As a result of the proposal Healeyfield Parish would sit within North Durham constituency which would stretch eastwards and would include Chester-Le-Street, and Consett would sit within a Blaydon & Consett constituency.

It was **Resolved** for the clerk to draft a response on behalf of the council emphasising the strong cultural, economic, industrial and historical links between Healeyfield and Consett. The response will outline the Parish Council's view that Consett should be brought into the North Durham constituency.

## 13. Steelworks Photo Board cover

- a. The clerk advised that only one quote had been received and a second quote had been requested from another potential installer.

It was **Resolved** to delay this item to the next meeting to allow time for the second quote to be received.

## 14. Parish Newsletter

Cllr. A Pearson declared an interest in this agenda item.

- a. Councillors reviewed quotes for parish newsletter design and production as comparison with the current supplier.

It was **Resolved** to accept the quotes as a valid value for money challenge of the current newsletter costs.

- b. To discuss annual report and smaller newsletter.

It was **Resolved** to proceed with the annual report production as per the previous meeting and for the smaller, quarterly, newsletter to be produced by the Clerk and distributed via the Parish Council website, social media and limited printed copies (single A4 sheet).

**15. Autumn Festival Review**

It was **Resolved** to delay this agenda item until the January meeting.

**16. DCC Community Contingency plan**

a. To determine the cascade plan - volunteers to contact local support locations.  
It was **Resolved** to delay this agenda item until the January meeting.

b. The administration of the Northern Powergrid Grant  
It was **Resolved** to request a monthly invoice from the Village Hall for the warm hub events to allow monitoring of the NPG grant spend, and to request they recognise Northern Powergrid in adverts for the warm hub events.

**20. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting**

a. To agree date and time of next meeting (Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023)

In compliance with Standing Orders para 3.w. the meeting was adjourned, and the remaining agenda items (17 – 19) are to be considered for addition to a future agenda.

Meeting ended at 9.04 pm