



**Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Parish Council held on
Tuesday 12th December 2017 at 6:45pm, The Youth Centre,
Old Road, Handforth.**

Present: Cllr Burgess, Cllr Clark, Cllr Samson (Chair of Handforth Parish Council), Cllr Smith, Cllr Thompson & Cllr Tolver

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Parish Clerk
Four members of the public.
Three representatives from CE Highways.

17/34/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Sullivan

17/34/2 To note Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (DPI).

None.

17/34/3 Highways Hour. Representatives from Cheshire East Highways will give a short presentation followed by a question and answer session regarding Highways issues specific to Handforth.

The three representatives from the CE Highways department introduced themselves, they were: Simon Wallace from Traffic, Andy Simpson from Highway maintenance and Faye Price, project co-ordinator with links to strategic infrastructure. The Highways Hour began with a short presentation during which the representatives explained the breadth of the task they faced maintaining the whole of the CE highway infrastructure; this included Gully emptying, streetlight repairs, emergency responses, potholes and pavement and carriageway defects. They also discussed their current social media strategy which they use to update the public on their activities, and covered the use of the "Report It / Track It" online tool which people could

send any highways issues to their department online. They also briefly discussed their staffing intake and awards they had won.

Noted that Jeremy Hough is Handforth's Local Highways Officer. Also noted that a number of schemes up to the value of £10,000.00 for highways improvements can be taken by the local ward councillor to the Area Highways Partnership for discussion.

A great many questions were raised by both Councillors and members of the public, defective street name plates were covered, and the representatives stated that these had low priority and very little funding allocated to them, and approximately 130 could be addressed each year, however the ones reported would eventually climb the list to be repaired / replaced. It was noted that CE Highways did not have an effective complaints procedure in place, the representatives informed those present they would feed this back to Highways. It was felt by councillors that CE Highways could do a lot more to communicate with Parish Councils including sending them weekly updates on maintenance works, having an interactive assets webpage on which all reported faults or defects could be tracked and informing the council when maintenance was taking place in Handforth so that the council could keep residents informed. There were a number of questions about minor Highways defects which were covered by the representatives. Councillors also enquired as to the time scale for the introduction of the new puffin crossing on Wilmslow Road, outside the Freemasons Arms. Faye Price confirmed that this installation would be going ahead, weather permitting from the 15th January 2018 and would take approximately 7 weeks to complete. Faded or missing road markings would possibly be added to this programme of works whilst Highways had a work gang in Handforth in January. The representatives also confirmed that an area of Highway on the Lakes Estate which was in need of repair would be removed and replaced before Christmas. There was also a discussion about the need for additional road markings on Hall Road, possibly the need for a time-restricted single yellow line outside the church, which could not be used for parking during school pick up and drop off times.

Cllr Samson thanked all three of the representatives for attending the meeting before they left.

- 17/34/4 Open Forum- Comment and questions concerning items on this agenda may be put to the Council by the public during this period. Matters which, in the Chairman's view require debate and/or a discussion will be referred to the next Committee/Council meeting, as appropriate. The Public Forum is restricted to 15 minutes, unless the Chairman allows otherwise.

None.

17/34/5 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 14th November 2017.

Cllr Clark proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith, that the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 14th November 2017 be approved and signed.

Motion Carried: Four in Favour and Two Abstentions.

17/34/6 To approve and sign the accounts for payment for December 2017.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark, that the accounts for payment for December 2017 totalling £7,543.96 be approved and signed.

Resolved: Unanimously.

17/34/7 To receive a report from the clerk.

The clerks report was received by all councillors present.

17/34/8 To receive a report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

The report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan group was received by all councillors present.

17/34/9 MOTION: Handforth Parish Council should consider the financial viability of acquiring suitable office space within Chadsworth House for the purpose of relocating the councils office and meeting room in order that the public may more readily participate in HPC meetings and activities.

Cllr Samson noted that in the past the Parish Council had used other meeting rooms and that this had not improved public attendance at meetings. Cllr Thompson stated that members of the public did not like travelling to the Handforth Youth Centre (HYC), and that HYC itself was not a nice building for either offices or meeting rooms. Cllr Smith enquired as to whether it was HPC's remit to enhance their profile and stated that HYC was functional. It was noted that at Chadsworth House HPC would have to rent a suite, the smallest of which is 427SqFt at £23.75/SqFt the current PC office is 193.75SqFt and costs £13.38/SqFt to rent, including free use of meeting rooms. There was also a brief discussion about other groups use of HYC and potential use of Chadsworth House. Cllr Smith felt HYC was a valuable

community asset which HPC should support, and Cllr Clark felt Chadsworth House was an expensive proposition.

Cllr Thompson proposed the above motion, but the motion failed to receive a seconder.

Motion Failed.

17/34/10 Notices and Correspondence.

None.

The meeting closed at 8:17pm.

Chair.....

Date.....