



**Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Handforth Parish
Council held on Thursday 18th August 2016 at 7:00pm, The
Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.**

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

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Parish Clerk
Fifteen members of the public.
One member of the press.

16/23/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None received.

16/23/2 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 interest (DPI).

None Received.

16/23/3 Open Forum

Several residents presented statements pertaining to item 16/23/6.

Statement read out by a resident:

At a meeting held on Friday 29th July 2016 residents were informed that MAG will no longer be taking part in any activities appertaining to that group at, or on the Oakmere premises. The secretary of MAG resigned some weeks before their grant application was made.

Statement read out by a resident:

All other applications had to abide by requests for information to support their grant applications. The organisers of MAG were repeatedly asked in the months leading up to June 2016 for details of bank accounts, names of officers and whether a constitution was in existence. A constitution would, by its very nature have named the chair, secretary and treasurer. Having attended a good many HPC meetings, it was clear to me that this information was not forthcoming.

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The Chair of the MAG group confirmed that the requested information had been sent to HPC.

The clerk checked the application forms, the only questions asked for was the name of a contact and the name of the chair.

Statement read out by a resident:

When the Oakmere Singers made a grant application for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, we were clearly informed that under no circumstances could the cost of alcoholic drinks be included as part of the application. As you may be aware, the MAG organisation held an event on 13th June 2016 for which a grant application was made. At this event a variety of alcoholic drinks were served as being included in the day's events. Can the clerk and councillors confirm that the MAG grant application did not have any inclusion of alcoholic drinks?

The clerk confirmed that no invoices would be paid out for alcohol.

Statement read out by a resident:

[REDACTED] are now under investigation by The Police, East Cheshire Monitoring Officer and Your Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Being directly involved in the incident on 13th June 2016 at the MAG Queens Birthday Event at Oakmere, where I was subjected to two Common Assaults, and public remarks made by [REDACTED] what can only be described as incredibly disgraceful and very abusive. In The MAG application for funding it states that all Oakmere Residents will be invited. Certain Oakmere Residents were publicly singled out by the [REDACTED], and told they were not to receive any Food or Drinks. Myself and other Residents as Ratepayers object to any payments being made from HPC to the MAG Organisation for this totally unacceptable behaviour by the [REDACTED] at this Event. Secondly: Having attended all the meetings of HPC. up to the June events [REDACTED] in the first instant was adamant he could not support or be involved in the funding this type of event, yet now it seems that MAG has their full support, can he explain why he changed his mind. [REDACTED] have been involved with MAG right from the beginning. They have been at all the meetings and are included in the minutes of the meetings at Oakmere. From the first meeting they have had an active interest in MAG and should not be involved in the above Motion's.

Statement read out by Cllr Tolver:

Councillors will recall that, as the Extra-ordinary Meeting held on 10th June 2016 was about to begin, Cllr Smith said he believed it had been called illegally, on the grounds that an email by Cllr Thompson and myself had a date that suggested our signatures within the email could not be genuine. I disagreed, saying I knew for certain that was not so, having been one of the signatories. Cllr Smith produced a computer analysis which he claimed proved it to be the case; I was not able to argue the issue, not having had an opportunity to inspect his analysis in detail. I said I thought it had possibly been a software error. As it happens, the error was Cllr Smith's – he had failed to appreciate the full details and implications of his report. Subsequently, I studied his report and found the flaw that he had missed. I circulated copies of my detailed study to all councillors; no councillor disputed my findings. A number expressed support. Cllrs Smith and Samson left the meeting before it could formally start,

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claiming, wrongly, that it had been called illegally. At the next full Council meeting of 12th July, the minutes of that Extra-ordinary Meeting, in the normal way, would have been approved. However, the Chair required that the agenda item state that the Extra-ordinary Meeting had been referred to Cheshire East. Despite questions by councillors, the Chair refused to give any more detail, leaving the clear impression that the legality of the extra ordinary Meeting was being challenged. This is not true. Cheshire East have no such powers. Let me quote the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer: ***“Any issues relating to the procedural calling of parish council meetings do not fall under my remit”***. In the absence of any valid reason to the contrary, I therefore propose we proceed directly to approve the minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting held on 10th June 2016 as being a true record.

16/23/4 To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 10th June 2016.

Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark.

Motion carried: four for and three abstentions.

16/23/5 To approve and sign the minutes of the HPC meeting of the 12th July 2016.

Amendment made to delete text under item 16/21/5 – agreed without a vote.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, Seconded by Cllr Smith

Motion carried: five for and two abstentions.

16/23/6 Motion: In the event that item 16/23/4 is deferred or fails, to confirm it is the will of the council to donate £400.00 to the Mobility and Access Group in respect of an event to celebrate Her Majesty’s 90th Birthday, as previously discussed at council meetings.

As item 16/23/4 was carried by majority vote Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Thompson to strike item 16/23/6 from the agenda.

Motion carried: unanimous

16/23/7 Motion: To authorise the parish clerk to make an immediate payment of £400.00 to the Mobility and Access Group in accordance with item 16/23/6.

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver to amend the wording of the motion from “in accordance with item 16/23/6” to “in accordance with item 16/23/4”.

Motion carried: five for and two abstentions.

Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Thompson to vote on the amended version of item 16/23/7.

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Motion carried: five for and two abstentions.

16/23/8 To approve and sign the accounts for payment.

Proposed by Cllr Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Thompson

Motion Carried: six for and one Abstention.

16/23/9 Notices and Correspondence.

Two items received one from Wilmslow town council inviting the Chair to attend their Civic service to be held in September; the second was from the Manchester airport community relations manager inviting councillors to a Manchester airport/ parish / town council meeting on September 20th 2016.

The meeting closed at 7:35 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

Chair.....Date.....