

**Minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting of Handforth Parish
Council (HPC) held on Friday 10th June 2016 at 11:00am, The
Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.**

Present Cllr K Burgess

Cllr I Clark

Cllr K Sullivan

Cllr M Thompson (Chair for the meeting)

Cllr B Tolver

16/17/1 To receive apologies for absence.

No apologies were received.

In the absence of the Chair, and Vice-Chair, Councillors agreed to appoint a Chair for the duration of the meeting. Cllr Clark nominated Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Tolver and this was unopposed.

Cllr Tolver volunteered to take the minutes: this was agreed unopposed.

The Chair stated that in view of concerns that had been expressed as to whether the meeting had been called legally, he wished this statement to be recorded in the minutes: "If it is confirmed that this meeting is in fact illegal, then its proceedings will be void".

16/17/2 To note declarations of Members' Interests.

Cllr Thompson confirmed that he had a non pecuniary interest in the Mobility & Access Group ("MAG") having been instrumental in its early development with ex-Cllr Mrs. Chapman. Furthermore, given that he had consistently abstained from voting on the Parish Council's donations for the Queen's 90th birthday due to its financial structure, he had no intention of voting on this particular request for a donation.

16/17/3 Open Forum-

A number of questions were raised by a gentleman. Why was the application in item 16/17/4 (by MAG) being considered given that the closing date for applications had passed? He was advised that HPC had previously resolved to extend the deadline to enable more groups to submit applications following the initial deadline date, and at the last meeting to defer this particular application. He asked whether it was appropriate to grant a donation to the MAG, given that previously the Oakmere Singers had received a similar donation for an event to be held at Oakmere for the Queens 90th Birthday Celebration. The Chair stated that he could not see that there should be a problem with two groups receiving a donation despite the fact that both were based at Oakmere. The gentleman raised his concern related to ticket allocation by MAG and the fact the event was not open to all residents, but was advised that the ticket allocation had been fully subscribed and there was a limit on the numbers able to attend the event. He was also advised that this was a matter for MAG and not HPC. He next raised the issue of MAG structure which he considered was not a properly run group, including whether they had a constitution. The Chair stated that he was aware that MAG was properly constituted, given that he himself had done the initial draft of the constitution.

Another member of the public asked why the Chair had decided to change his mind since April's HPC meeting – which position he had reaffirmed in May – concerning the donations. Cllr Clark said he thought this was not relevant now. The Chair replied that he had not changed his mind: he did not agree with the financial structure applied to the granting of the donations, believing that it should have tighter financial accountability in his opinion.

16/17/4 To consider the application by the Mobility and Access Group for a donation towards the event on 13th June to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday.

The Chair of the MAG group (Mrs B Chapman) was present in the audience and was asked questions by councillors. Cllr Burgess asked, if the funds were not approved by the Council, would the event be able to go ahead: Mrs Chapman replied that it would. Cllr Sullivan said that Ms Anita Hill of Avantage at Oakmere, had expressed concern to her that the MAG would not have sufficient funding and this would mean the MAG would need to be supported out of funds of residents of Oakmere. Mrs Chapman said this was not the case. £100 had already been donated by Cheshire East, and other funds were available if need be such as the MAG's own reserves.

Mrs Chpman expressed regret that she had been unable to attend the preceding Council meeting when the application had first been discussed, but she had had to attend hospital.

Cllr Clark observed that this had received far more scrutiny than any of the other applications for the Queen's Birthday funding. Cllr Tolver said that awards had been given to schools, a church, and a choir: this was the only one that was for any of the disadvantaged people of Handforth.

Cllr Clark proposed, seconded by Cllr Burgess, that the donation of £400.00 (being £500 less the CEC award of £100) should be awarded.

Resolved: 3 for, 2 abstentions.

The meeting closed at 11:27 am

Chair.....

Date.....