



**Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Handforth Parish
Council held on Wednesday 02nd November 2016 at 7:00pm,
The Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.**

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

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Parish Clerk
Thirteen members of the public.
The P.C.S.O.
No press.

16/31/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Clark.

16/31/2 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.

Cllr Smith raised a point of order, relating to a point of order raised by Cllr Tolver at the recent finance committee meeting held on 24th October. Cllr Tolver has asked if Cllr Smith or any other councillor had asked the police to persuade a member of the public from attending council meetings. At the meeting Cllr Smith replied that no councillor had asked the police to do this. Cllr Smith then raised the matter that Cllr Tolver had then emailed Cllr Sullivan on a number of occasions asking the same question, to which she also replied that no, she had not asked the police to persuade a member of the public from attending council meetings.

Cllr Smith asked that an email from Cllr Sullivan be included in the minutes:

Email from Cllr Sullivan:

You may have read Cllr Tolver's email sent Friday to myself by now. I have already answered his question (to his face and on video) with regards to asking the police to keep a member of the public away from any HPC meetings. I have not asked them at any point to tell anyone they must not attend.

I'm somewhat flummoxed as to how else I can respond?

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

With regards to the conversation I had with the police, the incident I have discussed with them is not as far as I am concerned a HPC matter. It refers to an incident that happened after a HPC meeting. Therefore it is a personal matter, which I have already explained. Despite asking Cllr Tolver to respect my privacy, he has chosen to email me again in what I feel is somewhat a demanding way, almost suggesting that if I don't reply with what he wants to know, I will be breaking my code of conduct.

Firstly, I pride myself always on being open and honest. I felt assured that confirming I had not asked the police to do what Cllr Tolver has accused Cllr Smith of, and suggested that I may have done would be enough.

Secondly, why does Cllr Tolver have the right to "expect" an answer from me regarding a matter that has nothing to do with HPC? If I had been burgled and made a statement to the police regarding who could have carried out the burglary, would that give him the right to ask me what I had said to the police? I think not. I see no difference between that and the recent conversation I have had with the police. As you were there when I spoke with the police officer, you know this is NOT a council matter.

I refuse to respond to Cllr Tolver's email. I have no idea what it has to do with him, other than the fact that clearly he has a personal association with the member of the public involved. He has made that BLATANTLY obvious.

Please can you or our chair or vice chair advise how I should deal with this situation? I'm far too busy actually getting on with council work to put up with this continued and unnecessary harassment. Please accept my apologies to you all for having to waste your own time to deal with this.

Cllr Tolver also raised a point of order and noted that on the 20th October a member of the public had visited the parish offices to scrutinise the accounts and within a day or two of this visit a councillor had spoken to the police and asked the police to persuade the member of the public not to attend the finance meeting. Cllr Tolver stated this was a matter for the record, as the police had visited a resident and the note of the officer who had attended would be made available to the people involved.

Cllr Samson stated that the matter was outside of the remit of Handforth Parish Council and that no councillor had the authority to ban a member of the public or ask the police to ban a member of the public from a council meeting.

Cllr Samson then asked the P.C.S.O. in attendance at the meeting had Cllrs Smith or Sullivan asked the police to have a member of the public barred from council meetings.

The P.C.S.O replied no.

16/31/3 Open Forum

The Hampers of Hope representative was in attendance at the meeting and indicated their presence if councillors had any questions to put to her under item 16/31/11.

A resident enquired whether Handforth Parish Council were considering budgeting for a Dictaphone.

The Chair responded to say this was currently being investigated.

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

A resident enquired as to the make-up of the Hampers of Hope working group and how active it had been, having once been a member themselves. He stated he had some emails dating back to that time.

Cllr Tolver also stated that he had a record of emails about the working group from that time. The resident asked for copies of those emails; which could be given to the clerk and then collected by the resident from the parish office.

16/31/4 To discuss the issues raised by the internal auditor with the proposed follow up action.

Cllr Thompson proposed to move this item to a part B. There was no seconder and the motion failed.

16/31/5 To approve the signed annual return from the external auditors BDO.
Issues arising:

- Figure in box 1 of current year's figures does not agree by £1 to the figure in box 7 on last years audited annual return.
- The smaller authorities' asset register is incomplete.

Cllr Smith noted that point one was a rounding error. Cllr Tolver noted that this had happened in previous years. Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Burgess that the signed annual return was approved.

**Motion Carried: Four for and two against.
(Cllrs Burgess, Samson, Smith & Sullivan for Cllrs Thompson & Tolver
against)**

16/31/6 Recommendations for expenditure:
a) To retrospectively approve the following items:
None

b) To consider any other recommendations/requests:
To via £300.00 from the SK9 Youth fund, used to support the Transition Club, back to the Chairman's fund.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan that £300.00 be taken from the SK9 Youth fund budget line and placed back into the Chairman's fund.

**Motion Carried: Four for and two against.
(Cllrs Burgess, Samson, Smith & Sullivan for Cllrs Thompson & Tolver
against)**

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

16/31/7 To approve the Income and Expenditure accounts.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Burgess that the income and expenditure accounts be approved.

Motion Carried: Unanimous.

16/31/8 Report from relevant councillor regarding Internal Controls.

Cllr Smith did a random check across the last quarter's payments and petty cash. Everything was found to be in order with the sample payments examined and the petty cash balanced.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that a different councillor performs the internal control checks each time.

Motion Carried: Five in favour and one abstention.

16/31/9 To make recommendations with regards setting the financial year 17/18 budget.

The chair thanked Cllr Smith and the clerk for the work they had done in preparing the budget. Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan that the proposed 17/18 budget was approved.

Motion Carried: Four in favour and two abstentions.

(Cllrs Burgess, Samson, Smith & Sullivan for Cllrs Thompson & Tolver abstained N.B. Cllr Tolver stated he had not fully examined the proposal owing to reduced eyesight)

16/31/10 To make recommendations with regards setting the precept for financial year 17/18.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver that the precept remain unchanged for the financial year 17/18 and was to be set at £85,000.00.

Motion Carried: Unanimous.

16/31/11 To identify and review the procedure for making donations to the Hampers of Hope.

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

There was a general agreement amongst councillors that the procedure for making donations to the Hampers of Hope should be reviewed. The councillor's asked the Hamper of Hope representative if she would put forward a new proposal to the council with what they would like Handforth Parish Council to fund. This would be debated at the December council meeting. The clerk was also to review the terms of reference for the Hampers of Hope working group.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that any outstanding sums currently relating to receipts from the Hampers of Hope group be settled and that a new procedure would be drawn up and implemented with regards funding for the Hampers of Hope group.

Motion Carried: Unanimous.

16/31/12 Notices and Correspondence

None.

The meeting closed at 8:09 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

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