

**Minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7:30pm, The Youth Centre, Old Road,
Handforth.**

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

Also present Mr Brooks, Parish Clerk and eleven members of the public

Part A

16/08/1 To receive apologies for absence- none.

16/08/2 To note declarations of Members' Interests- none.

16/08/3 Open Forum-

A resident asked a question about item 16/08/7, the financial support for groups celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. Cllr Samson explained that she envisaged that this money would be used to help Handforth based groups celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. The celebrations could take a number of forms but they had to benefit Handforth residents.

There was also a question about item 16/08/13 the St Benedict's PS grant application. Cllr Samson explained that if the grant application was supported, the money would be used to purchase furniture and other equipment to create a 'drop in' area at the school for the use of parents

16/08/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the HPC meeting of the 9th February 2016.

Cllr Burgess proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan that the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of the 9th February be approved and signed.

Resolved: unanimously.

16/08/5 To receive a report from the Clerk.

The Clerk's report covered both the Local Plan consultation and the open meeting on a neighbourhood plan for Handforth. Cllr Clark proposed, seconded by Cllr Burgess that the Clerk's report be noted.

Resolved: unanimously.

16/08/6 To approve accounts for payment.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan that the account for payment totalling £6134.73 be approved.

Resolved: unanimously.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark that item 16/08/13 be brought forward in the agenda.

Resolved: unanimously.

16/08/13 To consider a grant application for £968.40 from St Benedict's Primary School.

The Chair of Governors of St Benedict's Primary School was present at the meeting and answered a number of questions from councillors. It was determined that use of the words 'drop in' to describe the facility was not strictly accurate, as it was not open access but would be available to support parents and families. It was also established that if the grant application was successful it would build on the work already financed by the school and the PTA.

Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Thompson that the grant of £968.40 be supported.

Motion carried: four for and three abstentions.

16/08/7 To consider the expenditure of up to £5000 supporting voluntary groups in Handforth, who wish to hold events celebrating HM the Queen's 90th birthday.

Cllr Thompson asked a number of questions about the guidelines which the Clerk answered. Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that this expenditure be approved.

Motion carried: six for and one abstention.

Cllr Thompson wished it to be noted that he could not support this item as he did not agree with the guidelines.

16/08/8 To approve the expenditure of up to £8000 on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

This item raised a range of views regarding the benefit of producing a neighbourhood plan for Handforth, leaving some questions unanswered. It was however recognised that a meeting on the 9th March with Mr Goodman (Planning Consultant) would provide both councillors and residents with an opportunity to ask technical questions about neighbourhood planning. The subject of grant support for neighbourhood plans was also discussed.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Burgess that the expenditure of up to £8000 on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Handforth be approved.

Motion carried: five for, one abstention and one against.

The abstention was due to a lack of information on this item.

16/08/9 To agree the Handforth Parish Council ring fenced financial reserves for 2016/17.

Cllr Smith was invited by Cllr Samson to introduce this item. Each individual reserve was considered. Cllr Clark stated that he would like to see a meeting take place in April with local traders, to discuss how they intended to financially support the provision of Christmas decorations in 2016.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Thompson that the ring fenced reserves totalling £186760 be approved.

Devolved Services/transfer of assets reserve	100000
Operating reserve (Half of the precept)	42500
Queen's Birthday Celebrations	5000
CCTV	5500
Local Plan	8000
Neighbourhood Plan	8000
Additional powers sources for Christmas Lights (Provisional)	10000
Pantomime	1760
Depreciation reserves	6000
Total	186760

Resolved: unanimously.

Cllr Samson thanked all of the members of the Finance Committee for the work they had done on this item.

16/08/10 To consider the expenditure of up to £600 on directed activities for young people aged 7 to 12 years over the Easter holidays.

Cllr Thomson stated that he did not consider it appropriate that Councillors should be the point of contact for this event.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark that the expenditure of up to £600 on this item be approved.

Resolved: unanimously.

16/08/11 To approve the expenditure of £600 on promotional material for Handforth Parish Council.

Cllr Samson provided some background information on this item, in that any equipment purchased would be used to help raise the profile of Handforth PC at events during the summer. Cllr Tolver stated that he could not see the point in purchasing a gazebo.

Cllr Clark suggested that the council should consider purchasing ID badges and business type cards for all councillors.

Cllr Clark proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan that the expenditure of up to £600 on a gazebo and roller banners be approved.

Resolved: unanimously.

The purchase of ID badges and cards to be considered at a later meeting.

16/08/12 To establish a working group to review the content of the Handforth Parish Council website.

It was agreed without a vote that Cllrs Smith and Sullivan would form a working group to review the content of the Handforth PC Website.

16/08/14 To confirm that the next meeting of Handforth Parish Council will take place on the 12th April 2016.

The next meeting of Handforth Parish Council will take place on the 12th April 2016, 7:30 pm at Handforth Youth Centre.

Part B

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the press and public will be excluded from this part of the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business.

Resolved: unanimously.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....