



**Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Parish Council held on
Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7:30pm, The Youth Centre, Old
Road, Handforth.**

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

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson, Parish Clerk
Ten members of the public.

19/07/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Clark & Burgess.

19/07/2 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.

19/07/3 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.

A resident commented on item 19/07/7 and made the following observations:

- They understood that a vote of thanks had already been made to all those involved in the CIL hearings & submissions.
- They understood that HPC had hired a consultancy firm to undertake studies and submit evidence to the CIL examination.
- Was Cllr Tolver requested to attend the hearings in an official capacity?

- Did Cllr Tolver write the report on behalf of HPC or did the consultant.
- The resident was unsure as to what the amount the consultant was paid, however was concerned that tax payers money was used unwisely if Cllr Tolver had in fact done all the work.

A resident commented on item 19/07/7 and noted that Cllr Tolver did sterling work with regards to the CIL, however enquired as to why he was being singled out now, although he and others had been thanked for their work at the January HPC meeting. The resident also noted on the local Wilmslow news website that the same individual proposing the motion had singled out this councillor.

A resident commented on item 19/07/7 and attempted to clarify that Dale Robinson from GVA Grimley had been instructed by HPC to attend hearings alongside Cllr Tolver, the chair of the HNPSG and himself and that all four had concentrated on different areas of the CIL problem to cast doubt in the examiners mind regarding CE's proposed zero rating. This included sales data, construction costs, and grants from central government, profit and loss and viability of the site; also the fact that CE had a vested interest in maintaining a zero rating on the site.

A resident commented on item 19/07/7 and noted that they had received an email from Cllr Tolver regarding sales data along his particular road, and so knew about his involvement.

19/07/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 12th February 2019.

Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve and sign the minutes of the Handforth Parish Council meeting of 12th February 2019.

Resolved: unanimously.

19/07/5 To approve and sign the order of accounts for payment for March 2019.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve and sign the order of accounts for payment totalling £6,620.72.

Resolved: Unanimously.

19/07/6 To receive a report from the Clerk.

The Clerk's report was received by all present.

19/07/7

MOTION: Community Infrastructure Levy.

I propose a vote of thanks to Councillor Brian Tolver for his work on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Cheshire East Council (CEC) had proposed that Handforth should receive NO funds from the housing development on the Garden Village at Handforth. But over the last two years Councillor Tolver has accumulated a mass of evidence about house values in the region and presented this to the Independent Examiner who ruled on CEC's proposals.

The Examiner concluded "I agree with representors that [CEC] has underestimated likely sales values that might be expected ..." and recommended the same level of CIL be used for Handforth as the highest level

in Cheshire East. As a result, Handforth will receive in the order of £2.5 million over the next ten years to improve its infrastructure.

As a consequence of his efforts on behalf of Handforth and the Council I propose a special thanks to him for his sterling work on behalf of the community.

Cllr Samson noted the clerk and chair work together to set the meeting agendas and that Cllr Thompson had not explained why he wished this item to be included on this agenda. Cllr Thompson had, however, indicated that he would call a special meeting to discuss the item if it was not included onto this meeting agenda. Cllr Samson considered this action to be tantamount to bullying.

Cllr Smith raised a number of points regarding the motion, these included: Initially CE had removed the Handforth Garden Village (HGV) from the Neighbourhood Area, and it was only after the clerk contacted DCLG that CE was challenged, and had to include the HGV in the Handforth Neighbourhood Area. After this had occurred in CE's draft CIL Charging Schedule, the proposed CIL rating for the HGV was then dropped to £0/m². Also noted was the fact that part of the Independent examiners report was used to formulate this motion and the report uses the term "representors" – not a single individual but a group, and the motion makes no mention of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, GVA Grimley or other residents who forwarded objections.

Cllr Smith noted that at the January 15th 2019 meeting all parties had been thanked by the chair for their assistance in influencing the examiner to overturn CE's proposed £0/m² rating on the HGV.

Cllr Thompson stated he had added the motion to the agenda to purely thank Cllr Tolver for the work he has done on this for a number of years.

Cllr Smith interjected that Cllr Tolver had attended the hearings and submitted evidence as a resident and not as a councillor; and he had previously been working toward objecting to any development taking place at the HGV site.

Cllr Thompson restated he felt that Cllr Tolver deserved this thanks because of the continued work he had done regarding not only this but also work on the Local Plan over the last few years.

Cllr Smith indicated no other councillor had been singled out for their contribution at a meeting and that he felt this was electioneering.

Cllr Samson stated she felt Cllr Thompsons comments were stupid and wished to propose an amendment to the motion which also named the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan steering group and those outside the steering group who had also contributed evidence. She felt that it was unfair to single any individual out.

Cllr Tolver spoke and said that it was important to note a lot of people did a lot of work over some time. There were a number of technicalities in the CIL evidence which cast doubt in the examiners mind. Cllr Tolver also noted that having the completed Neighbourhood Plan in place increased the CIL contributions to the parish council from 15% to 25%. He also noted that Alan Murdoch had done a great deal of work, as had Dale Robinson from GVA Grimley.

Cllr Tolver summarised that the work on overturning the zero CIL rating had been done with all good heart and intent and that no one person should be given credit.

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

Motion: Failed.

19/07/8 Notices and Correspondence.

None.

Close of meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:03pm.

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

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