



**Minutes of the Meeting of Handforth Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7:30pm, The Youth Centre,  
Old Road, Handforth.**

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

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

16/29/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Burgess.

16/29/2 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 Received.

16/29/3 Open Forum-

A resident commented that Wilmslow Town Council was proceeding well with their neighbourhood plan and enquired as to when Handforth's neighbourhood plan was due to commence.

The chair responded to note that interest in formation of a steering group had been received and that this was in the process of being set up.

A resident and councillor from Wilmslow Town council (WTC) commented that under item 16/29/11 that WTC had put this application to one side with a view to investigating a more long term viable solution for the future of the Open Arms Centre. This resident also noted that the only involvement of WTC in a neighbourhood plan was financial and had no involvement except attendance at meetings.

A resident noted their support of item 16/29/12.

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

16/29/4 To approve and sign the minutes of the HPC Council meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

A statement was read out by Cllr Tolver:

Certain facts have emerged since last month's decision, voted for by Councillors Burgess, Samson, Smith, and Sullivan, to publish a defamatory statement by a resident in the minutes. First, legal action has been instigated against the resident for defamation. Second, ChALC, the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, has stated that "it is the duty of the Council not to publish defamatory statements". The Councillors have not even bothered to investigate the truth, or otherwise, of the defamatory statement. Since the redacted statement merely leaves only the lies standing, there is no value whatsoever in publishing it - indeed, only damage.

I therefore propose the Council should do its duty, and at least suspend publication of the minutes, or at least this offending portion, until the litigation has been concluded.

Cllr Tolver proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark

**Motion Failed: Three for and three against.**

**Chair casts deciding vote against.**

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that the minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved.

**Motion carried: Five for and one abstention.**

16/29/5 To approve and sign the minutes of the HPC Employment committee meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that the minutes be approved.

**Resolved: Unanimously.**

16/29/6 To approve and sign the accounts for payment.

Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to approve and sign the accounts.

**Motion carried: Three for and three abstentions.**

16/29/7 Report from the Clerk

The Clerks report was received.

16/29/8 MOTION: To agree the changes to the HPC Standing Orders, Finance committee terms of reference, and Planning and Environment committee terms of reference, as discussed and proposed by the working group set up, under minute 16/21/8. Proposed amendments have been circulated separately.

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

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson that the amendments to the standing orders be approved, and adopted by HPC.

**Motion carried: Unanimously.**

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith that the amendments to the planning and environment committee terms of reference be approved and adopted by HPC.

**Motion carried: Six for and one abstention.**

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver that the amendments to the finance committee terms of reference be approved and adopted by HPC.

**Motion carried: Unanimously.**

16/29/9 MOTION: To adopt a new Handforth Parish Council Press and media Policy, as circulated.

Cllr Smith recommended some amendments be made to the draft policy, under 2.1 that media includes all mediums of communication. Under 4.9 the words "talk" and "speak" are amended to the word "communicate".

Cllr Thompson recommended deletion of the first sentence under 5.3.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Thompson to accept these amendments and adopt the Handforth Parish Council Press and Media policy.

**Motion carried: unanimously.**

16/29/10 MOTION: To consider the purchase of a TASCAM DR portable sound recorder with boundary microphone for the purpose of recording council meetings. Purchase price, up to a maximum purchase price of £500.00. Cllr Samson

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith to defer this item and asked the clerk to do some further research.

**Motion carried: unanimously.**

16/29/11 MOTION: To consider a grant application received from the SK9 Youth group in respect of the "open arms youth project" Total amount requested £5,197.00.

Three volunteers from the open arms youth project attended the meeting.

The application was discussed in depth, with the main points drawn that the application was in favour of the building which supported the young people, which was suffering from dilapidation. This building is the base for the open arms youth project which assists a large number of underprivileged individuals. Funding had dried up in recent years from sources which had supported the project in the past. The project is now in a position of facing closure unless running costs can be met within the next two months.

It was also noted by councillors that Wilmslow Town council had also met to discuss this application and they were taking a view to attempt to meet with all interested parties to ascertain if they could find a more long term solution to maintaining the projects viability.

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

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Clark that Cllrs Sullivan and Burgess take part in these discussions alongside WTC, Cheshire East council and the open arms project and report on the proceedings back to HPC.

**Motion carried: Unanimously.**

16/29/12 MOTION: To consider establishing a Handforth Parish Council Facebook page; for information only to communicate meeting dates and update residents on projects and activities of the council.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith to initiate a three month trial to determine the effectiveness of having a Facebook page.

**Motion carried: Five for and one abstention.**

16/29/13 MOTION: To review the 15-16 projects list and to set the Handforth Parish Council 17-18 projects list.

Cllr Samson proposed, seconded by Cllr Smith to defer this item until the next meeting.

**Motion carried: unanimously.**

16/29/14 Notices and Correspondence.

An update was received from the council's planning consultant after the Handforth day at the local plan examination. This will be circulated to all councillors.

An invitation has been received inviting representatives from HPC to a meeting with the police crime commissioner. It was noted this date conflicted with the next full meeting of HPC.

The meeting closed at 9:07 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

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