

Hessett Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at Hessett & Beyton Village Hall, Hessett, on

Monday 30th January 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Margaret Shaw, Timothy Elliot, Stuart Turvill (Chair) and Debbie Willis.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council)
Four members of the public.

36. Apologies

There were no apologies as all councillors were present.

37. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared.
- b. Cllr Elliot declared an Other Disclosable Interest in item 45 as he is a Churchwarden.

38. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th November 2022 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

39. County & Borough Councillor Reports

County and District Cllr Otton had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. C Cllr Otton.

40. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

41. Finance

- a. **Final Draft Budget for 2023/24** - The draft budget had been discussed in detail at the last meeting and so, after a brief review, it was resolved to adopt the budget for 2023/24 as drafted.
- b. **Precept for 2023/24** - Following on from the approval of the budget, the Council resolved to set a precept of £11,488 - this allowed for inflationary increases in expenditure but would result in a slightly below-inflation increase in Band D council tax, because of changes in the tax base.
- c. **Receipts and Payments** - The schedule of receipts and payments was received by the Council and it was resolved to approve the payments.

42. Planning

- a. The following planning application consultation was considered:
 - i **DC/23/00239 - Paddock Apple View, The Green, Hessett:**
Erection of part first-floor, part two-storey, side extension
After brief discussion it was agreed that that the proposal was satisfactory and the Council resolved to offer no objection.
- b. There were no updates on application considered at previous meetings.

43. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business

- The Clerk reported that the Citizens Advice Bureau had invited a representative of the Council to attend a cost-of-living forum on the 24th February. Unfortunately no one was available to attend.

44. Village Sign

A metal worker in the village had provided an alternative proposal to the replacement of the village gate-style sign. This would be less costly and more durable and so it was resolved to approve the commissioning of this sign at a cost of up to £400.00.

45. Grant Request

A request for grant funding from Hessem Church for maintenance of the Churchyard would be brought to the next meeting.

46. The Coronation of the King

The Council discussed the possibility of marking the coronation by the distribution of commemorative mugs to young people in the village at a cost of up to £5 per mug.

47. Tidy Your Village Day

In the light of the fact that the village was looking neat and tidy at present it was resolved to move forward only with a tree-planting day on Sunday 26th March, to be organised by Cllr Turvill in conjunction with Mr Andrew Pearson.

48. Elections

The Clerk highlighted the forthcoming elections and the need for anyone wishing to stand to have submitted completed nominations by the 4th of April 2023.

Reserved Business

49. Staff Matters

The Council unanimously resolved to appoint Michelle Fisher to the offices of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, subject to references and following a period of training and induction. The current Clerk will continue in post until the May meeting to enable him to deal with end-of-year matters and Ms Fisher will gradually take on more of the work in the meantime and will Clerk the May meeting, with the current clerk providing support.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date