

Hessett Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Tuesday 10th October 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Lynn Heymoz, Margaret Shaw, Stuart Turvill (Chair for part) and Debbie Willis (Chair for part).

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

21. Election of Chair for 2022/23

Cllr Turvill was nominated and elected and, having signed the acceptance of office declaration, assumed the Chair.

22. Apologies

All councillors were present and so there were no apologies.

23. Declarations of Interest

a. Cllr Shaw declared that the planning application to be considered under 29.a.ii referred to a property in the ownership of a family member and so she would not take part in that item. There were no other Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared.

b. There were no Other Disclosable Interests declared.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd May 2022 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

25. County & Borough Councillor Reports

County and District Cllr Otton had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. Cllr Otton mentioned concerns about the Government's strategies on spending and on planning and highlighted Warm-Spaces provision in libraries.

26. Public Forum

A resident spoke to thank the former Chair (Mr Poulter) and the outgoing Clerk (Mr Clay) for their work and efforts for the good of village. He highlighted that the Parish Council is the most local form of Government and encouraged everyone to use it wisely. Another resident seconded this and encouraged the village to support the work of the Council.

A further resident spoke to thank Mr Poulter for his long service and to thank for the Clerk for his service and efficiency; he concluded by welcoming the new Chair and wishing him well in the role.

27. Finance

The schedule of receipts and payments was received by the Council and it was resolved to approve the payments.

28. Queens Platinum Jubilee Picnic

Cllr Turvill, as the Council's representative on the Jubilee picnic working group, gave a brief report of the event: despite the unfriendly weather there had been a good turnout and the organisers and those who attended the event had been very happy with it.

29. Planning

- a. The Council considered the following planning application consultations:
 - i. **DC/22/04601 - Plot 2, Land South Of, Hubbards Lane, Hessett:**

Application under S73 for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/21/01416 dated 16/06/2021. Town and Country Planning Act 1990. To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) to alter the design of the roof.

In discussion it was highlighted that the Council had objected to the original design because it had been felt to be inappropriate and that the current proposals were not an improvement, especially given the increased impact on heritage assets. It was resolved to object to the application.

ii. **DC/22/04879 - Chapel Cottage, The Street, Hessett:**

Erection of a single storey rear extension (following removal of existing outbuildings).

In discussion it was felt that there would be little impact on the streetscape and minimal impact on the site as a whole but that to the extent that there would be any impact, it would be positive. The Council resolved to raise no objections to the application.

b. Proposal to cease responding to planning consultations (following preliminary discussion at previous meetings)

In discussion concern was expressed that not responding generally would weaken the Council's voice on any occasions when it was felt that it would be helpful to respond but there was general agreement that the ways in which the planning authority responds and reacts to this Council's submissions is unpredictable and often inexplicable. The Clerk had established that a number of other parish councils felt similarly and so it was resolved to draft a letter expressing these concerns and to put it to other local parish councils for them to consider adding their names as signatories.

c. District Council's Draft Housing Supply Position Paper Consultation

The Council heard that the paper had little impact on Hessett as the village continued to be designated as being Countryside and there were no development designations in the village. Accordingly it was resolved to take no action.

30. Five Bells Inn

Concern was expressed that the stables, which had been approved for conversion, had in fact been largely demolished and a prefabricated structure placed in their stead. The current plans for this area of the site were not known and there was also uncertainty about the intended opening date of the pub. In the light of this discussion it was resolved to invite one of the owners to come to the November meeting of the council to provide an update. The Chair was mandated to issue the invitation.

31. Clerk's Report & Administrative Business

- a. The Clerk advised that payment of an invoice for the re-fencing of the play area had been made, following email consultation with Members, as the longer than normal gap between meetings had meant that payment of the bill had been unacceptably delayed and the amount had already been approved by the Council. The Council resolved to ratify the decision.
- b. The Clerk reported that the replacement Gate-sign at the north of the village was on order. The Council will be invoiced prior to dispatch, which was expected towards the end of November.
- c. Co-options - Mr Timothy Elliot was nominated for co-option and it was unanimously resolved to co-opt him. Cllr Elliot signed the Acceptance of Office Declaration and took his place as a councillor.

32. Clothing Recycling Bank

The Council discussed the possibility of housing a clothing recycling bank, in the light of further details received. In discussion, problems with finding a suitable location for such a Bank and problems of dumping if the bank became full were identified and it was resolved not go ahead with the proposal.

33. The Heath

i **Planting of Trees** - This matter arose from the survey of residents which had revealed that residents did not, on balance, wish to see a large amount of planting but were in favour of a small number of trees being planted in such a way that the Heath would remain visually open. The latter had been highlighted as being of importance to users, who felt safe in a space which was wholly visible from vantage points around the Heath. Cllr Turvill, together with Mr Andrew Pearson, who continues to undertake maintenance of the Heath on a voluntary basis, were mandated to determine the species and positions of a small number of trees. They would also develop a medium and long term management plan for the care of the trees

ii **Maintenance** - It was resolved to ask Rougham Estates if they would be able and willing to mow the Heath and to cut back hedges in the normal way.

34. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Heymoz reported that the railings outside Bridges and Fordacre had been damaged and that a piece of one of the concrete retaining posts was missing. This would be reported to Highways.

Cllr Willis reported that the Village Hall Committee was planning several events, including a village brunch, and that it had ordered new chairs. Bookings remained on the low side and new bookings would be welcomed.

It was reported that the outgoing members of the Hesselton Millennium Committee had required the balance of funds that had been retained during its dormancy to be paid over to the Marie Curie charity if the new Committee does not plan to use the funds in the foreseeable future.

Reserved Business

35. Staff Matters

An expression of interest in the post had been received and it was agreed that the candidate would be interviewed by the appointments working group, as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date