



MINUTES of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on

Monday the 8th April 2024 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane commencing at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs Abram, Brown, Butler, Casterton, Coward, Helvin, O'Donnell, Parker,
Smith, Whitham and Lambert

There were four members of the public present.

21/24 To receive Apologies

Cllrs Rayfield, Gibson and Jewell

22/24 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th March 2024 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th March 2024 should be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

23/24 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

24/24 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

The meeting was adjourned

Reference was made to the Cottam Community Interest Afternoon which is being held on the 8th May @ Cottam Community Centre. The Parish Council had already agreed to help with local communication via its notice boards and FB page.

A resident expressed concern that a path behind Lea Endowed School leading onto the new road was muddy and could the Parish Council assist with putting down stone or similar to make it more usable. It was pointed out that the verge which was causing the issue was the responsibility of LCC and that this path had not been intended to be used as a short cut since no dropped pedestrian access kerbs had been provided at that location and that crossing the road at that location might be dangerous due to the speed of traffic and the lack of any footway. It was suggested that the resident should write to LCC if he wished to pursue the matter and also contact his local LCC councillor.

A resident raised concerns with regard to ASB on the grounds of Lea Bowling Club. He expressed concern that the police took no action when issues were reported. It was confirmed that it was important to report issues so that a picture of events would build up and be on record. It was also suggested that the local police officer Abby Ward might be contacted. Preston City Councillor Hart who was present also agreed to contact Andy Pratt the Deputy Police Commissioner concerning the lack of response when issues were reported. The resident was also provided with details of local PACT meeting where he could also raise issues.

Mention was made that the Clerk had now established that a small piece of land near to the Community Centre did belong to the Co-op. He had contacted them because it was a muddy mess and they had indicated that they might be prepared to fence the area to stop it being used as a short cut. Indications had been received that in doing so this would prohibit access by prams and wheelchairs. The Clerk will be writing to the Co-op outlining this issue and requesting that they should provide a proper path across the land instead. Cllr Hart said he would also write and asked that his correspondence should be sent along with the response from the Clerk.

The meeting was reconvened

25/24 To authorise payment of the following accounts:

12/02/2024	FRETFOIL BIN BAGS	115	132.80
12/02/2024	GGG LENGTHSMAN TEAM	116	1349.40
12/02/2024	SANDERSONS HEDGE CUTTING MILLER GREEN	117	216.00
12/02/2024	PRESTON CC OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION	118	16406.00
28/02/2024	G THOMPSON LENGTHSMAN TEAM	119	1207.50
28/02/2024	SAR SERVICES LENGTHSMAN TEAM	120	460.00
28/02/2024	MILJUE GS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	121	690.00
28/02/2024	S FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM	122	690.00
28/02/2024	GGG LENGTHSMAN TEAM	123	1228.30
05/03/2024	SPECIALIST AQUATIC SERVICES POND COTTAM WAY	124	4570.00
05/03/2024	PRESTON CC XMAS TREE COSTS	125	7179.58
25/03/2024	GGG LENGTHSMAN TEAM	126	2422.00
25/03/2024	COTTAM COMMUNITY ASSOC ROOM HIRE	127	35.00
25/03/2024	SAR SERVICES LENGTHSMAN TEAM	128	115.00
25/03/2024	S FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM	129	345.00
25/03/2024	W MCWHITTLE 4TH QTR SALARY	130	2828.48
25/03/2024	HMRC 4TH QTR	131	2191.46
25/03/2024	PRINTING WORLD NEWSLETTER	132	272.50
25/03/2024	G THOMPSON LENGTHSMAN TEAM	133	690.00
25/03/2024	G MASON HIRE LENGTHSMAN PORTACABIN	134	500.00
25/03/2024	MILJUE GS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	135	345.00
25/03/2024	EON NEXT POWER SUPPLY DARKINSON LANE	136	21.16
31/03/2024	SERVICE CHARGE	137	18.00

It was resolved that the payments referred to above should be approved

26/24 To consider and approve an hourly rate rise for our lengthsmen of 4.2% from the 1st April 2024 which is the same as that applied to the assistant lengthsmen from the same date. His contract is for 4 years, and this will be the second year of its operation.

It was resolved that the hourly rate rise proposed above should be approved

27/24 To consider replacing the badly damaged bench on the canal tow path behind The Final Whistle Café on the UCLAN sports ground – Benches similar to the ones installed in Cottam a few years ago cost in the region of £450, a flagged base will need to be built by our lengthsmen team with materials costing approx £200.00 A budget of £650 is requested from CIL funds should the request be approved. Permission of the Canal and River Trust will be required (see attached)

It was resolved that a replacement bench should be installed once permission of the Canal and River Trust have been obtained

28/24 To consider the enclosed application for funding of £1952.83 plus Vat from St Mary's School Lea Town. (Details of the balances available in the Official School Funds Account have been sent out under separate cover with an explanation of funds already committed)

It was resolved after much discussion that this Council was not in a position to agree the above request at the present time since it was felt that replacement equipment should first of all be addressed by the school's insurance, that the cause of regular flooding had not been resolved which might lead to repetitive further damage and that the request was outside its grant policy in that the school had sufficient funds themselves in their revenue reserves and unofficial bank account to cover the costs.

29/24 To consider in principle improvements to the Children's Play Area on Haydocks Lane as per the enclosed documentation which has been put together by the Play Areas working group and allocate a budget from CIL funds of approx £14K. The proposals, if agreed, will need to be approved by Preston CC who will as this is a capital project be required to follow their own procurement protocols, although it would be expected that Kompan would be included in their tender process and that the suggested equipment would form part of the specification.

It was resolved that a budget should be allocated as outlined above and discussions entered into with PCC to take the project forward.

30/24 To consider the enclosed report and, if approved, authorise advertisements to be placed to recruit self-employed contractors to the roles outlined. In the event of approval, to also appoint two members to join the Clerk in interviewing applicants and engaging contractors within the guidelines stated in the report.

It was resolved that advertisements should be placed to recruit the roles as set out in the report referred to above and that Cllrs Butler and Brown along with the Clerk should be appointed to interview applicants and make suitable appointments.

31/24 To consider whether this Council wishes to replace the fountain at the pond on Cottam Way / Lea Road. It was identified by Specialist Aquatic Services when undertaking clearance works that the existing fountain which is very old had ceased up due to a lack of regular maintenance. Specialist Aquatic Services are able to install a new pump/fountain if required with costs dependent on the size. A basic 3-metre-high fountain (smaller than the previous one) would cost in the range of £3500/ £4000 whilst a 5-metre-high fountain with three lights would be around £7500. Preston CC have confirmed that this would be a maintenance project which could therefore be done much quicker than a capital project should this Council wish to go ahead. Formal approval of PCC would still be required.

It was resolved that this Council should proceed with the installation of an appropriate fountain as detailed above and that a budget of up to £7500 should be allocated for the more expensive of the suggested options subject to PCC approval and a specific detailed quotation from Specialist Aquatic Services to be considered at a future meeting.

32/24 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 13th May 2024

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