

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

Monday the 20th January 2025 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane which commenced at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Butler, Gibson, Jewell, Rayfield, Whitham, Abram, Parker and Harper

 There were four members of the public present together with Ian Wright from LCC who was present to address the Council on tree planting and how LCC might assist.

01/25 To receive apologies

***Cllrs Lambert and Brown***

***Cllr Lambert requested formal acceptance of his prolonged absence due to health issues.***

***It was resolved that the reason for the absence of Cllr Lambert as described above should be accepted.***

02/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd December 2024 (enclosed)

***It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December 2024 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.***

03/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

***None***

04/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

*Ian Wright from Lancashire County Council treescapes team was present and gave a short presentation concerning possible funded tree planting on Miller Green following Cllr Coward’s investigation into improvements to Miller Green. The presentation explained briefly what the treescapes team* *does and how they work with parish councils to make tree planting happen. It was suggested that a further exploratory meeting took place to establish what might be appropriate for Miller Green bearing in mind the flooding conditions that existed on many part s of the Green.*

*A resident once again raised the issue of the footpath between Hoyles lane and Cottam Way which had been closed due to development works. Enquiries had already been made by this Council which established that there were several blockages to the original route which need to be addressed and that the LCC PROW Team were in discussions with the developers to resolve these issues which would probably need a diversion order being put in place.*

*A resident also mentioned that he thought there were to be allotments to the west of the housing development to the south of Hoyles Lane but now understood that dwellings were to be built on that land. The Clerk confirmed his original thoughts but understood changes had been made several years ago to the layout of the development and that he should contact Preston CC Planning Dept who would be able to confirm the approved layout.*

05/25 To approve the following payments:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 04/11/2024 | THOMPSON DAGNALL CANBERRA MEMORIAL PROJECT |  |  | 71 |  | 4200.00 |
| 04/11/2024 | NEWGATE NURSERIES HEDGE PROJECT |  |  | 72 |  | 2048.10 |
| 04/11/2024 | SANDERSONS GRASS CUTTING |  |  | 73 |  | 1464.00 |
| 04/11/2024 | S FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM |  |  | 74 |  | 720.00 |
| 04/11/2024 | A CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM |  |  | 75 |  | 922.50 |
| 04/11/2024 | GGS LENGTHSMAN TEAM |  |  | 76 |  | 2242.00 |
| 04/11/2024 | A BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM |  |  | 77 |  | 288.00 |
| 04/11/2024 | G THOMPSON LENGTHSMAN TEAM |  |  | 78 |  | 660.00 |
| 04/11/2024 | EON NEXT ELECTRIC CHARGE |  |  | 79 |  | 17.51 |
| 04/11/2024 | BANK CHARGES |  |  | 80 |  | 7.20 |

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

06/25 To appoint Sandra Wiseman as the internal auditor for 2024/25 at a fee of £190.00 and approve the Terms of Reference and Internal Control / Suggested Testing Methodology the relative documents having already been circulated

***It was resolved that Sandra Wiseman should be appointed as the Internal Auditor and that the documents referred to above should be approved***.

07/25 To consider and approve the following documents which have already been circulated to members:

* The Councils Risk Management Policy Statement 2025
* The Councils Risk Management Register 2025
* The Councils Asset Register 2025
* The Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Internal Control 2025

***It was resolved that the documentation referred to above should be approved subject to a minor change to the Asset Register 2025 which should read four kissing gates on Miller Green rather than three***

08/25 To consider the attached quotation of ££3501.00 plus vat and decide whether this Council wishes to take forward the installation of a fountain in the pond at the junction of Lea Road and Cottam Way to replace that which is now defunct. It should be noted that the installation will require an electrical connection which Preston CC will make without charge to the existing supply unit located by the cross. In addition, and due to the nature of the installation, maintenance will be required on an ongoing basis since pond fountains do clog up with debris from time to time. It is not possible to know at this stage how regular this might be however it would involve costs of approx £300 per occasion and could be undertaken by the supplier or if happening on a frequent basis, additional debris filters might be required at a current unknown cost.

The proposed installation contractor has suggested that in order to clean the water to some extent, the removal of bull rushes, the planting of more appropriate water plants and the contouring of the bank side which would extend the water surface area would improve the water condition and hopefully help with its condition and filtration. An estimate is enclosed from a recommended contractor to do the above work and plant two hundred marginal plants at a cost of £3578.30 plus vat.

The Council is asked to consider the above proposals and decide how they wish to take the proposals forward. To undertake BOTH proposals will require a net budget of £7079.30 plus the potential ongoing maintenance costs.

***It was resolved that BOTH proposals should be approved, accepting that there would be ongoing maintenance costs and that an initial budget of £7079 should be set using CIL monies.***

9. To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd March 2025.

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