

Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting. Wednesday 7th November 2018.
Hayes Green Community Centre, Heath Hayes.

Present:

Cllrs A. Dean (Chair), J. Aston, J. Bernard, L. Bullock, J. Cooper, D. Todd, G. Wiggin,
C. Woods.

In Attendance:

County Cllr J. McMahon. Cannock Cllr D. Snape.
PCSO 26341 N. Baggott, PCSO 26355 J. Rees.
Residents P. Haden, S. Thompson.
Clerk, R. Smythe.

Chair's Announcements and Public Participation.

Cllr A. Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PCSO Baggott introduced herself and PCSO Rees to the Council and explained that they were in training and would be then be posted to Heath Hayes, Wimblebury and Norton Canes, working with Neighbourhood Officer, PC S. Howe.

The Council was pleased to meet the officers and welcomed them to the area and looked forward to them taking up their full-time permanent posts.

The meeting started at 7.40pm. Cllr Dean then addressed an ongoing problem with a series of unwarranted, fabricated allegations from Cllr A. Bernard. In the six months that Cllr Dean had been Chair, the Council had removed the Cabin and restored the car park, refurbished the Hayes Green Community Centre and agreed the lease on Cannel Mount. The Council thanked the Clerk for his work on these issues.

During that time Cllr A. Bernard had:

- Mistakenly claimed that the deep clean of the HGCC had been planned for 7th – 8th July. It had never been arranged for 7th – 8th July as there was an existing booking. It was arranged for 14th – 15th and went ahead as planned.
- Stated that the minutes would be challenged. They were not.
- Taken photographs during the hire of the Cherished Coffee Shop to the discomfort of the staff and made vexatious allegations about the cleanliness, and the Centre management not being professional nor acceptable, potentially damaging to the viability of the hire. The Coffee Shop received a Level 5 hygiene rating. The highest available. The management was professional and acceptable to everyone else.

.....Chair

- Vexatious calling for unnecessary meetings.
- Failed to accept that draft minutes are considered for approval at the next meeting of this Council / Committee.
- Questioned the valid consultation between Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk.
- Made a totally unnecessary and insulting comment about the Chair and Clerk obtaining legal advice from a public house.
- Claimed harassment for receiving a polite official letter.
- Asked for documents that do not exist. (Constitution).
- Asked for the policy of recording meetings when she was present at the meeting the policy was agreed and available on our website.

Cllr Dean said he would not allow Cllr A. Bernard's suggestions about calling unnecessary meetings to be followed, as this would be detrimental to the Council. He had instructed the Clerk to not deal with any such correspondence from Cllr A. Bernard as he would deal with it.

Cllr Dean said that any allegations about the Clerk should come to the Council and not once had she followed the correct procedure. The business of this Council should not be taken to outside bodies who have no authority over this Council. Cllr A. Bernard had no right nor authority to make these approaches.

Cannock Chase Council CEO, T. McGovern had written and spoken to the Clerk to say that Cannock Chase Council has no role to play in the affairs of this Council, neither has it any authority, contract or obligation to provide legal advice. A. Welch had not spoken to nor advised Cllr A. Bernard on any matter. General advice had been given by a member of staff who had tried to be helpful. The Clerk had replied thanking Mr McGovern for the reply and saying it was as expected, apologising for the inconvenience and embarrassing, as they all had better things to do.

The alleged claims did not have the support of Shared Legal Services and it was accepted that as it was grossly unfair that Cllr A. Bernard had spoken to an unnamed member of staff and then make fabricated claims allegedly supported by Shared Legal Services. Cannock Chase Council has taken action to stop this happening again and instructions have been given that in future, Shared Legal Services could not be approached by Cllr A. Bernard nor any individual Councillors and any approach must be by the Council.

Cllr Dean said that this continued negative behaviour had gone on too long and was detrimental to the Council and to the working conditions of the Clerk. It was unacceptable and had to stop.

Cllr A. Bernard would be required to apologise in writing to the Chair and the Clerk and to write to Shared Legal Services to accept that she was wrong in her actions. A copy would be provided to the Council. It was hoped that this negativity would stop and the Clerk could be allowed to undertake his duties without further harassment.

Cllr L. Bullock spoke about the email that had been sent out that day by Cllr A. Bernard about former Councillor Val Baker. Cllr Bullock spoke for the Council when he said that he would support the installation of bird boxes to recognise an interest that Val had and as a fitting tribute to recognise her service to the area.

However, the wording and tenor used to denigrate the Clerk and to make unfounded accusations that he had not undertaken his duties within a communication about a dead Councillor was inappropriate in the extreme. The deep personal animosity shown by Cllr A. Bernard was disgraceful and disgusting. Cllr A. Bernard must apologise to the Clerk and resubmit her suggestion in a more appropriate and respectful manner.

The Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk had always performed his duties diligently and professionally and he had their full support. The Council also agreed that the cumulative effect of bullying of the Clerk by Cllr A. Bernard had to stop.

RESOLVED: THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTS THE CLERK.

The Council also considered that the severity of the circumstances was such, that Cllr A. Bernard should be left in no doubt whatsoever that her behaviour required sanction and it was agreed that she should be severely censured for her actions.

RESOLVED: CLLR A. BERNARD TO BE SEVERELY CENSURED.

1. Apologies. Consideration of acceptance of any apologies received in writing before the meeting.

Written apologies had been received from Cllrs A. Bernard, D. Baker, M. Dean and D. Marsden. Apologies were also received from A. Hewitt, P. Hewitt, B. Jones, M. Sutherland.

RESOLVED: TO ACCEPT THE APOLOGIES.

2. Declarations of Interest and consideration of Dispensations on Agenda Items.

There were no issues.

RESOLVED: NOTED.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting on 3rd October 2018 and consideration of any matters arising not on the agenda.

Approval of the minutes was proposed, seconded and agreed.

RESOLVED: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

.....Chair

4. Planning.

4.1 Applications dealt with by Planning Committee (no objections):

- **18/339 – 54 CHAPEL STREET, HEATH HAYES.** Ground floor rear extension, porch extension and canopy.
- **18/361 – 22 TRURO PLACE, HEATH HAYES.** Two storey side extension.

4.2 Decisions reported by the District Council:

The Council noted the approval of the following applications:

- **18/285 – 54 DEAVALL WAY, HEATH HAYES.** Two storey side extension.

RESOLVED: NOTED AND AGREED.

5. Remembrance Sunday 11th November – Confirmation of arrangements.

5.1 Assembly would be at the Constitutional Club at 9.30am. The main service will be at the Bourne Methodist Church at 10.00am, followed by a procession, reading and silence at the War Memorial at Five Ways Island at 11.00am.

5.2 There will be services at the Bourne Methodist, St John's Church and the Community Life Church at 11.00am as well for those unable to attend the Memorial Gates. Mr Reg Fullelove (Reading), Reverend Glynne Watkin (St John's Church), Cannock Chase Drum Corps, Scouts and the Police had been invited. Councillors were encouraged to attend.

RESOLVED: NOTED.

6. Remembrance Event in Wimblebury on 4th November.

The Council had agreed the following and to review the arrangements:

- The event had been advertised in the newsletter, Facebook, website, press. Consideration would be given to additional publicity.
- All persons and organisations that had been requested to be invited, had been.
- Reverend Glynne Watkin had organised an Order of Service.
- Assembly at 10.40am, the event was timed to hold the silence at 11.00am.
- Mr. A. Bottomer read the names of the fallen.
- The arrangements for the 2019 event would be reviewed in September 2019.

RESOLVED:

- **TO HOLD THE EVENT AS ABOVE.**
- **TO REVIEW THE ARRANGEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2019.**

.....Chair

7. Cannel Mount. Consideration of current position and further action.

7.1 The Clerk was liaising with outside bodies to acquire information to enable the Council to determine the best course of action to manage the area in an environmentally friendly manner.

7.2 The County Council Lease was awaited but work is continuing on site with permission as all terms have been agreed.

7.3 Preparations were being made for a Community Paths Initiative bid for power tools for path clearance.

RESOLVED: NOTED.

8. CIL Money.

8.1 The Council has received a further amount of £3,729.23. (Receipts to date as follows: 2016-17 - £1,371.00, 2017-18 - £139.58, 2018-19 - £3,729.23 A total of £5,239.81).

8.2 It was agreed that £1,044.50 for the Wimblebury Memorial Bench (£809.50 purchase £235.00 Installation) be allocated against the CIL. This would leave £4,195.31 in total and £326.50 from the allocation for 2016-17.

8.3 The Council has to report and publish annually the position with funds and if any funds were not allocated within five years, it had to be returned. It had been confirmed that this expenditure would be a suitable use of the funds.

RESOLVED: TO ALLOCATE THE FUNDS AS ABOVE

8.4 It was agreed to consider the authorisation for two more benches outside the Memorial Gates, replacing the two existing metal benches. It was hoped these could be used inside the park and the two new benches would add to the seating capacity of the area and improve the appearance.

RESOLVED: TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF TWO NEW BENCHES.

9. Funding by the Designer Village for local needs. Consideration of further action.

The Council agreed to write to the County Councillors to suggest that it would be a suitable and reasonable suggestion that the developers of Mill Green should consider funding a pavement where none currently exists on Hayes Way, Heath Hayes. This would assist local residents by improving access options and the safety of pedestrians.

RESOLVED: TO WRITE TO THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

.....Chair

10. Future use of redundant brick base owned by Tesco near to the Hayes Green Community Centre.

The Council authorised Cllr G. Wiggin to pursue this project with Tesco to see if some use of the base could be determined.

RESOLVED: TO CONSIDER THE MATTER FURTHER.

11. Heath Hayes Park. Consideration of any response from Cannock Chase Council.

The Council was grateful for the comprehensive reply from K. Yates. There was some discussion about the creation of a “Friends” group. Although there was some interest, no-one had yet volunteered to take a lead role. It had been reported that Mr Yates had suggested that smaller project-based groups would be preferable.

RESOLVED: NOTED.

12. Gorsemoor Road. Consideration of suggestion of joint project with County Councillor J. McMahon regarding the junction with Hednesford Road.

County Cllr McMahon was pleased to report that the funding had been acquired and the project to improve safety would proceed.

RESOLVED: NOTED.

13. Land between Cannock Road and Chapel Street. Update on current position and consideration of future action.

It was reported that the earth bund had been increased in height and it was hoped that this would stop any further unauthorised incursion.

RESOLVED: NOTED.

14. Burial Ground. Consideration of requesting to either have or attend a presentation about the presentation on land south and west of Five Ways Island (Norton Canes Parish area).

It was agreed to accept the offer and to invite Horizon Cemeteries to make a presentation to Councillors and any members of the public that might want to attend.

RESOLVED: TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF A PRESENTATION.

15. Noticeboard at HGCC.

It was reported that Tesco had affixed a sign to their noticeboard.

It was agreed to approach Tesco about the issue, as it had been placed on Council land to see if a mutually agreeable solution could be reached. The Council did want to have a noticeboard at that location to promote and identify the Hayes Green Community Centre.

RESOLVED: TO LIAISE WITH TESCO.

16. To note the incoming and outgoing correspondence.

The incoming post and outgoing post, numbered 264 to 295/18 was noted.

RESOLVED: TO NOTE THE LISTS.

17. Accounts for Payment.

Authorisation of the payments of £2,177.75 listed in Appendix A was proposed by Cllr J. Bernard, seconded by Cllr L. Bullock and agreed. Income of £3,929.23 (£3,729.23 CIL and £200 County Council grant) was noted.

RESOLVED: TO AUTHORISE THE ABOVE PAYMENTS.

18. Date of Next Meeting – 5th December.

This was agreed as Wednesday 5th December 2018. Cllr A. Dean invited all Councillors to attend Remembrance Sunday on 11th November and then declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm and thanked those present for their attendance.

RESOLVED: TO NEXT MEET ON 5th DECEMBER.

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