

SOUTH HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a council meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2023 in Downham Village Hall.

Present: The Chairman and Councillors Whitehead, Huntington, Thurgood, Walker, Graves, Burgess and Windhorst. Four members of the public were also in attendance and the Clerk kept the minutes.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Councillors Marsello, Vallis, Elms and Coveley.
- 2. Declaration of Interests** – None.
- 3. Public Participation** – Residents came to discuss the planning application at Downham Hall and the possibility of installing a defibrillator in Heath Road.
- 4. Planning -**
 - 4.1** 23/01541/FUL – Change of use of the south wing of Downham Hall from residential use to hotel accommodation including two storey rear extension and internal alterations. Replacement roof on existing rear conservatory. Replacement of existing barn with new event facilities – Fully Support.
 - 4.2** To discuss any planning applications which are received between the date of this notice and the 19th October 2023 – None.
- 5. Finance -**
 - 5.1 Authority to issue online payments** – Proposed by Cllr Whitehead, Seconded Cllr Huntington:

Sue Lees	WordPress Maintenance Fee	£ 40.00
Reliable Fire Protection	Fire Extinguisher Service S/Pav	£ 38.64
Enhanced Security Solutions	Alarm maintenance S/Pav & Office	£176.73
 - 5.2 30th September 2023 Month End Accounts** – The Clerk reported the Balance was £124286.25. There were no concerns.
 - 5.3 Report from Councillor Whitehead, Chairman of the Finance Committee** – Cllr Whitehead reported we are currently on budget. The first six months has been good for income. Based on our current financial situation the finance committee recommend we increase the 2024-25 Precept by 6%, which is £5640, totalling £99640. This matter

will be placed on the agenda of the 16th November 2023.

5.4 Discuss and agree the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding an alternative Christmas Cheer suggestion – Cllr Whitehead reported that the finance committee recommend that this year we increase the donation we currently make to the Luncheon Club, as they have informed us that they will be able to cater for additional people to attend the Christmas lunch on the 19th December. Other options were discussed, but these did not qualify under Section 137. Members were all in favour of the recommendation.

Cllr Whitehead and the Clerk reported that Barclays Bank have closed the allotment account without any prior notice. The Clerk has registered a complaint and a member of the bank will be contacting Cllr Whitehead tomorrow. The Clerk has requested that the account be re-instated. The bank have confirmed this is an error on their part. Cllr Whitehead will be requesting compensation for the Charity.

6. To discuss the extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order: Dog Fouling – Members were in full agreement with the extension of the Protection Order.

7. Matters for Information -

7.1 Cllr Burgess discussed the recent letter the Clerk received regarding a piece of asbestos which was found lying on the ground by the footpath in between Recreation Walk and the Recreation Ground. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write back to the informant, advising her that the asbestos was found on ECC property, therefore if she wishes to take this matter up with them, she is welcome to do so.

7.2 Cllr Thurgood reported that Church Road will be closed for four weeks commencing 23rd October 2023. There are collapsed and blocked drainpipes.

7.3 Cllr Thurgood reported he had contacted ECC Transport to advise them that on occasions, buses are not stopping at the White Horse.

7.4 Cllr Thurgood reported that the Clerk had contacted CCC to see whether they could install temporary CCTV surveillance in Crowsheath Lane, due to the constant fly tipping.

7.5 Cllr Thurgood reported that ECC Transport had received 959 written responses and 1200 comments in relation to their recent transport questionnaire.

7.6 Cllr Thurgood reported that he has the support of local resident's to continue pressurising for additional road signage outside Downham

School. He asked Cllr Walker if she would ask Downham School to support this also. He will raise this with Cllr Grundy at our next meeting.

7.7 The Chairman reported there will be 7 teams using the Sports Field this Sunday. We have asked the users to car share and park considerately.

7.8 The Clerk advised members that she has collected the Wreaths for Armistice Day and these will be available on the 2nd November. The Chairman will attend the St Margaret's service, Cllr Graves will attend St Peter's and Cllr Burgess will attend the War Memorial service.

- 8. Date of next meeting** – The Clerk advised members that Cllr Grundy will be attending our next meeting on Thursday 2nd November 2023 commencing 7.45pm in Ramsden Heath Village Hall. The agenda will be limited due to the influx of questions, which have been sent to Cllr Grundy.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Approved as a true record.

Signed.....Dated.....