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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HAYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7:15pm in The Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs D.Gouldthorpe (In the Chair), E.Lawson, T.Ashton, K.Dalkin, M.Conway, D.Toft.

**Also in Attendance:** P.Inman HPBC, 4 x Member of the Public and H.Mason HPC Clerk.

**1024/01 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs L.Bevins and W.Mellor.

**1024/02 Variations of order of business:** Nil.

**1024/03 Declaration of members’ interest:** Nil.

**1024/04 Dispensations on matters in which members have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest:** Nil.

**1024/05 To determine which Agenda items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded:** Agenda Item 11 Grass Cutting Tender.

**1024/06 Public Speaking –**

1. Clerk read out a report sent by A.Clarke DCC –

Although not all the work has as yet been completed at the Gent’s toilets at the village car park, Countryside Services have deemed the toilets ‘functional’ and the decision has been made to reopen them. Work still to be completed includes - new vents for the windows and following their installation the facility will be repainted. There is also a strip of new flooring to be installed in front of the urinals, which together with the other work should help improve the overall appearance of the facilities. Surface dressing of Swallow House Lane has been completed and at the time of writing some of the lining reinstated. This has helped with the area of repeated patching of pot holes. Derbyshire County Council still have a large back log on pot holes, and I am continuing to chase and ask for updates on long awaited repairs. Both myself and Cllr Scott held a surgery at the Library last month, which was well attended with numerous residents taking the opportunity to complete the DCC Library Consultation. The present suggestions would mean that Hayfield Library would be open one and a half hours longer than at present, but they are looking at changing the opening hours and suggesting the phasing out of evening opening for Tier 4 libraries such as Hayfield and New Mills. The present suggestions would lead to New Mills library, losing two hours overall. The current consultation also asks for residents’ opinions on volunteer support and mobile libraries, this consultation is open until the 2nd of November.

The Clerk read out a report sent by G.Scott HPBC –

Firstly,  apologies to councillors for not sending apologies or a report last month. I was on holiday and lost track of time! This month has started with a bit of a bang for HPBC as they are now running our High Peak Leisure Centres under the branding of MyActive. The council is hoping this will create a more coordinated leisure service across the borough,  including bringing staff into our communities to do Openreach work with hard-to-reach groups. Last month I attended a workshop run by Derbyshire County Council for Councillors, community groups, farmers, businesses and interested individuals to discuss the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Plan.

The whole of the High Peak was very well represented, and we had three people from Hayfield to add our voice to the discussion. The consensus was that our main concerns are:

- the restoration of the Peatlands

- the protection and management of ancient woodlands

- wildlife corridors across the county

- education (including public information) and training on best practice to support and protect our natural environment

- strong communication between stakeholders: local people, visitors, transport operators etc.

As a member of the Planning Committee, I  attended training from DCC Highways. This was to explain the issues they consider when they are faced with planning applications for new developments. This was very useful as we are often bemused at decisions made by Highways! In Hayfield, I continue to work with Sustainable Hayfield's Biodiversity Group at Shudehill Close and Lea Road to make these areas more attractive for residents. The new bench is now in place on the Community managed wildflower area on Lea Road - thanks to the Group and the huge amount of work they have done! Voneus broadband continue feature in casework with residents, the latest issues being on Kinder Road where a new telegraph pole has been installed. I have complained to the company several times about the lack of communication with residents from the company but have not had satisfactory answers. I am going to be taking this up with our MP.I will be meeting with PCSO Amanda Bardsley on Thursday to discuss any neighbourhood issues in our village. PCSO Bardsley will be joining us on the Walking Bus, leaving the Sett Valley Car Park at 8.30am sharp. You are most welcome to join us!

P.Inman HPBC

Spoke on the HPBC Councillor initiative fund, money can be given to community groups such as LHAG and applications go through Hayfield Parish Council and wanted to look in to how can that work and how funds can be released. New Mills Nursery Project was another project that has used this fund and was released through DCC. How can we do this through HPC for LHAG for projects such as the Community Speed Watch.

1. One member of the public spoke on the Tennis Court, said how wonderful the new court looks with the new fencing and netting too. As the maintenance assistant to Hayfield Parish Council the member of the public also spoke on a few snagging issues seen on Saturday. The maintenance Assistant, Cllr M.Conway and H.Mason Parish Clerk met on Tuesday to view the court after an incident of vandalism had occurred in which the bottom of the fencing around the court had been pulled up to access the locked court. Until the contractors find a way the fence can be fixed, anyone can climb underneath the fence and damage can occur and suggest a padlock is not the best idea at the moment until this is sorted. At least until the fence has been secured down and this time of year, maybe best to remove the padlock as possible damage to the fence will outweigh the revenue brought in. Long term use – after seeing how the court is used and padlock has not been in place for a while, the sudden change in this is causing issue to residents. Understandably an electronic system would be too expensive to implement but the Post Office system for key collecting could be off putting for the public, as when down at the park with children, you are unable to play a little bit of tennis and then enjoy other aspects of the park, the tennis court is a great facility but will this be used as the padlock will be off putting for the members of the public.

Two members of the public had questions for the council regarding Voneus,

Is Voneus still working in Hayfield and are they still working in the National Park and Conservation area?

Has Voneus laid any cables underground in Hayfield National Park area, if not, have they any plans to lay cables in the National Park and Kinder Road and why have they left equipment, in the area over a wall in Kinder Road area – these needs collecting?

Did Hayfield Parish Council receive any applications to planning from Voneus proposing the works to begin?

Requested a copy of the details received by DCC / Highway department received in August of works to be done in National Park Area and Hayfield.

Their main concern, is Voneus’ remit is to provide broadband for rural areas and feel they have over stepped their remit and have muscled in to BT existing work, Hayfield already had in place an infrastructure that can be used by BT and Openreach, if you want super-fast broadband you can go with Sky, BT, etc. Why would we need another company to come in to do this when it is already in place. No thought of the village, a beautiful place with now more poles and wires. Pole on Kinder Rd has been treated with creosote which is illegal to use anywhere besides industrial estates, this path is used by the public and children and the creosote still comes off on your hands and is a health and safety hazard.

1. Nil.

**1024/07 Minutes of previous meetings:**

1. It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting of Wednesday 4th September 2024.
2. The draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of Wednesday 18th September 2024 were noted.

**1024/08 Chair’s announcements:**

Abby Feetham has resigned from the council and the council now have two vacancies and are operating with eight councillors which is a concern to ensure we stay quorate, as numbers are low, the Financial Committee meetings are struggling with number for example the September meeting only had three councillors attending. The council need to do a better job at communicating vacancies and talking to parishioners. It was decided councillors would speak with members of the public to try to fill the current position available. Very excited about the resurfacing of the tennis court and bike track recently done on Valley Rd park, but quickly brought down to earth when within 48 hours the tennis court was vandalised.

**1024/09 Clerk’s report:**

Numerous emails have been received from members of the public sharing their feeling towards the £5.00 hire fee – public views are the court is too expensive, especially for children / teenagers and should have a children hire fee / be free for all. Over the weekend the fence had been pulled up from the bottom and propped up with a twig to access the park. Called the councils insurance due to health and safety concern, they recommend either removing the lock whilst the fence is requiring further work or erecting signs to explain further work is required and to please not scale over or under the fence. The Bike Track resurfacing has also been completed and the monthly maintenance visits will begin in November. The AGAR report has now been received and has been circulated to councillors and the Notice of Conclusion was published on Thursday 26th September to the website and noticeboard. The office refurbishment is well underway, in the process of going through all files and documentation for organising – stay in office, confidentially destroy, external storage. Firworks for Bonfire Night have been delivered and are being stored in Cllr D.Gouldthorpes barn. Through Firework Crazy we were able to plant a tree with Tree-Nation, I will publish our tree certificate to Facebook.

**1024/10 Planning.**

* 1. It was resolved in matters to Planning NP/HPK/0924/0973, 25 Pike Close, Hayfield to make ‘no comment’.
	2. It was resolved in matters to Planning HPK2024/0391 1 The Glade, Hayfield to make ‘no comment’.

**1024/12 Tennis Court Project Update.**

Cllr M.Conway gave a full update on the tennis court refurbishment – Overall very happy with the work completed and has scheduled for the contractor to come back to the site on the week commencing Monday 21st October to fix the snagging issues mentioned above regarding the fencing.

* 1. It was approved for the clerk to source estimates for the works to move the basketball hoop to bring to a future council meeting.
	2. It was resolved to approve of the emergency stump work required during the tennis court refurbishment and approval of the cost.

It was resolved to implement a reduced fee for under 18s using the court – the hire fee will be £2.50 per session, if all players are under 18.

It was resolved due to health and safety concerns the tennis court will be unlocked whilst further required work is done on the fencing.

It was resolved to discuss the invoice received from Sport Surfacing Solutions for the works carried out in Part 2 of the meeting.

**1024/13** It was resolved the council will hold a surgery before the November meeting on Wednesday 6th November 2024. Cllrs K.Dalkin and E.Lawson have offered to support the Clerk with the organisation of this event.

**1024/14** It was resolved to approve the Tree Management Policy presented to the council with the amendments to Tree Survey Paragraph 2 – 30 days amended to 30 working days.

**1024/15** It was approved for the Clerk to request the full information from DCC, Planning and Highways on what has been approved regarding Voneus and supply us with information. Once information has been obtained, clerk to send this information to Peak Park and CC in DCC Councillor A.Clarke.

**1024/16 Group Reports:** To receive reports from:

1. **Climate Group**: The walking bus, for Hayfield Primary School which is set up to help reduce cars on the road has been going well but a request has been made to implement a wrist band incentive to give to children using the walking bus. PCSO Bardsley will be joining tomorrows walking bus to give a tutorial on road safety and it would be lovely to see the number of children using this to increase.
2. **Little Hayfield Advisory Group**: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8th October 2024.
3. **Communication Group**: Due to recent councillor resignations, we currently have no councillors on this group, asked for the council to have a think about if they would like to join the group to support the Clerk with communication.

**1024/17 Reports from outside bodies:** To receive reports from:

1. **Hayfield Allotments Society**: Nil.
2. **Hayfield Football & Community Sports Club**: Nil.
3. **The Village Hall**: Nil.
4. **Hayfield Quarry Liaison Group**: A meeting has been scheduled for the near future.
5. **Community Orchard Project**: K.Dalkin has spoken to a range of people with involvement over the years, apple day is the current focus for the group, then a meeting will be held soon after. Clerk and Cllr K.Dalkin to discuss creating a maintenance and management plan for the trees. Great turn out on Sunday for apple picking.
6. **Tourism & Commerce Advisory Group**: Nil.
7. **Traffic Management & PROW Committee**: Clerk to explore with DCC as to the cost and availability of traffic monitoring (speed checking) device.

**1024/18** The September 2024 Finance Report and payments made at the September 2024 Finance Committee Meeting were noted.

**1024/19 Date of next meeting**: It was confirmed the next council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th November 2024.

**PART TWO.**

**1024/11 Grass Cutting Tender –** It was approved to go with the tender received by Carham Gardening, the Chairman and Vice Chair to the council to speak with Carham Gardening to propose a agreement of 12 mows per year.

It was resolved for the Clerk to contact Sport Surfacing Solution to explain that the next Financial Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 16th October and the council would not be comfortable paying for the fencing section of the invoice at the amount of £6,715.00 until the further works required has been completed.

**Meeting ended 20:44.**