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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HAYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7:15pm in The Crosby Room, ST Matthews Church.**

**Present:** Cllrs D.Gouldthorpe (In the Chair), M.Conway, K.Dalkin, E.Lawson, D.Cantor, S.Nyland.

**Also in Attendance:** 1 Member of the Public and H.Mason HPC Clerk & RFO.

**0125/01 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr T.Ashton, D.Toft and L.Bevins.

**0125/02 Variations of order of business:** Nil.

**0125/03 Declaration of members’ interest:** Nil.

**0125/04 Dispensations on matters in which members have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest:** Nil.

**0125/05 To determine which Agenda items, if any, should be taken with the public excluded:** That, in view of the confidential nature of item 0125/14, the press and public be excluded from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1.

**0125/06**

1. A report was read to the council by the Clerk as A.Clarke DCC gave apologies, the report read – ‘Happy New Year to you. There have been no County Council meetings since the last meeting to report on, however, the white paper on Local Government Reform has come out. The current leader of Derbyshire County Council has requested the May elections be postponed and expressed his wish for Derbyshire to be in the first tranche of councils in the reform and for Derbyshire to become one large unitary council. At the time of writing, I am still awaiting clarity on the situation and to find out for certain whether the elections will be going ahead this year. The DCC monitoring officer has visited Arden Quarry. A local resident expressed concern regarding trees being felled and the officer has reinforced to the new owners that if they are cutting down more than five cubic metres of wood then they need to seek Forestry Commission’s approval. I am currently in discussion with DCC Countryside Service to arrange a site visit for representatives of groups interested in the rental of the old ranger building, should anyone be interested in joining that, please get in contact with me. The Marketing Pack will not be ready this month, as the assets team is still gathering information on the buildings condition and compliance for rental. Drainage and potholes have been the main bulk of my casework. I have been in frequent contact with members of the flood team regarding Little Hayfield and Bank Vale issues. I have also written again to the Cabinet Member for Highways regarding the condition of Walkmill by Steeplefold, which she has said she would escalate.

A report was read to the council by the Clerk as G.Scott HPBC gave apologies, the report read – ‘A belated Happy New Year to all councillors, and welcome to new Parish Councillors. I hope that 2025 will be a good year for the Parish of Hayfield. Just before Christmas, Cllr Anne Clarke and I organised a Pension Credits and Cost of Living Drop-In session on afternoon on 18th December in St Matthew's Church.  We were lucky to have in attendance several local oganisations who gave support and advice to residents who may be struggling with a range of issues that affect their ability to cope. New Mills Volunteer Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Christians Against Poverty, Marches Energy, National Energy Action, Helping Hands Foodbank and Home from Hospital Derbyshire were able to help several members of our community with, for example, form filling for benefits, debt advice and fuel poverty. Fuel Poverty is an issue of concern in Hayfield: as highlighted by Marches Energy, 16% of householders in Hayfield are living in fuel poverty. This is measured by calculating the cost of heating a home against the householder's income. Currently Marches Energy are working with HPBC to tackle fuel poverty in the Borough. They arranged four home visits after the Drop-In session and are keen to arrange more. If any Parish Councillors know of residents who need assistance in heating their homes, please pass them onto me and I will put them in contact with Marches. Marches provide a list of advice on managing fuel bills, as well as practical measures such as electric throws, air fryers - even curtains! I have some leaflets that I will be distributing throughout the village. Because of the freezing weather, residents may have experienced disruption to their bin collections. Hopefully, with the onset of better weather, rounds should be returning to normal.

**0125/07 Minutes of previous meetings**

* 1. The minutes of the Council meeting of Wednesday 4th December 2024 were approved.
  2. The minutes of the Finance Committee of Wednesday 18th December 2024 were noted.

**0125/08 Chair’s announcements –** The Christmas Light Switch-on event went well with many people gathering in the inclement weather. To enhance the display on the Christmas Tree we will need to do some trimming back of the outer branches. Little Hayfield had a successful switch on event a week later which was very well attended. Substantial evidence that packages are being delivered to the wrong address especially over the Christmas period. At first, I was concerned about the performance of the delivery companies. There are jobs paid by the number of parcels delivered. In the case of DPD they drive from Stoke-On-Trent and then must deliver over 100 items in one day. I had an expensive package that went missing, then I asked myself a question, where is it? Someone has my parcel but unfortunately it never turned up. Fast forward to the bad weather we have had recently, we were running low on salt grit supplies. Hannah (Clerk) and I agreed to purchase another pallet of salt. This was delivered to the Old School Field for storage., before the team had the opportunity to lock the bags away, a significant number were taken.

**0125/09 Clerks Report –** As David (Chairman) mentioned the grit bins have been refilled on Monday (13th January) after another delivery on Saturday (11th January) was made, unfortunately bags had been taken before the Contractor could refill bins and therefor some bins were unable to be filled fully. Another order of grit has been made to be able to fully refill all grit bins and have spare grit stored when required. All allotment rent invoices were sent out by 12th December 2024 and I will be checking the bank this month to confirm all rent received. I have emailed Bin Shop regarding the approved purchase of a dual recycling bin purchase for Valley Rd playground by the tennis courts and awaiting a response for purchase and delivery. The bins discussed in previous meeting located along Market Street are still there even after approved letters were sent out to residents, further letters to other houses will be sent out to try to tackle to issue. I will be scheduling a meeting with the team (Maintenance Assistant and Contractors) to begin planning for the year of what projects will be done and when, such as the Valley Rd Toddler Play Area works, Telephone Kiosks and Little Hayfield Bridge works. The team have met already at Valley Rd to discuss and begin planning of works. Please note most of the projects / works required are heavily dependent on better weather conditions that we currently have, so most if not all works will be held off until better weather / Spring time.

**0125/10 Planning**

1. In regards to NP/HPK/1224/1331 it was approved the council would not like to make comment.

**0125/11 2025/26 Hayfield Parish Council Budget & Precept Requirement** –

1. It was resolved to authorise and agree on the budget as it was shown.
2. It was resolved to increase the precept by 10%.

**0125/12 Storage Container -** It was approved to seek planning permission for the citing of a 20-foot storage container at The old School Field.

**0125/13 Communication Group –** Cllr D.Cantor, S.Nyland and D.Gouldthorpe agreed to form the Communication Group alongside the Clerk of HPC. Cllr D.Cantor to Chair the group and to schedule a meeting.

**0125/15 Group Reports:** To receive reports from:

* 1. **Hayfield Climate Advisory Group –** Nil.
  2. **Little Hayfield Advisory Group –** LHAG held their first meeting of the year yesterday (Tuesday 14th January). The group were very happy with how their Christmas Light Switch-On went. Various work requests to The Clough were mentioned. They were concerned over the possible government change over coming up and how it is not just, Parish, Borough and County Council, that will be affected. Concerns over if we will be within Derbyshire or Greater Manchester. Clerk to add discussing what is going on with local government and what is to happen to the February Agenda for Full Council and have this as a periodic agenda item to keep up to date on what is happening / going to happen.
  3. **Communication Group –** Cllr D.Cantor will plan a first meeting for the group within the next week or so.

**0125/16 Reports from outside bodies:** To receive reports from:

1. **Hayfield Allotments Society -** Rent has been coming in to the bank account since all invoices were sent by the Clerk in December. A follow up will be done once income has been formally checked.
2. **Hayfield Educational Charity –** The group have had all signatures required come through and they are striving ahead but still having a nightmare with the banks to work with the group in receiving money.
   1. **Hayfield Football & Community Sports Club –** Nil.
   2. **The Village Hall -** Nil.
   3. **Hayfield Quarry Liaison Group -** Nil.
   4. **Community Orchard Project –** The group is currently working on their plans for winter pruning.
   5. **Tourism & Commerce Advisory Group –** No meeting held; other group members requested for the Clerk to contact the Chair of the group to help schedule a meeting.
   6. **Traffic Management & PROW Committee –** Nil.

**0125/17 Finance & Accounts for payment -** The December 2024 Finance Report and payments made at the December 2024 Finance Committee were noted.

**0125/18** It was confirmed the date of next meeting will be Wednesday 5th February.

**PART TWO**

**0125/14 To Review Maintenance Assistant Wage -** In review of the Maintenance Assistance wage the council agreed to an hourly wage increase. The new rate of pay agreed upon is £17 per hour and £19.00 per hour for overtime hours worked. This wage increase will be put in to effect immediately.

**MEETING CLOSED: 20:29**