

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Hartley Wintney Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to which Councillors were summoned to attend.**

**Members of the public were advised to only attend this meeting via the online link.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Chris Farrance (Chairman), Cllr Stuart Elborn, Cllr Richard Dodds, Cllr Chris Cornwell, Cllr Roger Robertson, Cllr Steve Airton

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Janaka Alwis (via online link), Cllr Becky Moss (via online link), HDC Cllr Anne Crampton, HDC Cllr Spencer Farmer, HDC Cllr Tim Southern, HCC Cllr Tim Davies, Karyn Reid (Executive Clerk) and Helen King (SCO).

**20/21PC 70. OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**20/21PC 71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Diana Harvey and Cllr Peter Gee.

**20/21PC 72. DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**The Executive Clerk previously granted dispensation to all members for business conducted within Full Council meetings until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

No Declarations of interest were made.

**20/21PC 73. WARD MEMBERS REPORT**

**HDC Cllr Tim Southern updated the Council on the following matters;**

Travis Perkins Development – This is due to come up for assessment with the HDC Planning Committee on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The recommendation from the Case Officer is that subject to some conditions it will be approved.

Business at the White Lion Antiques site – Cllr Southern has been in discussion with the HDC enforcement Officer regarding the two businesses being carried out on the site. The enforcement team are working with their legal team to enforce the ceasing of the business.

Hatton's Pond- Further to ongoing discussions regarding HWPC taking ownership of Hatton's Pond, Cllr Farrance explained that he is seeking further confidence that funds will be available to complete the work required on the pond. He explained that £10,000 has been set aside to clear the pond out. Cllr Robertson confirmed that he has a contractor lined up to do the work.

10 year Ponds and Commons strategy – Cllr Southern explained that initial prep work is in progress, with conversations due to start in April 2022. Cllr Airton requested that HWPC are involved in this strategy.

**HDC Cllr Anne Crampton updated the Council on the following matters;**

HDC Budget – Cllr Crampton explained that HDC had a confidential meeting regarding the budget however was not in a position to share the details of the discussion. Cllr Crampton did share that in the financial year 21/22 HDC were expecting a deficit of £1 million, however grants received along with the contributions from Central Government have been higher than expected, bringing the overall deficit down to around £50,000 to £60,000.

The Fleet Harlington Centre – Cllr Crampton explained that the Harlington Centre, Civic Offices and Library are in plans to be regenerated. The consultation for engagement with the Community will begin from the end of this month, largely online and through a series of posters. A physical presentation will be held in the Harlington Centre, the date is still TBC. Cllr Crampton asked the Council if they give the backing for the

physical presentation to brought to Hartley Wintney for residents to engage in the consultation. Cllr Farrance confirmed that in principle the HWPC would like for a presentation to be held in Hartley Wintney.

**HDC Cllr Spencer Farmer updated the Council on the following matters;**

Fleet Road closure – The closure is in place from today, with diversion signs in place, stating the planned dates of the road closure. The proposed completion date is 26<sup>th</sup> March, however SEW will keep HDC and HWPC informed of progress should this date change.

**HCC Cllr Tim Davies updated the Council on the following matters;**

No 7 Tiger Bus route termination- Cllr Davies had a meeting with Rob Humby, the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at HCC to raise his serious concerns. Rob Humby advised that he will speak as a matter of urgency with Reading Borough Council regarding this.

Fleet Road closure- Cllr Davies confirmed that whilst the road is closed for SEW works, resurfacing works will also take place in the worst affected areas.

**20/21PC 74. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, ACTIONS LOG & PARISH OFFICE REPORT**

Cllr Elborn proposed approval of the minutes and actions log of the Full Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Seconded by Cllr Airton. **AGREED by all.**

Cllr Farrance signed the minutes as a complete and accurate record.

The Cllrs reviewed the actions log. Cllr Farrance noted that a meeting with Steve Cardwell of Whitewater Health is not yet confirmed. Cllr Crampton mentioned that they are trying to recruit more receptionists and they are interested in Cllr Crampton's suggestion of specific training for receptionists. Cllr Dodds offered his support with a future meeting between HWPC and Whitewater Health.

The Executive Clerk noted that a review of marketing plans will be scheduled as a separate meeting.

The Executive Clerk presented the Parish Office report to the Council, noting a request from the HCC Community Transport department to provide support with an additional service as a result of the cancellation of the No.7 Tiger bus route.

**20/21PC 75. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE – review & approval of following:**

- i) To approve Payments listing (attached)

The Council reviewed the payments listing. Cllr Elborn proposed approval of the Payments listing, seconded by Cllr Dodds. **AGREED by all.**

- ii) To receive income and expenditure, cashbooks and bank reconciliations for November 2021 (attached)

Cllr Farrance noted that the Council have received the income and expenditure, cashbooks and bank reconciliations for November 2021.

- iii) To receive draft 22/23 budget for and recommendation from Finance Committee (attached)

Cllr Farrance presented the draft 22/23 budget to the Council in Cllr Gee's absence. The Cllrs discussed a subsequent suggestion to reduce the events budget from £30,000 to £20,000. The Cllrs decided to continue with the recommended figure for the events budget as proposed by the Finance committee. The Executive Clerk presented the final budgeted annual precept figure of £251,435. This is an increase of 18%, with the tax base (cost per annum for Band D property) increasing from est. £77 to £91.

- iv) To agree final 22/23 budget for submission to HDC

Cllr Farrance proposed a vote to support the draft 22/23 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. **ALL in favour.**

**ACTION: Cllr Farrance to draft an article for the Contact magazine to inform Parishioners on how the precept figure was determined and agreed.**

## **20/21PC 76. PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

- i) Contact article and service withdrawal of Reading Bus Service (circulated)

Cllr Farrance explained that when Reading Buses previously reduced the service through Hartley Wintney, there was no consultation and no tangible response from Reading Borough Council.

The Executive Clerk noted that she believes that Reading Buses communicated with HCC regarding the termination of the No.7 Tiger bus in November 2021. It is currently unclear as to whether this is a temporary suspension of the service, due to the closure of the Fleet Road, or if it is a permanent suspension of the service. No official notice has been provided in writing to HWPC regarding the future of the service.

Cllr Farrance requested that Cllr Cornwell establish further clarification on the future position of the No.7 Tiger service using his relevant contacts.

**ACTION: Cllr Cornwell to establish and feedback any findings related to the future of the No.7 Tiger bus service.**

**ACTION: Cllr Farrance to write to MP Ranil Jayawardena regarding the concerns raised.**

Cllr Farrance noted that there is a gathering organised by a local resident on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January at the Swan Court bus stop. Parish Councillors are welcome to attend at their own discretion.

The Cllrs briefly discussed the request from HCC to add an additional Community Bus service for residents needing to return to Hartley Wintney from Fleet in the afternoons. Cllr Farrance noted that he wished to discuss this outside of the meeting with the Executive Clerk and Community Bus Administrator.

## **20/21PC 77. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH COUNCILLOR MATTERS**

Cllr Robertson enquired as to whether the new Parish Truck was still on track for delivery in April or there were any delays. The Executive Clerk confirmed that delivery was expected for end of April 2022. It was also noted that the current truck was due in for repair.

Cllr Elborn noted that that the planning application at Taplins Farm has been rejected, so subject to enforcement the temporary storage unit will be removed, resulting in reduced traffic down Taplins lane. Cllr Elborn also confirmed that a full Wifi service has now been installed at the LPC.

Cllr Airton queried if the Phoenix Green bench is ready to be re-instated. The Executive Clerk confirmed that we are waiting for HDC to deliver the bench back. Cllr Airton aired his frustration that this has taken a very long time for the bench to be returned.

**ACTION: Cllr Farrance to write to the joint Chief Executives at HDC to air a number of concerns.**

Cllr Farrance queried the failing of the lights in the car park over the Christmas period. The Executive Clerk explained that this was HDC responsibility and it was rectified by them.

Cllr Farrance noted that there is an article on Hartley Wintney in the January edition of the Hampshire Life Magazine. This has been publicised on the HWPC website and social media channels.

Cllr Farrance noted that he is attending a meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January to explore the principle of rewilding at the St Mary's churchyard.

Cllr Farrance noted that he will be standing down as Chairman at the end of the year. He would like there to be an open ballot for the new position of Chairman. He would like to invite the Councillors to consider the Chairmanship position and is willing to discuss the role with any interested parties.

**20/21PC 78. COMMITTEE MINUTES & UPDATE INC. WORKING GROUPS**

i) Community Hub - No update.

ii) Committee meetings – to receive approved minutes  
Minutes of Committee meetings were received by all members.

**20/21PC 79. CORRESPONDENCE & DATES OF MEETINGS**

- Planning & Infrastructure Committee – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00pm
- Environment & Amenities Committee – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.08

..... Chairman .....Date

Appendices

- Actions Log
- Parish Office Report
- Payments Listing
- Cashbook reports November 21
- Draft budget report for 2022/23

*Abbreviations used in these minutes: Cllr ~ Councillor. HCC ~ Hampshire County Council. HDC ~ Hart District Council. HWPC ~ Hartley Wintney Parish Council. LPC ~ Lucy Pygott Centre.*