

Hirst Courtney & West Bank Parish Council

Minutes of the Hirst Courtney & West Bank Parish Council meeting, held on 21st November 2023, at 7pm, in the restaurant area of The Sloop Inn, Temple Hirst.

Present: Cllrs Wagstaff, Forbes, Harper, McGuigan, Stephenson and Webster.

Attending: H Phillips – Clerk, and five members of the Public.

62. Apologies for Absence

The Council received apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Barrett.

Resolved: That Cllr Barrett's apology be received and reason for absence be approved.

63. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

64. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 17th October 2023

The Council considered the minutes of the Parish Council held on 17th October 2023.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th October 2023 be approved.

65. Chair's Report

The Chair's had not attended any events or meeting to note since the meeting held on 17th October 2023.

66. Clerk's Report

The Council received the clerk's report on matters dealt with since the last council meeting on 19th October 2023.

Resolved: That

- i) **the clerk's report be noted; and**
- ii) **Cllr Harper to re-issue the playpark general monthly inspections rota for the Cllr's, and the data be collated by the clerk.**

67. Questions from the Public

The Council received the following questions, suggestions, and/ or concerns from attending members of the public.

- i) A member of the Public had raised an issue regarding the lack of streetlighting around the West Bank area; near misses have occurred with passing traffic when leading horses from field to stable.
A discussion was held and it was agreed that the Parish Council will explore the possibilities and permissions to have additional lighting columns installed.

Resolved: That Cllr McGuigan to assess the possibility of installing additional streetlights in the Parish, relating to the highlighted dark spots, and report to the Parish Council at the next possible scheduled meeting.

- ii) A member of the Public requested to speak about the Helios solar farm project. Prior to the meeting a number of documents were forwarded to the clerk to give back-up to the referenced objections to the project, which were made available to the Cllr's.

A discussion was held, with the attending members of the Public being included in an open discussion.

The Chair noted that the Parish Council, as a Body, had not yet made a public stance on the project and felt that this opinion should be voted upon to decide the consensus. As the full Council was not present due to absence it was agreed that the clerk would raise an email after the meeting to gather each individual Cllr's vote. This would then be collated and issued to the Council.

In the eventuality of a majority vote against the Helios project the Council would seek representative Cllr's and meet, and to include and liaise with the member of Public who raised the point of discussion, to form a group who would then formulate a letter of objection to the project, on behalf of the community and the Parish Council. Cllr's Barrett and Harper were assigned as Parish Council representatives to that group should the outcome lead to the formation of the community group. The deadline to comment on the project is 7th December 2023.

Resolved: That

- a) **the member of Public's information and verbal update be noted.**
- b) **the attending member's of the Public be thanked for their input to the discussion.**
- c) **the clerk issue an email to ascertain the individual Cllr's opinion on the Helios project, to collate and issue those results to the Parish Council; and**
- d) **forward action be taken should the consensus of the vote be negative to the project, by way of creating a group to work towards raising a letter of objection;**
- e) **Cllr's Barrett and Harper to be the Parish Council's representatives should the vote outcome be favouring the consensus objection of the project.**

- iii) A member of the Public raised a point relating to garden waste being deposited adjacent to a bench within the village of Hirst Courtney. It was explained that the grass clippings had been placed there to aid weed suppression.

Resolved: That the resident in question would cease adding to garden waste to the area around the bench; weed re-growth will be monitored over the next few months and reported to the Parish Council if further action is appropriate.

68. Finance Matters

- 68.1 The Council received the accounting reports and bank statements up to 31st October 2023.

Resolved: That the accounting records up to 31st October 2023 be approved.

- 68.2 The Council considered the payments outstanding and made by the clerk under delegated authority.

Invoice Date	Customer Inv. No.	Payee	Payment Detail	Date Paid	Amount Due/ Paid	Payment Method (Incl. Cheque No.)
25/10/2023	M7 Wk29	H Phillips	Clerk's Oct 23 Salary	25/10/2023	£253.64	BACS
09/10/2023	10/09 to 09/10	HSBC	Charges	31/10/2023	£5.00	DD
04/11/2023	IN08873308	Npower	Streetlight Energy	25/11/2023	£233.37	BACS
09/11/2023	10/10 to 09/11	HSBC	Charges	01/12/2023	£5.00	DD

Resolved: That the payments outstanding and those made by the clerk under delegated authority be approved.

68.3 Clerk's Salary

- i) The Council considered authorisation of the clerk's standard hours worked in November 2023.

Resolved: That the clerk's standard hours worked in November 2023 be approved for payment.

- ii) The Council received the NALC notification of increased salary rates from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Resolved: That the NALC notification of increases to salary rates for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 be noted.

68.4 The Council considered the draft Budget for 2024-25.

A discussion was held and it was agreed that the draft budget for 2024-25 be adopted and approved.

Resolved: That the draft budget for 2024-25 prepared by the clerk be adopted and approved.

68.5 The Council considered approval of the Precept demand amount for 2024-25

A discussion was held and it was felt that the Parish Council did not want to increase the Precept demand for 2024-5. The Precept demand is to be set at £10,000.00

The clerk completed the document to instruct the Local Authority of the Precept demand.

Resolved: That the Precept demand of £10,000.00 for 2024-25 be approved.

69. Planning Matters

69.1 The Council considered the Planning Applications+ received.

ZG2023/1095/OUT – (Mrs Kathy Liddle) Land off Old Lane, Hirst Courtney.

Outline permission for residential development (with all matters reserved).

Resolved: That no comment be required.

69.2 The Council considered the Planning Consultation letters received.

- i) Helios Renewable Energy Project: - deadline 7th December 2023.

After the earlier public discussion, and due to a member of the Council being absent, it was agreed that an independent mail vote should be taken by each Councillor, to make their stance known. The clerk should collate the votes and inform the Council of the results. Forward plans can then be made, dependant on the results.

Resolved: That the Councillors individually forward their vote on their stance to the Helios solar farm project, and the clerk collate and relay the results. (see agenda point 67 ii)

- ii) Barlow Ash Mound – Drax Power: - deadline 30th November 2023.
- iii) ZG2023/1095/OUT – (Mrs Kathy Liddle) Land off Old Lane, Hirst Courtney.
Outline permission for residential development (with all matters reserved).

Resolved: That no comment be required for points 69 ii) and 67 iii).

69.3 The Council received the listed Planning Decisions.

- i) ZG2023/0595/S73 – Apple Blossom Caravan and Camping – Permitted.
Section 73 application to vary conditions 07 (size of mound) and 08 (play equipment) of approval 2021/0564/FUL Installation of play equipment to existing children's play area, former shipping container toilet block and an use of land for the storage of caravans (part retrospective).
- ii) 2022/1505/HPA – Rose Cottage, Main Street, Hirst Courtney – Refused.
Demolition of front and rear porch and single storey extensions, two storey rear extension to bring eaves up to existing front eaves level and a two storey side extension with first floor balcony, together with internal modifications and recladding of existing facing brick with a new facing brick.

Resolved: That the Planning Decisions be noted.

70. Training

- 70.1 There were no training requests processed since 17th October 2023.
- 70.2 There was no feedback from any members of the Council who have attended training courses since 17th October 2023.

71. Date of Future Parish Council Meeting: 16th January 2024.