

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7.30pm

Ap 25 1 **Apologies**

None

Present

Chair Mrs Blackburn, Mrs Denyer, Mr Paris, Mr Bevans, Mr Subramanian, Mr Bust, Mr Wright, clerk Mr Rickett, RFO Mrs Rickett

Ap 25 2 **Councillors Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None

Ap 25 3 **To approve minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2025 and to receive updates from the previous meeting**

- A. Gov emails – agreed all communications for Councillors to be through Spacemail
- B. Banking Nat West Mandate updated, Unity informed
- C. Projector – to receive updated information regarding the purchase of a data projector – the WI have purchased a new projector, and will let the PC use it. Chair to contact WI to clarify if it is only for the PC or available to anyone who hires the Hall

Ap 25 4 **To adjourn to allow public participation**

No comments from members of the public
A couple of Cllrs made comments – that the Annual Parish Meeting Went well and that the PC and others groups in the Village need to pull together

Ap 25 5 **to receive updates from County and District Councillors**

No reports

Ap 25 6 **Village Hall**

Maintenance schedules – review whether to pursue a new schedule for April 25 – March 26 – agreed to leave this for now as, this is possibly work that a lengthsman could do. Cllrs asked to think about what could be done

Plant pots – Mrs Denyer has received a quote for £797 plus VAT for 2 hanging baskets for the Village Hall porch, something for the bus shelter and 2 planters for outside the Church by the bench, Mrs Denyer to speak to Mrs Wells the Church warden and see if they have any objection

A budget of £800 excluding VAT was agreed for 5 or £400 for 3. Agreed to go for all 5 subject to getting permission for those at the Church, proposed Mr Wright, seconded Mr Bust and Mr Bevans

RFO to obtain the necessary license

Agreed these will be paid for out of the remaining CIL money

Proposal to tidy paint work and cover exposed pipes in the hallway- a door has been made to cover the pipes, just needs painting and fitting, painting to be arranged

Update on external door painting – to be completed in the next couple of weeks

Car park – remove trip hazards H & S concern – agreed to remove the loose bricks, fill with stone and level the car park with the rest, volunteers needed, clerk to order stone up to £100, proposed Mr Bevans, seconded Mr Bust, clerk also to re-concrete the path where it has cracked

Bookings - review process – Mr Wright and the RFO to meet to go over the bookings system

Cleaners – to decide if we will re-employ them – agreed to looking into having cleaners again – once a fortnight . Clerk to sort, any Cllrs with cleaners contact details to forward them to the clerk

Now that the Village Hall wall is finished, Mr Paris suggested that we buy Mrs Beckett the owner of the adjacent house, a bouquet to thank her for her patience during the work and allowing the builder to use her drive to access the wall, proposed Mr Paris seconded Mr Bevans – agreed £20 – Mr Paris to source

Ap 25 7

Allotments

Details needed for the solicitor to continue to work have been forwarded

Ap 25 8

Roads and Hedges

Nothing to report at the moment

Ap 25 9

APM

Report on APM

The evening was a success, it gave the opportunity for different group to come together

The WI informed us that they had purchased a projector and the PC are welcome to use it, RFO to send thank you letter to the WI, Church and Events Team to thank them for their input

Ap25 10

Churchyard bench

Repair or replace

After discussion agreed to replace proposed Mr Bust seconded Mr Wright

Agreed to keep the original VJ Day plaque and add a VE Day one

A new base will be needed

RFO to come up with a suggested replacement – Glasdon suppliers to be checked

Ap 25 11 **Parish council Noticeboard outside the Church**

Maintenance required

We received a letter pointing out the poor state of the Noticeboard

The clerk is to contact the original suppliers for a general overhaul including a new name board

Ap 25 12 **Website**

Change IONOS to Halam PC

The Chair is to create a new account for Halam PC, Mr Bevans to send her the details

Ap 25 13 **Order of the Parish Council agenda**

It was agreed to move the Finance section to earlier on the agenda as this is often rushed due to the length of the agenda

Ap 25 14 **HR Committee report from 19th March 2025**

The clerk appraisal had taken place and as pointed out would not be mentioned unless there was a problem, so this is to record that an appraisal had taken place

Ap 25 15 **VE Day Celebrations**

Discuss ideas for Village Celebrations

It was agreed to hold the event in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm and the bonfire to be lit at 9.15pm

Decorate with bunting, music appropriate to the era, and serve strawberries and cream, with sparkling wine

The RFO had received information that a grant was available from NSDC towards the event and she would apply

Mrs Blackburn to sort the food and Mr Subramanian to supply the wine

Information had also been received for free silhouettes, RFO to apply, but they were on first come first served basis so we may not get any

Ap 25 16 **Correspondence**

Letter received concerning Halam Hill and Council tax

The PC received a letter from a member of the public, thanking them for getting the pavement on Halam Hill cleared and for keeping the precept the same which meant a negative % for Halam

NALC - Biodiversity meeting - 8th July – no one to attend

Ap 25 17 **Lengthsman Scheme**

Receive update from VIA regarding the administration of the scheme
We have to pay upfront and reclaim the money

Confirm the PC's participation in the scheme – still need a little more information

To consider employment or contracting – we need to check the scope of the areas to look at

Ap 25 18 **Biodiversity**
Nothing to discuss

Ap 25 19 **planning**
None

Planning decisions
None

Ap 25 20 **finance**
FY26 – agree 3-4 key objectives for the year to give clear focus for projects and spend throughout the year
For the long term needs to be set up before the budget – leave till October

Payments agreed to pay	
Web address	9.99
Village Hall wall	5980.00
APM expenses – printing	20.00

Ap 25 21 **Items for the next agenda**
None at the moment

Ap 25 22 **date and time of the next meeting**
Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7.30pm

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 21.36