

YOXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Thursday, 5th October 2023 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Hall, Yoxall

Present: P Hughes, J William, P Bailey, D Muir, R Keys, P Kitt, S Evans and R Yapp

Also Present: Two Members of the Public
B Ashcroft
V Gould
R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from J Jessel.

2) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, P Hughes, mentioned the following:

- Emergency Road Closures.
- Car and Property Thefts in Parish – Contact with Tim Leathers.
- Christmas Box Update.
- Armistice Day Road Closure on 12th November 2023.
- Forum Meeting Update.
- Condition of Meadow Lane.
- Grants.
- Road Closures on the A38.
- Footpaths Update.
- Boundaries Consultation.
- Sports Club.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- Declarations to be made when relevant matter raised.

4) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th September 2023, subject to the following amendment:-

- Chairman's Announcements – Delete: Feedback
Include: Awaiting Feedback.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th September 2023, subject to the above amendment.

5) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- No matters raised.

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- No matters raised.

7) REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

a) Report of County Councillor

- No matters reported.

b) Report of Borough Councillor

Borough Councillors B Ashcroft and V Gould mentioned the Warm Spaces Initiative may operate again this year.

8) PLANNING

R Keys reported the following:-

Planning Report – October 2023

Applications

P/2023/01046 – 44 Hadley Street – For a two storey side and single storey front extension. The configuration is similar to other extended properties in this row of houses.

Ongoing Projects

Severn Trent have advised that works will recommence at Sich Lane, though have not revealed the exact nature of the works.

We are monitoring the progress of live applications which are still being determined, particularly at Red Bank Farm and Bond End.

Housing Needs Assessment – we are liaising with ESBC on a local HNA as they are planning a boroughwide survey to inform their policies. The main difference between the two will be that our local survey will be more thorough by canvassing all households in the village. Our

Neighbourhood Plan would be updated in using the results through another referendum.

Sports Club Plans

A builder has quoted on the plans and other quotes are being sought. No grant applications have been made as yet for this sports facility.

9) CLERK'S REPORT

a) Correspondence

- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Safety Posters.
- Staffordshire Heritage Newsletter.
- ESBC – Pavement Café Licence – Victoria Inn, Burton-on-Trent.
- ESBC – Ward Enhancement Programme (Grants £10,000 - £50,000).
- John Taylor High School – Exam Invigilators.
- National Highways – A38 Traffic Management Bulletin.
- ESBC – Polling District Review 2023.
- J Jessel – Blocked Drain in Victoria Street.
- SCC – “My Staffordshire”.
- SPCA Bulletin.

10) MATTERS IN PROGRESS OR REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

i) Conservation Group

S Evans reported the following:-

Sunday, 24th September – Maintenance session at Goose Green, some village attendance. Burton Conservation Volunteers attended and undertook superb work. Councillor Muir will report more on this. Meadow Lane damage being reviewed by Environment Agency.

Footpaths

Meeting with Paul Rochfort on Thursday, 22nd September. Extremely positive and very helpful. Work on some paths has already been undertaken. Paul investigating areas and liaison will be ongoing over October and November.

ii) Best Kept Village Competition

S Evans reported the following:-

Bank Account details provided for transfer of second prize money of £250.00. We have to decide how best this is to be spent for the Community as a whole.

Feedback from 2023 competition requested. Not yet received. Preparation commenced for 2024 entry. Further details will be available for the November 2023 Parish Council Meeting.

iii) Riverside Regeneration

D Muir reported the following:-

- Burton Conservation Volunteers worked on Goose Green.
- Clearing out of Pond for fourth year.
- Goose Green alive with frogs, newts and toads.
- Presentation at the Diocese on the 14th October 2023 – D Muir to attend.
- Consider planting shrubs at the top of the Burial Ground.

iv) Open Spaces

P Kitt reported the following:-

Milne Holme Pingle – October Report 2023

There has been an incident.

Some damage to the fence and handrail on the path down, evidence of a fire on the grass and one brick off barbecue.

The chain to the gate to the path had been cut, so as to open the gates and then replaced in such a way that at first glance it appeared intact and padlock in place.

The evidence suggests, and indeed previous timing of issues also, that problems occur when Travellers are in the area.

This is supported by evidence over summer that kids swimming in the river and having a Barbecue have left the area intact, clean and tidy with their empty bottles/rubbish neatly stacked on the Barbecue, or removed.

The incident has been reported to the Police and a request for additional patrols etc. made.

Crime number is 654 28/09/23.

A price for repair has been requested and an alternative price for concrete posts and metal handrail will be obtained so that Council can consider which option will be best in the long term.

Ferrers Field – October Report 2023

The bench in the young children's play area has been repaired.

The Graffiti is proving harder to remove. Ken is going to try one last product and if that fails, will paint it blue.

ROSPA carried out their inspection at the end of August and their report has now been received. It is the best report I believe we have had with all new equipment installed and existing equipment (including the old timber equipment, such as the Fort etc.) getting a clean bill of health and all classed as low risk. This is, I believe, a direct result of our proactive maintenance strategy.

There were only two recommendations. Firstly, a sign to be placed on the Basketball/Goalpost to say: "Do Not Climb". Secondly, monitor shackles on Swings. These are both relatively inexpensive items. The sign is about £20.00 and the small shackles required are between £2.00/£3.00 each and they are indeed showing signs of wear when viewed. It makes no sense to change them now. Both of the above are in hand.

Finally, I am endeavouring to contact Simon Manning to meet him at Ferrers Field to carry out a tree survey and walk the Field with him to establish any areas of maintenance required, as carried out last year.

FOOTPATH

Savey Lane to Ferrers Field

A phone call was made to Mr Reg Doxey to request that he trim and tidy the side of the path that is next to his field. Mr Doxey had cut this earlier in the year. Much to my surprise, Mr Doxey told me quite categorically that he had sought advice from the Farmers Union and that it was not his responsibility and that he would not be doing it again at all.

The other side, I believe, is County Council responsibility, yet it never gets cut by anyone, or attended to.

I happened to meet Neil Fleming the other evening by chance and asked him how much he would charge to strip both sides all the way along and remove all cuttings. £40.00 was Neil's reply. I have taken the liberty of instructing Neil to go ahead.

I think that we should consider writing to both Mr Doxey and County Council with a copy of the invoice attached requesting payment of 50% of the cost each and informing them that this is how we intend to maintain the path going forwards.

v) Village Hall

J Williams reported the following:-

- Mural to be installed.
- Weeding completed around hedges by War Memorial.
- Asked Builder about painting granite plinths at War Memorial.
- Mentioned ESBC Lottery and setting up Parish Council involvement.

vi) Burial Ground

J Williams mentioned the following:-

- Requested additional grass cutting.
Tree branches over path. J. Williams and P. Hughes to inspect branches.

vii) Roads and Pavements

- M Arch mentioned the problem of vehicles coming through the village at an excessive speed. P Hughes commented details to be given to Staffordshire Police. R Keys gave details of a Parish Council having three mobile SID's to discourage speeding vehicles.

viii) Website

M Arch said details of thefts and criminal activity included on Website, plus planning details.

ix) Health and Safety – Health Services

R Yapp reported the following:-

Yapp on YaPP.
Surgery update staff.
Mrs Atherton is Advanced Clinical Practitioner.
Nurse Williams Practice Nurse.
Mrs Wheeldon Receptionist.
Dr Winchurch has retired.
Dr Igodo has moved on.

Flu and Covid jabs are being done at Pirelli.

Friends and family test results – there have been 178 responses for YHC and 167 patients are either extremely likely or likely to recommend them.

Other Matters

The Dementia group are still looking to help with a dementia café with others.

Fete returns next year on 29th June 2024.

11) WISH LIST

P Bailey mentioned the following:-

- Reviewed Wish List.
- Inclusion of Bench – Await License.
- No Duke of Edinburgh applicants at present.

12) COMMUNITY

S Evans said there was nothing to report until receive feedback from the BKVC 2023.

13) GRANT FUNDING

- J Williams commented need to consider funding options with regard to the ESBC Grant Scheme.
- D Muir said Tourism could be considered.
- P Hughes said we must coordinate any funding applications.
- Councillors reviewed possible projects and funding.

14) FINANCE

a) Cheque Payments

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the following cheques:-

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	£
05/10/2023	506520	Mazars	378.00
05/10/2023	506521	Parish Clerk	297.00
05/10/2023	506522	HMRC (PAYE)	198.00
05/10/2023	506523	A J Gallagher	3,878.26
05/10/2023	506524	Betzy's	200.00
05/10/2023	506525	Cancelled	0.00
05/10/2023	506526	S Evans (BKV)	105.00
		TOTAL:	£5,056.26

Resolved: To issue the above cheques.

b) Annual Return 2022/2023

The Clerk reported the Annual Return 2022/2023 and accounts had been approved with no adverse comment as follows:-

“On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion, the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

c) Receipts and Payments Schedule for the period 1st April 2023 – 30th September 2023 plus Forecast

The Clerk circulated the Receipts and Payments for the period 1st April 2023 – 30th September 2023 and gave details of Receipts and Payments and any variances.

15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday, 2nd November 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm

P Hughes
Chairman