

HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD REMOTELY ON MOINDAY 26 APRIL 2021 AT 7.15 P.M.

Present:

Mr D Blacketer, Mrs P Bramley, Mr R Bramley, Mr J Garner, Mr P Hall, Ms B Heap, Mrs R Hilton, Mr T Percy and Mrs Zena Richards

In attendance:

Fiona Hill - Parish Clerk
Insp Lee Pointon – North Yorkshire Police

APM2021/1 Apologies
City of York Cllr Keith Aspden

APM2021/2 Minutes of the APM 2019
Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

APM2021/3 Annual Report
Report One

APM2021/4 Representations/Reports by:

Meeting Room	–	Report Two
Sportsfield	–	Report Three
Village Trust	–	No report received
Heslington Church	–	No report received
North Yorkshire Police	–	Inspector Pointon reported that he had no concerns from a policing perspective, but urged people to call 101 or report online any issues. The Parish Council asked for Road Traffic Accidents to be included on the monthly reports.

APM2021/5 Parishioners question and answer session:
None.

Chairman's Signature

Date

Report One

This year has been very difficult and challenging. We hope you and your families are keeping safe and well.

Your Parish Council has continued to meet monthly since Feb 20 albeit remotely and have welcomed residents who have been able to join us.

It is pleasing to hear your comments on any Parish issue either in the short public session at the beginning of each meeting or via email to the Clerk.

Please do look on our website where you will see agendas and minutes and the latest updates of village matters.

Sadly our Lengthsman, Dave, decided to give the job up.

We are indebted to him for the many years he served the Parish, and his cheery face was well known around the village. We wish him and his family all the best.

The process of employing a new lengthsperson will be resumed shortly; interviews were delayed due to the recent lockdown.

In the near future CYC will consult on Heslington Article 4 Direction.

It serves to restrict permitted development rights, which means that a lot of the things people do to their land or houses without planning permission and often take for granted, are brought into the realms of planning consent. It does not in itself prohibit any action but means that a landowner/houseowner is required to seek planning consent whereas without the direction this would not be necessary.

The objective is to seek to preserve historic buildings facing the Main Streets in order to preserve the streetscape quality.

We urge residents to read the proposals carefully and to make their response.

Work continues on the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The PC are committed to produce a NP for the whole of the Parish.

Each month we receive Parish planning applications. It is most helpful to Cllrs to be aware if residents have views/ concerns on these matters prior to making a response.

A big thank you to the Meeting Room committee who have continue throughout the year, working very hard to improve and keep the meeting room in good repair.

I thank fellow Councillors, our clerk and residents for your continuous support over this last year.

We hope with the success of York's mass vaccination programme, we can soon return to a more normal way of life and the return to in-person meetings.

Heslington Parish Council wish you all the best.

Report Two

At the time of my last annual Report, we had been a week into the first lockdown, and with the exception of the use of the Meeting Room for a few weeks in the Autumn by a small painting group and a Children's Drama Group when the rules were relaxed, there has been no possibility of renting it out. That remains the current position, with the exception of the Children's Drama Group (an educational activity), until the end of all restrictions on the 21st June at the earliest. However, we have been able to take advantage of the situation and carry out the redecoration of the main room, which was looking rather tired, and suffered from the lack of adhesion of earlier coats of paint to the substrate. This often resulted in small patches of plaster showing through when blue tack was used to fix items to wall [despite people being asked to not do this]. Rather than re-plaster, it was decided to cover the walls in heavy duty lining paper, and then to fully redecorate, which has been successful and has greatly improved the appearance of the room.

The executive committee made the decision to dig up the old ugly concrete parking area fronting the garden and replace it with a form of grasscrete, which, once the grass seed has grown, will much improve its appearance. New doors have also been fitted, replacing the old original doors leading directly into the meeting room, which were in poor condition. They are not designed to be used for access other than as a fire escape, but are part of the original Grade 2 listed chapel. New curtains to cover these doors internally have been ordered and will be installed in April. And the committee also decided to install a new engineered hardwood floor in the main room; this too will be installed in April. We are currently awaiting delivery of 40 new upholstered stacking chairs, together with their storage trolleys. These will replace the old chairs which had to be stacked around the perimeter of the room and looked unsightly. The new trolleys and chairs will still have to stand in the room, but will look neater and less obtrusive – and be a lot more comfortable.

Finally, despite not being able to hire the Meeting Room for the past year, the finances are in good shape courtesy of the Governments support for charities and small businesses during the pandemic, details of which are set out in the Finance report. We are already receiving enquiries about hiring the Meeting Room, and once the restrictions placed on us all by the pandemic are removed and the various improvements completed, the future for the Village Meeting Room should be bright.

N. K. Allen - Chair, Heslington Meeting Room Committee

Treasurer's Report year ending 31.3.21

The year ending 31.3.21 was an extremely unusual year due to the coronavirus pandemic and the need to keep the Meeting Room closed. We received some income from hiring when we were not in lockdown during the summer but had to refund a few deposits when events could not take place. We also received a ward grant towards the cost of replacing the outdated hand dryers in the toilets. Our business rated were refunded by the City Council who also gave us three local restrictions support grants, the most recent of which we have returned as it was surplus to our needs.

There was some expenditure on utilities including paying the cleaner a retainer. We took the opportunity to carry out some refurbishment whilst the building was not being used. The damaged Main Hall doors were replaced and the Main Hall was redecorated along with the lobby walls which suffer from regular traffic. A major improvement was to the car parking area. The broken concrete and some grass have been replaced with mesh and grass seed which still needs some time to settle.

Annual subscriptions were paid for public liability insurance and Community First Yorkshire. Some money has been set aside/earmarked for further work planned in the Main Hall and we still have money earmarked for probable roof repairs, the cost of which will be shared with the Parish Council. All in all and despite the current pandemic we are in a healthy financial position which might be eroded if there are further lockdowns because of the coronavirus.

Dot Lawton 11.4.21

HESLINGTON METING ROOM**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021****Credit Balance as 1.4.20**

Current Account (Nat West)	£6,018.33
Bonus Saver Account (Nat West)	£12,245.77
Cash in Hand	£81.84
	£18,345.94

Income

Room Hire	£1,358.00		
Ward Grant Hand Dryers	£500.00		
Bank Interest	£5.66		
Coronavirus Grants	£17,335.00		
	£19,198.66		

Expenditure

Gas	£450.76		
Electricity	£140.48		
PAT Testing	£53.42		
Water	£257.03		
Business Rates	-£46.59		
Website Fees	£0.00		
Cleaning	£495.00		
Cleaning Equipment & Liquids/Kitchen Roll	£18.74		
Waste Paper Baskets for Loos	£3.00		
Hand Dryers	£642.00		
Window Cleaning	£60.00		
Public Liability Insurance	£84.00		
Music Licence	£0.00		
Community First Yorkshire (2 years)	£84.00		
Peter Heald Redecoration Lobby X 2	£150.00		
Peter Heald Redecoration Main Hall	£1,250.00		
New Doors to Main Hall from Outside	£2,404.02		
Kitchen Blinds	£88.80		
Simon Prince Car Park Refurbishment	£4,452.40		
2021 Diary	£5.99		
Toiletries/Toilet Paper	£0.00		
Garden	£0.00		
Postage/Telephone DL	£0.00		
Ant Stop/Woodworm Treatment	£17.00		
		£10,610.05	

Excess of Income over Expenditure**£8,588.61****Credit Balance**

Balance at 1.4.20 + Excess of Income over Expenditure

£26,934.55**Credit Balance comprises**

Current Account (Nat West)			£4,663.01
Bonus Saver Account (Nat West)			£6,251.43
Earmarked Funds for Probable Roof Repairs			£8,000.00

Earmarked Funds for Main Hall Refurbishment			£8,000.00
Cash in Hand			£20.11
			£26,934.55

Dorothy Lawton, Honorary Treasurer

Report Three

Since the last report to the AGM Bill McLean stepped down as chairman. The committee and I'm sure the whole community wish to thank him for his long service in the role, and wish him luck in the future. It's been a challenging period to become chairman of the charity, making ends meet at the sportsfield is not easy, and covid has thrown our plans into disarray. Thankfully as a rate paying leisure business we have received some grant aid, that has helped us to meet our ongoing costs, and we will actually come out of this in a relatively strong position. I have looked to cut costs, and increase revenue at the sportsfield since I took tenure of the position, and I feel positive moving forward. We have a very strong cricket club now, and Fulford football club make use of the ground throughout the season along with the Heslington Saturday team. The cricket club are currently exploring the possibility of building some all weather nets on the ground, which will hopefully strengthen their position.

The university continue to offer our Groundcare at a subsidised rate, which we are very thankful for.

The play areas and field have been a great asset to the village throughout the pandemic, and it's been lovely to see the area getting so much use. Unfortunately the popular zip line has been temporarily decommissioned, as there is an unsafe tree nearby, but once this is felled we will get it back into action.

The play equipment is in need of constant maintenance, and we are currently seeking some grant aid to help with this, and welcome any donations from the public.

Hopefully we will have a more settled year, and get the finances on a sustainable course.

Thanks as always to the committee for their hard work and support,

Tom Percy - Chairman