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**Present:** Cllrs K Hayes (Chair), A Taylor, R. Lea, E. Jackson, E. Houghton, P. Cocker, T Hewitt, Clerk Miss A. Evans

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr N Woodcock

1. **Declaration of Interests and Dispensations:**

Cllr E. Houghton and Cllr A. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.

1. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**

It was resolved that the minutes of the MHPC meeting held on the 14th October 2024 were agreed to be a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chair Cllr K. Hayes.

1. **Public Time**

Several members of the public addressed the council:

Hoole Village Bowling Club representatives: Hoole Village Bowling Club representatives: A representative of Hoole Bowling Club thanked the Parish Council for considering their grant application. They presented a request for funding towards a specialist mower to maintain the bowling green. The representative was accompanied by the club's mechanic, who explained that their current mower is 35-40 years old and is becoming difficult to repair due to many parts being discontinued. The representative further explained that the grant would enable the club to purchase a fully refurbished mower with all new parts, ensuring reliable use for the next and many seasons in the future. They highlighted that the 3 Level 1 bowling coaches intend to launch a junior bowls section in April 2025.  They have been practicing their coaching skills with the beavers, cubs and scouts this summer.  The bowling green draws people from nearby communities, including an Adult Disability Centre and a Dementia Care Home promoting social cohesion and reducing social isolation.

Residents concerned with the planning application 07/2024/00172/FUL: A resident of Barnfield, Much Hoole, raised concerns about this planning application, seeking the councils support in opposing it. They expressed that, due the plots location (junction of Barnfield and Smithy Lane), the proposed development would infringe on the boundary of neighbouring properties. The residents wanted the council to note that a previous application in 1991 was rejected on the grounds that the plot was too small and feels this is still the case. The residents feel the development would negatively impact the character of the area, cause privacy issues for adjacent properties and cause further parking limitations on Barnfield. They also commented that commercial contractors may struggle to access the site, specifically adhering to the Highways Depts’ conditions for delivery and contract vehicles accessing the plot. The deadline for public consultation is set for the 15th November 2024 and the resident requests the councils’ support in opposing the proposal. Cllr T. Hewitt recommended using the Much Hoole Facebook page to gather further support from further residents.

1. **Correspondence from members of the public.**

None received.

1. **Reports from other meetings and information on future events**
2. The Council noted the report from Cllr R Lea regarding the Lancashire County Council Conference with Parish Councils on the 2nd November 2024attended by Cllrs R Lea and E Houghton. **It was resolved** that Cllr R. Lea liaise with LCC regarding the planting of trees around Northern Avenue football ground and to discuss permission with SRBC and to enquire about flooding issues. It was further agreed that Mr Ian Wright, manager of the LCC Treescapes unit, be invited to the January Council meeting to speak to the Council about the projects he is supporting and how this might benefit Much Hoole. Proposed by the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed.
3. No other reports nor upcoming meetings were noted.
4. **Village Hall**

The council noted Cllr A. Taylor's report on the village hall for the past month. The Village Hall is operated in a sustainable manner and is used almost every day. Work on obtaining a MUGA is ongoing, but finance is still hard to find. Pickleball will be introduced as an activity due to its increasing popularity as the fastest growing racquet sport in the USA and Canada. The other option was Paddleball, but it would not be suitable due to lack of room and extra costs. The Christmas Market event will be held on Saturday 7th December.

1. **Off Road Cycle Track**

The Council noted that the Cycle track Lengthsman has visited and fixed the track as somebody had taken a spade and reshaped the track. In addition, the village Lengthsman has been assisting with littering issues and keeping this under control.

1. **Finance**
2. The Bank reconciliation for the month of October 2024 was agreed to the bank statements and was signed by Cllr E. Houghton.
3. **It was resolved** to approve the Clerks’ new rate of pay, proposed by the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed.
4. **It was resolved** to approve the following payments, proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes and unanimously agreed:
5. Lengthsman H Jackson invoice for October in the amount of £243.04 (£232 wage and £11.04 invoices)
6. Clerks October gross salary in the amount of £562 – 35.48 hours work
7. Clerks October Expenses in the amount of £100.49 for mileage
8. Clerks backpay in the amount of £81.47
9. **Budget and Precept for 2025-26**

The Council noted CIL income of £1490.26 and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would review the CIL income received by the council.

The Council reviewed the draft budget for 2025-26, during which:

* Cllr A. Taylor requested an increase of £10,000 in the ‘Grants’ budget to accommodate anticipated grant requests from the Village Hall in 2025-26
* Cllr E. Houghton requested that the ‘Training’ budget be increased to £1000 to cover any additional Clerk and Councillor training courses that may arise

**It was resolved** that the Clerk would send the revised budget, including the updated amounts, to all councillors for review before the December meeting, with any comments or recommendations to be returned before then.

1. **Much Hoole Village Calendars**

The council reviewed the calendar proposal presented by Cllr R. Lea. Cllr T. Hewitt proposed opening the opportunity of sponsorship from local businesses at a cost of £50 per calendar month page (12 business sponsorship opportunities in total for the calendar year). The sponsoring would include the businesses name and logo featured on the month they sponsor. Following the discussion, the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes proposed proceeding with the calendar project, including the sponsorship and all associated details, seconded by Cllr A. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

**It was resolved** and approved that:

* The Council will gift the calendars to local community groups to sell at a price of £2.50 each in aid of their funds.
* Cllr T. Hewitt will call for additional photos and for business sponsorships at £50 per monthly page to help cover the printing costs.
* The council will cover any outstanding printing costs up to a maximum amount of £300.
* The Council will review and select from the photos circulated by Cllr R Lea on the 23rd November the photos to be used in the calendar on the weekend of 23rd/24th November 2024. After which the calendar printing will be ordered to be obtained in time for the Christmas Market on 7th December.
* 500 calendars will be printed by Solopress at a cost of £606.58 + VAT.

1. **Parish Clerk and Financial Officer**
2. The Council noted that the Clerk will take the Chairman’s Chain of office to be restored in the coming weeks.
3. The Council noted that SRBC have added Liverpool Old Road to the list for replacement waste bins and will monitor its use.
4. Council noted the “Notice of polling districts and polling places review”.
5. **It was resolved** that the Council approved the ILCA Clerk training in the amount of £120. Proposed by the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes, seconded by E. Jackson and unanimously agreed.
6. The Council noted that the Clerk has submitted the VAT reclaim for the period 2023-24.
7. **Data Protection**
8. **It was resolved** that the Clerk will email Cllr E. Houghton in her capacity as Village Hall secretary to request the use of the Village Hall address as a temporary solution for Data protection concerns for the Clerk and that this be discussed at the next Village Hall Trustees meeting. This was proposed by Chair Cllr K. Hayes, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed.
9. **It was resolved** that the Clerk purchases a Lebara pay-as-you-go SIM card for £5 per month, to be reimbursed monthly as an expense until included in next year's budget. The plan will be used on the Clerk’s dual-SIM phone to separate council-related calls from personal calls. This was proposed by Cllr T. Hewitt, seconded by Cllr E. Jackson and unanimously agreed.
10. **Footpaths & Gardens**
    1. The Council noted that no new work has been completed this month but noted that the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes has spoken to David Goode at LCC regarding the obstructions on FP12 and LCC have confirmed they are looking into this.
    2. The Council noted that Cllr A. Taylor had visited the landowner adjacent to FP27 and that the landowner has added a way marker and confirmed that a gate sign will be added. Cllr P. Cocker suggested the sign should read “Please close the gate after use”.
11. **Community Orchard Project**
12. Cllr R Lea presented a proposal for a Community Orchard Project alongside Cllr T. Hewitt. The Council noted that LCC had accepted our application for the Community Orchard Grant and offered the amount of £559.94. However, the council needs to sign the formal Agreement before funds are released. The agreement was sent to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr R. Lea circulated a quote for the ten fruit trees from Frank P Matthews, which totalled £539.00 and includes trees at £407, rubber ties at £15, tree stake at £36, and delivery at £81. The trees are mostly bare rooted and will only be held for us after payment is received by them and, as stocks of some of the varieties are low, the agreement and the funds from LCC are therefore required as soon as possible.
13. Council discussed potential antisocial behaviour raised by SRBC but feel this is highly unlikely and grass/pruning of the fruit trees if planted will be maintained by the Community Orchard Project team as outlined in item 15d of this agenda
14. Council noted that SRBC will be installing a public access gate to Trafalgar Garden in the coming weeks.
15. **It was resolved** that:

* The council proceed and accept the offer for Community Orchard Grant in the amount of £559.94.
* The Council proceeds with the quote from Frank P Matthews circulated at the meeting in relation to the purchase of 10 fruit trees in the amount of £539.00.
* The council has agreed to fund an amount of £100 for any extra costs such as sand, mulch and plastic.
* Chair, Cllr K. Hayes will sign and submit the community orchard grant agreement, subject to her review first.
* A project team has been confirmed to manage the project and it was agreed that Cllrs T. Hewitt, R. Lea, P. Cocker be that team. The village Lengthsman Harry Jackson will also be involved. **It was agreed that Cllr R Lea will be the first point of contact for all future enquiries relating to this project particularly in respect of liaising with SRBC and LCC.**

All items listed above were approved and proposed by Cllr E. Houghton, seconded by Cllr T. Hewitt and unanimously agreed.

1. **A59 Crossing**

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk discusses with Little Hoole Parish Council Clerk any updates from LCC on pricing and infrastructure required to add a crossing on the A59.

1. **Bus Routes in Much Hoole Village**

It was agreed that the council should defer to the next meeting.

1. **Grants**

**It was resolved** that the council accept the grant application from Hoole Bowling Club in the amount of £2550, with the VAT being deducted from the total before payment is made. The grant application has been submitted to both Little Hoole Parish Council (LHPC) and Much Hoole Parish Council to split the costs equally. It was agreed that LHPC will pay the invoice in full and reclaim the VAT if their council agrees. MHPC will pay for the other half, less VAT. LHPC will obtain a signed document from Hoole Village Bowling Club, confirming that the mower is being received as a gift and will provide MHPC with a copy of this document along with the paid invoice. This was proposed by Cllr R. Lea, seconded by Cllr E. Houghton and agreed by Cllrs E. Jackson, A. Taylor, P. Cocker, T. Hewitt. The Chair, Cllr K. Hayes abstained. The motion was therefore carried.

1. **Bus Shelters in Much Hoole Village**

The Council noted the clerks’ update from SRBC, which confirms that the bus shelter on Liverpool Old Road has been enquired about several times to SRBC regarding its condition and wanting a bin there. SRBC confirmed they are going to install a bin and are currently working on a project to identify shelters that have been reported as in poor condition but that this is a long-term project. It was agreed that the Clerk will continue to chase updates.

1. **Footpath map pamphlets**

It was agreed that the council should defer to the next meeting

1. **Fallen Soldiers Plaques**

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to Cllr N. Woodcock's absence.

1. **Christmas Trees**
   1. Council noted that the trees are being delivered to Cllr A. Taylors address next week and will be erected by J Nelson and C Hewitt by the end of the month.
2. Council noted that Cllr R. Lea has researched live Christmas Trees for planting one in the Trafalgar Garden and that the tallest we could currently purchase is 6 foot tall and would only grow one foot per year depending on the variety. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr R. Lea will research and look for a tree that is over 9-10 feet tall and communicate with SRBC about permission to plant once a quote for such a tree has been obtained.

**23. Planning**

1. 07/2024/00172/FUL 25 Smithy Lane, Much Hoole, PR4 4GN. Erection of one dwelling and associated access in land to rear of 25 Smithy Lane. The council discussed this planning application, and it was noted that Cllr Rainsbury from SRBC opposes the application going ahead and said that SRBC had enough housing land available for the foreseeable future. Cllr T. Hewitt advised there had been complaints from parishioners regarding road obstructions, parking, speeding, lack of amenity to neighbours, general amenities and that planning will aggravate these existing issues. It was resolved that MHPC write to SRBC to oppose the planning application before the deadline of 15th November. Proposed by the Chair, Cllr K. Hayes, seconded by Cllr R. Lea and unanimously agreed.
2. Council noted planning application 07/2024/00805/NMA 45 Green Hey Much Hoole Preston Lancashire PR4 4QH. Application for Non-Material Amendment of Planning Permission 07/2024/00349/HOH to change the external finish of the front dormer from render to spiced oak composite cladding.
3. Council noted planning application 07/2024/00777/FUL Ribblesdale Garage, Liverpool Road (A59), Much Hoole, Preston, PR4 4RJ. Change of use of garage/workshop to dental surgery (Class E(e)) together with raising of roof to create first floor, new flat roof to existing rear extension, rendering of existing elevations and installation of new front windows and openings.
4. **Items for next agenda**

South Ribble Allotments

Budget and precept for financial year 2025-26

Much Hoole Village calendars

Community Orchard project

Bus route response from LCC – Updates from Cllr R. Lea

Approval of real live Christmas trees for next year

Fallen soldiers’ plaques

Footpath map pamphlets

Updates on planting of trees around Northern Avenue football ground

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Memorial Hall, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4QA.