**Minutes of the meeting of HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL held on**

**Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall**

Members Present Chairman: Councillor S Pettitt

Councillors P Fell, J Petty and A Wright

In Attendance County Councillor D Harrison

District Councillor V Richichi

PC Mike Walker

PC Edward Fowkes

Jan Shepherd, Parish Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clarke and Harris

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**120. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13 December 2022 had been circulated in advance and were approved as a true and accurate record. All were in favour.

# 121. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**122. COMMUNITY POLICING**

There were two Officers in attendance at the meeting and their report was as follows:

* Just two items for December to report – an abandoned scooter and a lost wallet.
* We have two new PCSO’s on Beat 45, Bardon area. Emma and Gemma
* Fatal 4 operations are in progress in the area, all relating to speed checks. They will probably be on Pisca Lane – PC Fowkes will check and let clerk know.
* It has been agreed that the Beat Surgery can be held at one of the two public Houses in the village. He will speak with the landlady of both and see if a date can be arranged.
* A Beat Surgery is being held in Ibstock on Tuesday 17 January from 10am until 11am.
* They asked if there was anything to be reported and were given details of a vehicle parked in a regular fly tipping lay by just before the meeting started. They agreed to have a look when they left the meeting.

The Officers were thanked for their presence and report and left the meeting.

**123. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS COMMENTS**

Our County Councillor highlighted the fact that the budget for the County was high priority for all of our County Councillors currently. He indicated that it was going to be a difficult year.

He had no update on the speed activated signs for us.

He informed the councillors and clerk that the County Council had an email address specifically for local councils and asked that the clerk test it out by using it to ask about the progress of the speed activated signs. She agreed to do that and let him know if it was effective.

Our District Councillor informed us that the despute about refuse collection on Ravenstone Road had been resolved.

He had nothing further to report.

Councillor Harrison and Councillor Richichi left the meeting.

**124. REPORT FROM ALLOTMENT HOLDERS CO-ORDINATOR**

There was no report from Mr Paul Taylor at this meeting.

A meter reading had been sent to WaterPlus following the last meeting and a new bill had been sent to us. It was reported by the councillor with the play area checks book that the meter was still reading 724.

**125. REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE TREE WARDEN**

There was no report from the Village Tree Warden at this meeting.

# 126. VILLAGE ISSUES

* Play area inspections carried out 21 December, 2nd and 8th January 2023. No additional problems to report.
* Action from Play Area Inspection reports to be dealt with in time for the school holidays at Easter. One slat is in need of replacement at Mill Lane.
* The clerk was going to produce some new wording to the Financial regulations so that we could operate an online account. She has been in contact with the Lloyds Bank about the account and has had some conversations about how we can operate the account. They are investigating the possibility of updating the account without us having to close and reopen and will contact the clerk when they have more information. What they tell us depends on how the wording will be changed. It was agreed that we would wait until she has heard back from them.
* The Village School had asked if the Parish Council would like to contribute to a commemorative medal for King Charles coronation for all children at the school. The council had some reservations because of how such a presentation had been received before when they had purchased a medal for every child in the village at the Jubilee, arranged an event for a presentation and only two families turned up leaving the council with 96 medals purchased and not used despite the school having sent out invitations to every child in the school at the time. However, this being a very special occasion, it was agreed that the Parish would contribute £120 towards the medals. Councillor Wright proposed and all were in favour.

**127. VILLAGE HALL**

* Progress on Land Registry – update on progress. The clerk will contact the District Council to see if any progress has been made with this.
* On-line diary – look at Parish web site calendar. We have had several enquiries over the past month and a number of new bookings.
* The clerk had notified the council of results of the bill received from WaterPlus which was sent on 24th December. She had received four reminders to pay the bill between 24 December when sent and 4 January. The bill was for the sum of £550 which she contacted them to query because we had been asking for the meter to be read for several months re meter readings. She had telephoned them and they confirmed that the meter had now been read with difficulty (as she had told them a number of times before). She has confirmed that the bill will be paid in full at the Parish Council meeting. They have agreed to read the meter every six months. They have also agreed to move the meter so that it is not under the gate and have the actual meter checked out because there is so much water under the face of the meter that it cannot be read by our councillors despite all of them trying. It was agreed that the meter should be about one foot further towards the footpath than it is. The clerk is to take a photograph at their request and send it to them indicating where it is now and where we would like it to be. Further to that, when the bill had been paid, we can set up a direct debit for a sensible amount so that we do not end up with such a large bill at the end of a six-month period.

# 128. ACCOUNTS

The following payments for December were approved at the January meeting

434.24 clerk’s salary

27.15 clerk’s expenses

97.08 WaterPlus for Mill Lane allotments

Council income for December is as follows:

50.00 Mitchell Memorials

Village Hall expenses for December 2022

62.48 Eon for Village Hall

47.67 British Gas for Village Hall

101.97 Cleaning for hall as per invoices

551. 05 WaterPlus for Village Hall

Village Hall Income for December 2022

762.00 rent for classes and activities paid in this month.

All invoices sent up to date for end of December 2022

Outstanding payments to date - £325. These are monitored and checked regularly.

The Bank statement for Heather Parish Council for December 2022 was received

The Bank statement for Heather Recreation Ground for December 2022 was received.

The bank reconciliation for HPC for 31st December 2022 had been circulated to councillors earlier in the day and was accepted and approved at the meeting. A copy is filed with the minutes.

The Budget Estimates had been prepared and circulated in preparation for 2023 -2024 year. The clerk went through the document, questions were asked and answered. The clerk indicated that she had followed the advice of LRALC when preparing the budget and added an appropriate amount to most sections. Acceptance of the budget estimates were proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Pettitt and all were in favour.

The precept figure request for year 2023 – 2024, using the budget estimates is to be £14,500, a small increase on last year. This was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Fell and all were in favour.

**129. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

## Decisions this month and decision awaited

19/01441/OUT Land rear of 55 Mill Lane erection of two detached dwellings

Heather

Applications

22/01547/FUL Adjacent 2 Station Terrace one dwelling and vehicular access

22/01918/FUL 11 Newton Road, Heather single storey side and rear extn

**130. CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS**

Councillor Wright suggested that we need to wait another month to move soil at the cemetery until the weather is less wet. She also notified us that the fence at the Gas Board box by Mill Lane is down again.

Councillor Petty informed us that the potholes on Mill Lane are growing larger by the week. He was given the details of the County Highways website specifically for potholes for him to make contact with relevant details. They can then come and repair. Response from that site is much better than telephoning.

Councillor Fell had asked about a black bin for the cemetery and both the clerk and Councillor Clarke had contacted the District Council. We have received a reply indicating that we would be expected to pay between £4 and £18 per week depending on the size. Since this is a considerable cost and we have just agreed a budget for next year, it was agreed that we would experiment and see if there was any way we could manage. Councillor Fell currently checks the green bin at the Church weekly and anything that is not supposed to be in that bin, he removes and puts in the black bin which the Church can have for the Churchyard at no cost. It was suggested that he shouldn’t have to be doing that anyway and so, try removing the green bin altogether so that all waste goes into the black bin and see if there is sufficient room with just the one black bin. If it is not large enough, it may be better to ask for a larger bin for the Churchyard. He will keep us informed.

**131. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

District Council:- nothing to date

County Council: - nothing to date

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council: Nothing to date

# 132. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS

No flyers or magazines have been received to date this month.

**Next meeting**

To confirm the dates below:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm – see web site for details

Future meetings:

14th February 2023; 14th March 2023. All meetings will be held at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Web site address -www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk