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

**Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall**

Members present: Chairman: Councillor John Clarke

Councillors P Harris, S Pettitt, J Petty and A Wright

In attendance: County Councillor D Harrison

District Councillor V Richichi

Parish Clerk J Shepherd

Apologies were sent via Nicola, clerk for Ibstock Parish Council, that Peter Fell would not be in attendance as he was in hospital. The best wishes of everyone present were conveyed for his speedy recovery.

There were no declarations of Interest .

**133. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 had been distributed in advance of the meeting. they were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Petty and all were in favour of acceptance.

**134. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**135. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**136. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS COMMENTS**

Councillor Harrison informed the meeting that he had spent some considerable time talking to the County Council relating to the speed activated cameras for the village. He assures us that the cameras will be installed on Mill Lane and Pisca Lane. The Parish Clerk will be contacted by the delivery team as soon as the locations have been approved. It was noted that the County Highways Team had been notified of the locations more than once and a map was recently sent to them indicating the position that the council requested. A letter confirming the above is filed with the minutes.

The clerk was asked to write again to the County team to request that this is treated as a matter of urgency in view of the length of time this has been pending with them.

Councillor Richichi informed the council that he had requested that the grass on Ravenstone Road was made into a car park. This would enable the residents to park their cars either in their drive or on the car park and not on the road. He has been informed that the Council staff on the bins have not been able to get to pick up bins from the side front of the area facing onto Pisca Lane because of the cars that are parked.

He has also asked if there is any possibility of removing the grass opposite the school and making that hard surface because so many cars pull onto it to drop off and pick up schoolchildren, it is getting churned up and damaged. He is in contact with County Highways about both of these matters.

Cllr Richichi also asked about the cemetery as he is concerned that there are not too many plots left available. It was reported that an audit of spaces had been done in 2017 and reviewed a few months ago and it is estimated that we have enough spaces for another 6/8 years. However, due to the length of time that it can take to have new land commissioned for a cemetery, the clerk has made a number of enquiries about the process, attended a training session to be familiar with the process and has a meeting booked with a Planning Officer at the District Council for later this week. She will report on results of that meeting at the next meeting.

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

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

The new water meter reading was given to the clerk. Councillor Wright had examined the allotment plots and asked that the hirer of plot 1b is contacted and asked to clear it a bit.

She also informed the council of one plot (4b) becoming vacant at the end of the season. The clerk also informed the council of plot 4a becoming vacant at the end of the season.

She will check the waiting list and inform the next two that they will be available.

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

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

# 139. VILLAGE ISSUES

* Play area inspections carried out on 15th, 22nd and 27th January 2023 and 2nd, 6th and 13th February 2023. The outstanding issues are the slats and rope on Belcher Close play area.
* To consider rewording of Financial regulations – this is again delayed awaiting new bank accounts being opened. It was agreed that two new accounts would be opened because the clerk has had nothing back from Lloyds Bank about changing the ones we have currently.
* There are a number of areas where tree work is required. Cllrs Fell and Wright walked the play areas with the clerk and Ian of SDI Gardening and he has given us quotes. One area has already been done and invoice received. The area at Mill Lane in the main grounds of the Recreation Ground was estimated at a sum of £460 (see minute 101) and it was agreed that we would ask him to do that area to make it possible to mow up to the edge of the fields rather than having to keep coming further and further out due to the condition of the trees. It was deemed unnecessary to have work done on the land nearer to the river.

He was also asked to trim the trees on The Rookery as they are starting to overhang some of the gardens there.

* The grounds maintenance schedule for the next three years needs to be amended to include the maintenance of the trees now they have been trimmed this year. They will then be done on an annual basis instead of having a big bill every five years or so.
* The clerk notified the council that she is meeting with Planning department and our link officer to discuss extending the cemetery. He will progress any advice or information received following the meeting.
* We have received a number of emails relating to the coronation of King Charles later in the year. It has already been agreed that we would contribute towards the schools memento of the event and we know that a number of areas are organising their own street parties. It was, therefore, agreed that we would not hold another event for the celebrations but take a full part in the ones being organised in the village.
* It was agreed that we would continue with meeting being held on the second Tuesday of the month up to the time of the elections in May.
* In relation to the elections in May, information and training is being offered to anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish or District councillor. Details of the training are on the Parish Council website, the Village Face Book page and the Village Hall Face Book page. A poster will be placed in the Village Hall and on both Notice Boards.
* The clerk had received information from the National Forest re tree planting. The Craft Group (used to be CreativiT) and Rainbows have both expressed a desire to plant a tree and it was agreed that they would be planted at the far end of the Swepstone Road Recreation Ground. She has forwarded the email to them so that they are aware of the dates when trees can be planted.
* We have received an email reminding us that the Ashby 20 Run is coming through Heather and it is being held on 26th March. Roads through Heather will be affected for a while during the run. The run organisers have also booked the Village Hall for some training for the use of defibrillators which are along the route.

**140. VILLAGE HALL**

* Progress on Land Registry – update on progress. Everything submitted by NWLDC.
* On-line diary – look at Parish web site calendar
* The actions from the last meeting have all now been completed with WaterPlus so there should be no repeat of the huge bill received last month.
* A request to hold a summer camp at the Village Hall during the school holidays has been received. The clerk has met with the leader of the team and they have discussed a number of issues, including the fact that children can quite easily leave the Recreation Ground because there are unlocked and open gates (because it is a public space, this is necessary). This could, in turn, cause a problem for Safeguarding and Health and Safety for the team. We have no answer to those issues and have suggested that Heather St John’s Football Club may be a better venue for this event due to their facilities for outdoor activities being more appropriate than what we can offer. The clerk will contact Mr Pearce.
* There have been some issues relating to the users of the hall which the clerk has been asked to deal with.
* In view of the increasing costs of running the hall with gas, electricity and water bills rising monthly, it is suggested that we have a Management Committee meeting to review charges and usage on 28th March 2023 at 7pm. The clerk will notify all members of the Management Committee.

# 141. ACCOUNTS

The following payments for January were approved at this meeting

468.16 clerk’s salary

27.15 clerk’s expenses

372.00 2Commune Ltd – maintenance of website

112.00 SLCC annual membership

500.00 SDI Gardening tree work at Belcher Close

Council income for January is zero

Village Hall expenses for January 2023

82.76 Eon for Village Hall

74.17 British Gas for Village Hall

34.35 Clerks expenses as per claim form

Village Hall Income for January 2023

414.40 rent for classes and activities paid in this month.

All invoices sent up to date for end of January 2023

Cheques received but not yet paid in - £366 in total

The Bank statement for Heather Parish Council for January 2023 was received

The Bank statement for Heather Recreation Ground for January 2023 was received.

The clerk notified the council of receipt of Pensions regulator re-enrolment

**142. 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

Nothing new this month

**143. CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS**

The following were reported by councillors:

* Concern expressed over trees cut down in Blacketts Wood and Spinney
* Lack of enforcement relating to the gym built at a property on Pisca Lane which now has new gates and windows
* Concern relating to beehives being sited close to the footpath
* Request for the footpaths to be swept at the side oof Mill Lane and the top of Pisca Lane as these are the two routes used by residents (all ages) to walk into Ibstock and the leaves are causing the footpath to be very slippery.

**144. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

District Council:- nothing to date

County Council: - nothing to date

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council: Nothing to date

# 145. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS

SLCC Conference

Clerks and Councils Direct

Western Power Safety notice

SLCC Magazine

**Next meeting**

To confirm the dates below:

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

Future meetings:

11th April 2023, 9th May 2023. All meetings will be held at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Web site address -www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk