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

**Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall**

Members present: Chairman, Councillor J Clarke

Councillors Fell, Harris, Pettitt, Petty and Wright

In attendance: Cllr V Richichi, District Councillor

Mrs Jan Shepherd, Parish Clerk

There were no apologies for absence

**92. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All were in favour.

**93. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising that were not included in the agenda.

**94. Public questions and answers**

A request had been received about the possibility of allowing a group to stay in the Village Hall over a weekend with some sleeping in the hall, some staying in tents or caravans on the car park.

The councillors considered this request and asked the clerk to check insurance although they all were concerned about the request. They also considered the cost for the activity should it be allowed stating that there would be a considerable supplement for heating, lighting and water. They also needed to know the numbers involved before committing either way. The consensus was that it would not be possible but the clerk is, nevertheless, asked to check insurance anyway.

Further to that request, the same resident also asked if signs about dogs being kept on a lead and cleaning up after them could be placed on the notice boards at the allotments. The clerk had brought some signs to the meeting and they would be placed as soon as possible.

The final request from that resident was about a petition to reinstate the bus service from Heather to Ibstock. The councillors discussed this and, in view of the efforts made in the past, which even involved purchasing a minibus to have our own transport for the village, the decision was that they would not be able to support a petition. Arriva have made it very clear to us in the past that the service was making a huge loss that was not sustainable.

There were no residents in attendance and no other queries that needed to be brought to the meeting.

**95. Community Policing**

PC Edward Fowkes had been in contact with the clerk and reported the following crime in the village:

* Tools had been stolen from vans in Belcher Close and on St Johns Close

He had requested that a Beat Surgery could be held in Heather. It was suggested that the centre of the village may be more visible than holding it at the Village Hall and maybe the Queen’s Head would be able to accommodate in their car park. The clerk is to contact them to ask and report back to PC Fowkes.

He further asked about another Patch Walk. The councillors were happy about that and suggested the best time for that would be between 2pm and 4pm on a school day. The clerk is to relay that to him also.

**96. District and County Councillor comments**

Cllr Richichi said his main area of focus this month had been on the Pumpkin event at Cattows Farm with a huge amount of complaints about everything ranging from congestion on the road, mud on the road and people being unable to access their homes without sitting in a traffic jam and the method of parking cars after payment had been made. There had been at least one accident due to the mud on the road and he had been in touch with the County Council Highways department to assist with the enforcing of road cleaning.

He suggested we need to contact the licencing department to work out a solution and find out exactly what is allowed and what isn’t. we need to look at how many events are allowed in a year and how they are managed with everything from light pollution to noise pollution, and how the organisers are able to deal with these issues so that events do not cause such a problem in the village. He added that Cattows Farm were not managing this event but letting the land for the event to be held.

A number of suggestions were made by both Cllr Richichi and the Parish Councillors:

* Contact Andy Cooper in the Licencing department and ask for a meeting to clarify what is permissible
* Contact all different bodies who would be involved with the planning and managing of events
* Reinstate the “forum” that used to be held between Cattows Farm, the District Council, the Parish Council and representatives of residents.
* Write to the Licencing Authority about the event and copy in the CEO of the County Council as well as our own County Councillor.

This event also served to highlight our concern about contact with the County Council which had been mentioned at the last meeting. Our District Councillor had contacted several departments at County Hall about the situation and been given a response indicating that he needed to contact Rutland County Council or the City Council because Normanton Lane, Heather was not in their area of operation. This emphasises the lack of knowledge of staff employed at the County Council about North West Leicestershire despite the fact that the leader of the Council is from this area.

Councillor Richichi had no further issues to bring to the council and left the meeting following his report.

**97. Report from the allotment holders coordinator**

There was nothing to report from Mr Taylor this month.

The clerk has been unable to contact Mrs Draper at the moment but will try again this week.

**98. Report from Village Tree Warden**

There was no report this month

**99. Village Issues**

Play area inspections were carried out on 24/10 and 2/11.

There are two outstanding items from the annual inspection which still need to be dealt with. Both are listed as very low risk and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Councillor Harrison has sent documentation he has received from the County Council showing they are now aware of the position we have requested for the speed activated cameras to be sited. We await confirmation from them and the money to pay for them.

When speaking with SDI about some tree cutting, he suggested that, when the work has been done on each area, it should be added to the maintenance schedule as this would mean that each year, work could be done and it would be a much smaller job than putting something right after a number of years of growth. This was agreed and the schedule will be changed accordingly after work done of each play area.

The clerk had sent the Risk Assessment spreadsheet to councillors in advance of the meeting. each item was considered and updated with the relevant dates when the work was done. The updated sheet will be forwarded to councillors for final approval and signature of Chairman.

The fees for the cemetery were considered. The clerk had received a recommendation from the Leicestershire Association of Local Council that all fees should be raised by 10% due to the general rise in costs. Since we are getting to the point when we need to extend the cemetery, this would have been considered for this year anyway. The new fees were agreed and a list is attached to the minutes.

The fees for the Garden of Remembrance were considered likewise and the new list is attached to the minutes.

Both sets of charges will be added to our website.

The fees for the allotments were considered and also increased as recommended. The new list will be sent to the allotment holders when the next season fees are requested and a list is attached to the minutes.

**100. Village Hall**

There is no progress to report on the registration with the Land Registry at the moment.

The clerk informed the meeting that there were a considerable number of bookings for single bookings and for group bookings. The web site is up to date with the various dates. A considerable amount of time each month is now spent on the village hall compared to pre Covid.

**101. Accounts**

The following accounts were approved for invoices received:

461.38 clerk’s salary

32.59 clerk’s expenses

72.00 CJ Springthorpe hanging baskets

3450.00 SDI Garden Services

227.60 C Sharpe

46.32 WaterPlus for Mill Lane

Council income for October is as follows:

132.92 Wayleave payment

75.00 Burial

Village Hall expenses for October 2022

87.26 Eon for Village Hall

18.94 British Gas for Village Hall

132.91 Cleaning for hall as per invoices

33.06 WaterPlus for the Village Hall

Village Hall Income for October 2022

355.50 rent for classes and activities paid in this month.

All invoices sent up to date for end of October 2022

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

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

The clerk had sent a copy of the bank reconciliation for June 2022 and September 2022 to councillors in advance of the meeting. Figures had been checked and both were received.

The councillors requested that the clerk send the figure that was estimated on the Mill Lane invoice to them as they read the meter weekly when they do the allotment check and think that the bill is quite high.

A quote for hanging baskets for season 2023 has been received. The clerk had checked the figures for last year and it amounted to just under £1800 for the full year + VAT which the council can reclaim. The Scarecrow Festival Committee has offered £1800 for the next season if the council decide to accept the quote. In view of this generous offer, the council agreed that the quote would be accepted. The clerk is to notify Springthorpes and the Festival Committee.

Councillors Fell and Wright had been with the clerk and SDI to look at the trees on Belcher Close and Mill Lane. He had quoted £500 to sort out all of the trees and edges on Belcher Close so that he could mow right up to the edge of the field. This was accepted and the clerk will contact SDI to confirm this.

He was also asked to quote to tidy up the trees at Mill Lane but in two separate areas. The quotes are £460 for the main area of the park and £150 for the area closest to the River. The councillors have accepted the figures but asked that this work is held over until the end of the financial year to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the essentials and we will contact SDI at that time to ask him to do the work or not.

**102. 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

A question was asked relating to the exit from the site at 55 Mill Lane. The clerk was asked to check the plans and contact the councillor with the answer.

**103. Chairman’s comments**

The Chairman had contacted the Police relating to the disturbance caused by motor cycles racing on Mill Lane. He was given a number but did not expect any action to be taken.

He reported that there is a new senior officer in the Bardon division.

He expressed concern about the number of people who had been unable ro access their homes during the busy times at the Pumpkin Festival and the condition of the roads at that time also.

It was reported that the soil would be removed at the cemetery on 15 November at 10am.

Concern was expressed about the number of leaves on Mill Lane footpaths. Also about the number of tractors and large trailers that were passing through the village.

Councillor Petty has also notice a large number of lorries coming through the village. He was asked to make a note of the name on the side of the lorry and the registration number if possible so that it could be reported to the police. He also said that lorries were leaving the QPI site and turning left to go through the village. The clerk is to contact them. It was pointed out that they have placed a large sign to say turn right and out onto Melbourne Road, A447.

The County Council have been placing signs saying that SpeedWatch is coming back in the village. There have also been covert speed recorders sited in the village.

Councillor Pettitt informed the council that we need some new poppies for next year as some have now been lost or moved or damaged. He asked that we order 20 so that they are ready for next year. He will send the clerk the number to contact to order at a cost of £5 each.

He also informed the council that there have been residents receiving parking notices on Pisca Lane.

Councillor Wright asked that the clerk contact the police and ask if they could do an walk round the Village Hall on the next Thursday evening or two as there had been youths, not known to any of them, going around the side of the building when the choir were practising and banging on the windows. It was very disturbing and a bit frightening. He clerk will contact PC Fowkes.

Councillor Fell reported that the box placed outside the church for foodbank donations is in danger of being lost due to misuse by unknown people who are removing tinned items almost immediately in bulk rather than taking what is needed and leaving some for others who may also be in need.

**14. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

District Council:- nothing to date

County Council: - nothing to date

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council: Nothing to date

# 15. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS

Clerks and Councils direct

Glasdon advertising

The Clerk November issue

SLCC calendar

**Next meeting**

To confirm the dates below:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 December 2022 at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm – see web site for details

Future meetings:

13th December; 10th January 2023; 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