

PARISH COUNCIL OF HILLESLEY AND TRESHAM MINUTES
Hopkins Hall, Hillesley on Wednesday 15th May 2013

Present: Cllr D Darlow, Cllr J Knowles, Cllr R Graham, Cllr A Clark, Cllr G Finn, Cllr A Doughty, Cllr J Cordwell, Cllr P Hemming and the Parish Clerk

In attendance: No members of the public

Annual General Meeting

1. Cllr David Darlow was duly elected as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office
2. Cllr A Clark was duly elected as Vice Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office
3. The Parish Council confirmed that no appointment of Committees was appropriate.
4. Cllr A Clark was re-confirmed as the representative of the Parish Council for Assley & Hareley Commons Association
5. The delegated powers for the Clerk (Proper Officer & Responsible Financial Officer) were re-confirmed
6. The Council Calendar was considered and agreed.
7. Suspension of meeting for Public Participation:

The Parish Council then began the standard monthly meeting:

8. Apologies for absence: Cllr S Butcher (family responsibilities) – Accepted

9. Declarations of interest: None

10. Confirm Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the 10th April 2013 were approved, and signed by the Chair (Cllr D Darlow). All Action Points were reviewed and any still outstanding will be reviewed at June Meeting.

11. Clerk's Report:

- First half of annual precept received
- Richard Goodenhough has completed the Internal Audit of the year's accounts
- Several allotments are now vacant. One allotment rent still to be paid and 6 vacant plots.
Action Point: Clerk to ask the Allotment Association to let their members know that there are spare plots.
- The Parish Clerk & Chairman gave a brief summary of the Stroud Planning Department informal coffee morning the previous week.

12. Correspondence & documents:

- Local Agent – Richard Bellis has left and been replaced by Christine Sweet. **Action Point:** Clerk to invite Christine Sweet to the June meeting.
- GCC – Early Years Funded Free Entitlement – A2YO
- NALC E Bulletin

13. Planning Applications:

- a. Decisions received: **None**
- b. Applications dealt with under Delegated Powers: **None**
- c. Consultation on new Applications: **None**

14. Finance:

- a. Performance monitored to date by Cllr J Knowles and approved:
 - Balance at Bank - £10,902.96
 - Payments to Date - £0.00
 - Receipts to Date - £3,577.62

b. All Payments approved: **None**

15. Parish Plan Updates:

Oil Buying Group : Cllr A Clark

- Leighterton Village has joined the Group
- Village Website – no progress at present
- **Action Point:** Cllr A Clark to submit a piece on Oil Buying Group in the June edition of Hillesley Happenings

16. Highways, Footpaths & Waterways:

The footpath in Chapple's field was briefly discussed and the historical background to the confusion over it's exact route was clarified.

17. County and District Councillor Reports:

John Cordwell – County Councillor:

County Council Election Result, May 2nd - John Cordwell retained his seat with 1251 votes to the Conservative's 1114. Labour received 344 votes and the Green Party 224.

The turnout was exactly 35% which would have been low for an election in the old Wotton division. Nevertheless this was higher than the county average. The change in the overall result in terms of council seats was:

Conservative 23 from 40
Liberal Democrat 14 from 14
Labour 9 from 5
UKIP 3 from 0
Green Party 1 from 1
People Against Bureaucracy 1 from 2
Independents 2 from 1
In Total: 53 from 63

This challenging result will require three political groups to work together. Of the 53 now elected, just 28 served in the last council and another three have been county councillors in the past. This is a very large turnover in members and a lot of training is taking place over the next few weeks.

Paul Hemming – District Councillor

Chairman - The chairman of the Council, John Hudson, is resigning his position and that of councillor for Cam East, from mid March because of ill health.

Council Tax - for the coming year is set to rise by an average of 0.54%.

Gloucestershire Police increase was 2% and the average for Parish Councils 7.28%. Whether there will be a cap on Parish and town Councils in future years is open to speculation.

Committee Style Operation - Planning for the transition to Committee Style operation for the district is moving closer to completion. An advisory panel last week saw some interesting questions from members some of whom still fail to appreciate that a committee system has no administration or opposition but committees with some autonomous powers and an overarching Strategy and Resources committee chaired by the leader of the Council.

Local Plan - Work on producing a new local plan continues but it would now seem that the labour group who are keen to see little or no further development in Stonehouse will push for dispersal. The final production of this document could therefore be further delayed resulting in open season for developers. As the current plan is out of date the NPPF is the bible and previous limits imposed by settlement boundaries are rendered virtually meaningless. Difficulty in proving 5 year land availability is also a hindrance.

18. Local Housing Survey Report:

Cllr D Darlow was sent a fresh copy on the 11th April by Martin Hutchings (Rural Housing Enabler) However this still contains some incorrect spellings etc.

Action Points:

Clerk to invite Martin Hutchings to the June meeting.
Cllr D Darlow & Cllr A Doughty to identify all errors or spelling errors in time for June meeting

19. Contract for maintenance of Memorial Green:

Action Point: Clerk to send Annual Contract to Derrick Bond. **COMPLETED**

20. Remedial Work to Memorial Green:

The Council were undecided whether to take up the grant offered by the War Memorial Trust and therefore no decision was taken

Action Points:

Clerk to request that Derrick Bond uses weed-killer on the concrete surround. **COMPLETED**
All Councillors to inspect the concrete surround before the June meeting to aid in assisting a decision to be taken. It was agreed to meet on Monday 20th May at 7.30pm

21. Agree the provider of the Parish Council's annual insurance policy:

It was agreed to contract with Zurich.

Action Point – Clerk to confirm this with Zurich. **COMPLETED**

22. Grant Applications:

Grant Applications were received from:

Hillesley Happenings. It was agreed that, if a more commercially appropriate payment was made by advertisers, a grant may not prove necessary. It was felt that the Council might be seen to be subsidising those companies who currently only pay a small charge to advertise. Cllr D Darlow has subsequently talked to Carol Dawson about this.

Talking Newspaper. Councillors were unaware of anyone who used this service

Action Points:

Clerk to pose a question in Hillesley Happenings to see if any parishioners use this service.

COMPLETED

Clerk to contact the Talking Newspaper to see if they have any clients in Hillesley & Tresham

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 7.30 Tresham

I certify that the above minutes are a correct record of the above meeting

Signed:.....Date:.....

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR 2013 WILL BE:

July 10th, **Aug no meeting**, Sept 11th, **Tresham - Oct 9th**, Nov 13th, Dec 11th

Feb Meeting:

Weeds:

Richard Grey from Gloucestershire Highways to be asked to arrange weed killing on pavements as weeds begin to grow.

Action Point: Clerk to request Richard Grey from Highways to arrange for some weed-killer be sprayed in Hawkesbury Road particularly at the bottom of the Church wall. **COMPLETED**