

Minutes of the meeting of Hulcote & Salford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th March 2019 in The Mary Agate Hall, Salford starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs K Butten – Chairman, P Harris, R Harrison, P Laing & R Mann, Mrs Lyn Lyman (Clerk) and 8 member of the public.

In Attendance: CB Cllrs S Clark & K Matthews, Rev Hugh Symes-Thompson and Miss P Pumfrey.

275. To receive apologies:

Apologies were received from: Cllr W Sharpe and CB Cllr R Morris.

276. Specific Declarations of Interest:

- a) **Declaration of member's interest of a non-pecuniary nature:** None
(Having membership of a club, charity etc or a close relationship).
- b) **Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:** None
(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner).

Rev Hugh Symes-Thompson and Miss Pumfrey attended this meeting to speak about the future of both the Churches upon his retirement.

Cilla Pumfrey said there are three major areas of awareness which need to be brought to the attention of the village and the PCC felt that the first point of contact should be the PC.

Our main aim is to inform and to seek guidance.

I am going to speak on the initial point, which concerns the future of the Churches. Hugh will then give you details of the process for his replacement.

The **first point** which needs attention is that the Churchyard has limited space and we are using old ground at both Salford and Hulcote.

The PC is responsible for burials and we need to make you aware that you should be planning for further burial capacity before too long.

The PCC has asked me to suggest that perhaps 2 strips of land could be purchased from The Manor and so naturally be added to the Churchyard. Two strips = 16 feet wide including a pathway = 40/50 plots. Land was last added in 1877.

Second point of awareness is that the Churches could be closed. We are not being sensationalist but it has to be agreed that in general nowadays a Church is not naturally supported by the community around it, although the community is sympathetic to it and, particularly in villages, like to know that there is a church.

Hulcote would undoubtedly be taken on by the Historic Churches Association because of its historical importance.

The reasons for possible closure are –

- Small congregation ;
- We do not pay our parish share in full ;
- The buildings are not used by the wider community – they are difficult to use or adapt and there are no toilet facilities. [A temporary toilet could be installed but as the buildings are not used by wider community this is a catch 22 situation] ;

- We have a bat problem that has to be managed ;
- Renovation/Upkeep is undertaken by the PCC and we now have an ageing PCC ;

We have not come as evangelists, but certain areas of small maintenance could be supported by the village, such as :

Church cleaning ; flowers ; opening/closing of Church (Barbara can no longer do this on a daily basis) ; cleaning of gutters and drains ; path spraying ; hedging.

Events held in church have not historically received village support – concerts, Harvest Festival service, cheese & wine evening at Hulcote last summer. PCC would welcome ideas for events which would receive support – could quizzes be held in church in summer (as in other parishes), a bat walk ?

A screen between the Nave and the Chancel was put in place 10 years ago when old oil fired boiler removed. Heating, not able to proceed with replacement oil boiler owing to cost, so increased number of sockets and use electric radiators.

We use Chancel for regular Sunday services.

PCC currently going through the process to replace the Screen, which is showing signs of wear and has to be put up/taken down by two able-bodied people. We would like a more visually pleasing screen, easier to use. A preliminary feasibility study has been produced by the Church Architect and in November there was a meeting with representatives of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) to discuss options. The PCC is now preparing Statements of Significance and Need.

Third point of awareness is the process of Hugh's replacement. We will be without a Vicar for a minimum of 6 to 9 months, the reality is that it will probably be longer. Renhold was without a vicar for 3 years.

Before we can advertise the PCC has to provide a Parish Profile and a Statement of Needs. This is where we need guidance from the PC, because these needs have to reflect those of the village.

To finish on a positive note, the Harvest Service and Christmas Eve Services have already been arranged and will go ahead as normal.

The vicarage at Cranfield will be retained but in order to receive income, it may be rented out until a new vicar is appointed hopefully.

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Cllr Butten offered to attend a PCC meeting to see if he can understand issues better and see if he can offer help as we need to get a strategy in place. This offer was gratefully accepted. He also wondered whether the Cranfield University may be able to help a little financially. Maybe able to build it into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Maybe the village lottery could expand to help the church. The Summer Fete, harvest supper etc. Community Event may be able to assist.

How much land does the church own in the two villages – possibly an acre at each church. Glebe Fields (Land owned by churches) used to pay for vicars stipend but there is no glebe land owned locally. Money used to go into a central pot.

Although the Parish Council would be responsible for the graveyards, the Clerk said that if they could not do it, it is then the responsibility of CBC.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Butten thanked Rev Hugh for all he has done, he will be missed. He also thanked Rev Hugh and Cilla for their presentation.

277. **Open Forum:**

1. Traffic in respect of the Wavendon Road bridge closure – *since the signs were changed in error then changed back, traffic has got worse. HGV contravention has to be backed up with Police*

presence. Residents are concerned that if it is a dead end, it could be attractive for Travellers. This area is Highways Land and CBC have a legal process to move them on should this happen. CB Cllr Clark will look into this.

Action: SC

Weight limit: when the road is going to be closed in May for 12/14 months what is going to happen as the diversion route was nowhere near our village so a lot of traffic didn't use it but they are using it now? CBC have finance to employ the Police to check that HGV's do not use the roads but the Police say they can't do it as they are too stretched so they will not be doing anything to help. CB Cllr Matthews was asked how we can go forward. CBC is lobbying Government to enforce HGV restrictions. More lobbying and pleading with the Government needs to take place. Should we write to Nadine Dorries to lobby Government, after all she should be representing the community? Anyone can take details of HGV's and report them to the actual companies involved. As most companies now have satellite tracking, they can confirm the details and speak to the drivers concerned. If drivers are in areas that they shouldn't be, this can result in drivers being docked their pay, fined or laid off, it can also affect the operators licence.

2. *The temporary bridge has been erected to take cyclists and horse riders but there seems to be a query whether it is actually for pedestrians too. Cllr Butten will check this.* **Action: KB**

3. *There appears to have been quite a bit of criminal activity or strangers entering private property recently. It is known that travellers have been moved on in the south of Bedfordshire although at present there don't appear to be any encampments set up in the area.*

4. 2 men in balaclava's wielding baseball bats attacked customers in The Swan last Thursday evening. It was not a robbery but appeared to be a gang/drugs type issue. The Police turned up an hour after it has been reported. The Police took details of two number plates and a few notes were taken. The two men who were assaulted did not press charges so it cannot be taken further.

5. A Speedwatch group would be appreciated but this does run with volunteers who have to attend a training course at Kempston. Ideally a basis of 6 volunteers are required. Four volunteers are known and more are to be asked.

278. **To accept minutes of the meetings held on 14th January 2019:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2019 be accepted as a true record and they were duly signed.

279. **To Consider Matters Arising:**

Toureen Group:

CB Cllr Clark has passed on any photo etc which she had been given regarding the Toureen Group. She has nothing further to report except that Toureen do want to meet her together with a CBC Officer.

CB Cllr Clark has also raised with the officer the fact that the odd HGV does go in from the other end of Mill Lane and more concrete and structures are being installed and they still haven't got permission as yet. They are still doing what they want without permission. CB Cllr Clark needs evidence. The Water Course is being polluted, new drainage is needed but they are not doing it.

Local Plan enquiry will not take place until the middle of May. 2 New inspectors have been appointed.

The MOT planning application hasn't gone to Committee as yet – waiting for a flood report.

280. To Accept Reports:

CB Cllr Clark: The Marston Vale Stakeholders Group (O&H) first meeting took place last week. The meeting had been set up by CBC at the request of O & H with housing planning applications in mind. It was chaired by CB Cllr Clark. All parishes invited had attended and a variety of different issues were freely discussed. The next meeting will take place after the Local Council elections which are being held on 2nd May.

O & H are organising a visit to The Hamptons, Peterborough on 29th March. The Clerk has agreed to attend.

CB Cllr Clark normally attend the Milton Keynes Stakeholders Group meetings but was unable to attend the one held last week so Cllr Butten reported on it as he attended. An HIB funding application bid is being applied for, for the new bridge over the M1. If the bid is successful, there is no official funding to complete the new road which is also shown on the plan. The worry is that it clearly looks as though MKC intend to put in a road bypassing Moulsoe up to Cranfield. This needs official answers as this will cross the border into CBC and CBC permission would be required. CBC are the planning authority so plans cannot go in without their knowledge. MK wants to link to Cranfield ultimately.

The first meeting was about the bridge, the second meeting was about the highways infrastructure funding application but as there was a document missing, there is to be a further meeting on Wednesday.

CB Cllr Morris: No report available.

CB Cllr K Matthews: Confirmed the CBC increase of 1% in Council Tax. CBC say they can do this without compromising their services.

Parish Councillors:

Highways: The Clerk had attended a Highways Open Day at the new offices at Thorne Turn recently where Highways issues were discussed.

The surface breakup outside Brook Farm (Report number 321945) – no repair has yet taken place and the breakup has got larger. The surface is in poor condition along the Salford Road from Brook Farm, especially on the ‘s’ bend at the top of Mill Lane, Salford and Broughton Road. The repair to the sink hole in Brittons Lane has not been successful. A site visit is to be requested. **Action: LL**

Where the footpath finishes on Broughton Road, you cant get across the road to the public footpath safely. Pedestrians have to walk on the road in the traffic. Cllr Butten intends to build this into the Neighbourhood Plan.

The foul sewer blocked up again with grease from The Swan in Wavendon Road recently. It has now been cleared but it seems to happen every 6 months.

Planning:

CB/18/01653/PUT Waterhall Cottage, Wavendon Road. No further update. The Clock House application is going to appeal and the Holcotmoors application has been withdrawn.

Technology: Cllr Harrison has spoken to Trish Etheridge who has completed a document which will go onto the CBC website in April. The service, which will not be cabinet based but main fibre hub, will provide a package of a minimum of 100 mgs at £69 per month and it has still not been confirmed

which houses will be eligible. You will have to apply and only then will it be confirmed if your address has been successful.

Rights of Way/Footpaths: Cllr Mann had circulated a draft letter of response regarding the application to re-route footpath AJB/HUL/6. (Manor Close to the field at the corner). There is now also a private road going through the field, a ménage and stabling. Private road signage has been installed. The site is actually looking very untidy/shabby. Cllrs Harris & Mann will work together and clarify the wording of the letter so that the Clerk can send it. **Action: PH/RM/LL**

The walk organised by The Swan was successful. It was confirmed that the stile doesn't have access for dogs as wire stops this. There is a spare kissing gate lying by the stile. A further is to be written to CBC about the animal access situation suggesting that the spare kissing gate be used. **Action: RM**

Salford Liaison: Cllr Laing had nothing further to report.

Hulcote Liaison: Cllr Mann had nothing further to report.

The Informer: Cllr Mann said the latest edition of the Informer had been completed and was going to be distributed tomorrow morning.

Village Hall: E.mail addresses are required for the village hall which Cllr Butten will get set up. AGM takes place next Monday at 7.30pm. A very good music evening has taken place and a quiz night is coming up.

Charities: The next meeting take place in April.

Church / School Liaison: No report available.

Noise Working Party Update: Mike Drew had completed the minutes. E.mail addresses have been requested which Cllr Butten will get set up. Adata Storage facility has also been requested. (Recording noise surveys, apps etc). Various ways were discussed/suggested. Original correspondence with Mr Clements (CBC) was not responded to. CB Cllr Matthews said that if we write 3 times with no response we can contact the Ombudsman. Cllr Butten agreed to find out who has replaced Mr Clements. Possibly a Cranfield PC Cllr might join the working party.

281. **To consider Correspondence:**

Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner has advised that she has leeway to increase the Police precept of Council Tax by a maximum of £2 per month for Band D homes without holding a referendum.

Parish Councils are also being given the option to fund their own PCSO at the cost of £31,200 per annum. There is no guarantee that the PCSO will not be taken away to other areas in an emergency which is not very encouraging even if the Parish Council could afford it. It was agreed not to take this forward.

Highways England – smart motorway programme: M1 junctions 13 to 16 have informed dates of M1 road closures.

Local Council elections and nomination packs were circulated to all existing Parish Councillors for them to complete. It was stressed that Cllrs must get the forms back themselves in plenty of time in case there may be something which needs amending. Legally it is not the responsibility of the Clerk to get forms back to CBC.

282. To accept Finance:

A letter of appreciation has been received from Husborne Crawley Lower School regarding the donation given towards the new door for the school. The new door is in place.

Approx Balances as at 28th February 2019: Current A/C £5,105.55
(which includes the £6,550.00 Neighbourhood Grant) BS A/C £18,154.19.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following invoices be paid:

Expenditure:

Mr K Batten (3 rd party re-imburement)	178.30	100467
Typing up of NP Consultation Feedback sheet		
Agate Hall		
Hire of Hall for PC meetings	84.00	100468
Hire of Hall for NP Meetings	73.50	
Flitwick TC	46.20	100469
Informer March edition		
Mrs L Lyman	63.20	100470a
12 Months Clerks Expenses		
Mrs Lyman	40.00	100470b
Clerks Allowance February & March		
Mrs Lyman	220.20	s/o
Clerks Salary February		
Mrs Lyman	220.20	s/o
Clerks Salary March	_____	
	925.60	
For April Payment:		
HMRC	165.00	100471
4 th ¼ PAYE		

283. To receive the Neighbourhood Plan update:

Apart from the analysis having been completed, at present Cllr Batten said he had nothing else to report since the last meeting.

284. Annual Parish Meeting (to include reports) followed by Annual Parish Council meeting

The May meetings will consist of the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.15pm followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

285. Date of next meetings:

13th May 2019: Annual Parish Meeting which will start at **7.15pm**. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.