

Hibaldstow Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hibaldstow Parish Council held at 7pm on Thursday 6th May, 2021 via a Zoom platform.

Present: Cllr Allaby, Cllr Brooks (Chair), Cllr Borrill, Cllr Done, Cllr Elletson, Cllr Maycock, Cllr Pickering, Cllr Stothard & Cllr Talliss.
Also present: Ward Cllrs Foster & Poole & Clerk to the Council – Deb Hotson.

1. Election of Chairman and to receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

It was resolved that Cllr Brooks is elected as Chairman. Cllr Brooks signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Election of Vice - Chairman

It was resolved that Cllr Charlton is elected as Vice Chairman.

3. Election of other Officers and Committee Representatives and to agree terms of reference

It was resolved that the following representatives were elected: -

NATs – Cllr Maycock was elected as the representative.

Flood Warden & Snow Wardens – Cllr Elletson and Cllr Stothard were elected as representatives.

Village Hall Committee – item deferred.

Cemetery Working Group – Cllr Allaby, Cllr Brooks & Cllr Stothard will be the representatives.

Personnel Committee – Cllr Allaby & Cllr Brooks will be the representatives.

To elect two Councillors to represent this council at the ERNLLCA District Committee – Cllrs Brooks & Cllr Talliss was elected as the representatives.

Asset Risk Safety Checks – Cllr Allaby & Cllr Brooks were elected to carry out the checks.

Village Voice – Cllr Elletson & Cllr Stothard will be the representatives.

Hibaldstow Parish Park representatives – Cllr Elletson & Cllr Stothard will continue to carry out the checks and deal with any maintenance issues.

Resolved - To confirm that all representatives should notify the Clerk and fellow representative if unable to attend a meeting.

4. To approve the Internal Auditor for 2021/22.

Resolved - Richard Dixon was selected as the Internal Auditor.

5. To review and approve the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Resolved – approval of both Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

6. To review and approve the Reserves Policy

Resolved – reviewed and approved.

7. To review and approve the Training Policy

Resolved – reviewed and approved.

8. To review and approve the Social Media Policy

Resolved – reviewed and approved.

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9. **To review and approve the General Data Protection Regulation policies.**
Resolved – reviewed and approved.
10. **To review and approve the Community Emergency Plan.**
Item deferred. Cllr Elletson stated that there was a new Caretaker at the school and will provide the new information to the Clerk to update the Plan.
11. **To review and approve the Asset Register**
Resolved - The Asset Register was reviewed and approved.
12. **To review and approve the H & S and Financial Risk Assessment policy**
Resolved - The H & S and Financial Risk Assessment Policy was reviewed and approved.
13. **To review and approve the Scheme of Publication.**
Resolved - The policy was reviewed and approved.
14. **To review and approve the Equal Opportunity Policy**
Resolved - The policy was reviewed and approved.
15. **To review and approve the Complaints Procedure**
Resolved - The procedure was reviewed and approved.
16. **To review and approve the Co-option Procedure**
Resolved - The procedure was reviewed and approved.
17. **To review and approve the Members and Officer Protocol**
Resolved - The protocol was reviewed and approved.
18. **To review and approve the terms of reference of the Personnel Committee**
Item deferred.
19. **To review and approve the terms of reference of the Village Hall Representatives**
Item deferred.

Cllr Maycock joined the meeting.
20. **To review and approve the Disciplinary & Grievance Procedure**
Resolved - The procedure was reviewed and approved.
21. **To review and approve the Cemetery Regulations and Fees**
Resolved - The regulations and fee were reviewed and approved.
22. **To review and approve the Grants Policy**
Resolved - The policy was reviewed and approved.
23. **To review and approve Child Protection Policy**
Resolved - The policy was reviewed and approved.
24. **To review and approve the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Policy**
Resolved - The policy was reviewed and approved.

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25. **To review and approve the Annual Governance & Accountability Return Assertions Pro forma Policy**
Resolved - The policy was reviewed and approved.
26. **To set the dates of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting for 2021/22**
Resolved - The dates were set for 2021/22 but the meetings are dependant on covid guidelines and a secure covid venue.
27. **To confirm all Councillors have reviewed their Register of Interests**
All Cllrs present confirmed were informed to have their ROI completed and returned to the Clerk in 7 days.
28. **To resolve that this Council utilizes its powers under the Local Government Act 1972, section 101, to devolve to the Clerk the authority to make decisions on planning applications where:**
- The application falls between meetings and it is not possible to obtain from the Planning Authority an extension of time to consider the matter; and
 - The Chairman is unavailable to convene an extra-ordinary meeting or particular circumstances are such that the convening of an extra-ordinary meeting is impractical.

In both circumstances the Clerk shall have authority to respond on the Council's behalf, taking into account the Local Plan; the content of any planning policies; community plan or Neighbourhood Plan adopted by the council; and precedent. Moreover, where it is practicable, the Clerk is to contact ALL Councillors to confirm they are content with the response to the specific Planning Application requiring this action.

This authority will not apply to applications where there are known objections by neighbours; multiple housing development; and new land allocations.

Resolved – approval.

29. **To resolve that this Council utilizes its powers under the Local Government Act 1972, section 101, to devolve to the Clerk the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council as detailed below:**

The Scheme of Delegation (s101 of the 1972 LGA), provides for delegating authority to the clerk for making decisions on behalf of the council as and when appropriate. It is important that Local Councils ensure that they have an adequate Section 101 1972 LGA delegated authority in place. S101 requires formally agreed Terms of Reference by the Council. Decisions would then require the input of 2 members. It needs to be based in Terms of Reference (see Scheme of Delegation below) that sets out the key themes of the delegation and the financial thresholds that apply.

Recommendations are that the Terms of Reference should be broad and the financial thresholds on the generous side that reflect the likely demands e.g. £1k per item or project and stipulate the input of at least 2 senior members. This model sees the Clerk taking on the executive role; whilst the Council, if and when it can meet, becomes more strategic in outlook around policy.

Delegation of Power

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To the Proper Officer and Responsible Finance Officer LGA 1972 s101

The Council's Scheme of Delegation authorises the Clerk to the Council/Responsible Finance Officer to act with delegated authority in the specific circumstances detailed:

To take action:

- To take action on any issue that cannot wait until the next Parish Council meeting.
- The Clerk will address any need/resolution to all councillors by email with a strict timeline.
- Action taken should routinely be done with the input of at least two councillors, including the Chairman if available.
- If circumstances do not permit the input of at least two councillors, the Clerk would normally be expected to consult the Chairman or Vice Chairman if the Chairman is unavailable and take his/her view into account.

Financial thresholds:

- To authorise expenditure on items where the Council within a budget approved by the Council has agreed the expenditure.
- To incur expenditure on behalf of the Council, which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement or other work or essential project which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £1,000.00
- To take any action regarding minor repairs (up to a cost of £1,000.00) and to report minor matters to the relevant authority.

Record keeping

- Record keeping and the maintenance of a solid trail (particularly around decision making in any form) should be retained in writing and reviewed and certified to ensure good documentary evidence. This is particularly important in the case of an s101 delegated authority.
- Delegated actions shall be in accordance with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and in line with directions given by Council from time to time and this Scheme of Delegation, and where applicable any other rules/regulations and legislation, and

Reporting back to full council

- Shall be reported to the next available Council meeting.

Resolved – approval.

Meeting closed at 7pm.