



HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES



of the meeting of Helmdon Parish Council, held in the Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon on 25 January 2023 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs Bearman, Gray, Hosea, Marchant (Vice-Chair), Moody (Chair), Thorpe, Wheeler and Charmaine Jay (Clerk)

In attendance: 1 member of the public

Cllr Moody started the meeting with 1 minute's silence for David Brookhouse who passed away on 23rd December 2022 and was a former chair of Helmdon Parish Council.

087. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris

RESOLVED: To approve Cllr Harris's absence.

088. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Moody declared an interest in item 093a.

089. Approval and signature of the minutes of November 23, 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of November 23, 2022, be approved and signed

090. Matters arising

None

091. Open forum (15min max- 3 min per person)

Representations were made on:

- Comments received at History exhibition that Helmdon War Memorial looked better in the past.
- Congratulate Cllrs on success of the Community Larder
- A letter for reply to West Northamptonshire Council regarding Cross Lane

092. To receive an update from HS2 liaison officer from recent meetings.

- There has been great discussion in the most recent meetings regarding noise and pollution of air in the Radstone area.
- HS2 Marshall that was employed in 2022 is very much in evidence. He is very knowledgeable and has been liaising with Buckingham a great deal.
- There are currently no road closures due in the Helmdon area.

RESOLVED: Cllr Marchant to update in February meeting

093.Finance

a. To approve bills for payment (below)

Cllr Moody left the room, Cllr Marchant chaired the following item

RESOLVED: That the following bills be approved for payment:

Payee	Invoice Number	Reason	Amount
Reading Room	364	RR Hire for Council meetings	£65.00
NCALC	2436	VAT Recovery	£101.00

Cllr Moody returned.

b. To receive recommendations from Finance committee for 2023/2024

i. To award the 2023/24 grass cutting tender

To award previous contractor R & G for a fixed 3 year contract.

RESOLVED: To instruct R & G for the contract of 2023-2025.

ii. To Set the Budget for Expenditure 2023/24

It was recommended by the Finance Committee's to set the Budget for Expenditure for 2023/2024 at £24,318 but it was agreed in the meeting to add £1000 for Coronation Small Grants Scheme.

RESOLVED: Set 2023/2024 expenditure to £25,318.00

iii. To set the Precept Demand for 2023/24

Helmdon Parish Council received the Finance Committee's recommendations to set the Precept Demand for 2023/2024 at £29,260

RESOLVED: To set 2023/2024 precept at £29,260

iv. To consider timetable for the Small Grants Scheme 2023/2024

It was agreed to revert to the normal time table for Small Grants Scheme

RESOLVED: Clerk to confirm timetable for Small Grants Scheme.

094. To decide whether to make a complaint to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman regarding the handling by West Northamptonshire Council of planning application WNS/2022/0253/FUL

The process used by West Northamptonshire Council was unsatisfactory

RESOLVED: Helmdon Parish Council to complain to the planning ombudsman.

095. To receive the report from the King Charles III coronation working group

Cllrs Bearman, Hosea and Thorpe met on 15th December 2022 and discussed distribution of funds assigned to King Charles III coronation for groups in the village. The working group are keen to send out communication to get groups to apply for funds with clarity the funds are to be used for the King Charles III coronation weekend.

RESOLVED: The working group hold a further meeting and to update the council in the February meeting.

096. To receive information from Cllr Gray regarding defibrillator

Cllr Gray had done research on a second defibrillator and training in the village. A new grant scheme will be available towards the end of the year

RESOLVED: To hold out until the grant is launched.

097. To receive report from Cllr Thorpe for Internal Controls Check

Cllr Thorpe did quarterly Internal Control Check and was signed off as satisfactory

RESOLVED: To note the report

098. To consider adopting an Email Usage Policy

A draft Policy was tabled, it was agreed to review before adoption working group put in place of Cllrs Harris, Marchant and Plunkett

RESOLVED: Cllrs Harris, Marchant and Plunkett to form the working group to review and update the Email Usage Policy and to update the Council in the March meeting for adoption

099. To set a date and make arrangements for the annual village litter pick

RESOLVED: The annual village litter pick is on 26th March 2023 at 10am

100. Close

RESOLVED: Meeting closed (21:17)

Next meeting is Thursday 23rd February 2023.