

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**24/1185 PRESENT:**

Cllr. R Meecham (Acting Chair), Cllr. P. Masters, Cllr G. Hill, Cllr. J. Roundell-Greene (Unitary Councillor) & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

**24/1186 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman)

Cllr. R Maidment

**24/1187 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1188 MINUTES:**

The Minutes from the September meeting had been circulated. They were agreed as being an accurate account of the meeting and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1189 PUBLIC TIME**

**24/1189/a Public Time:**

Nothing to report

**24/1189/b Unitary Councillor report:**

Unitary Councillor Jo Roundell-Greene discussed the shortage of Foster Carers.

**24/1189/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1190 MATTERS ARISING**

**24/1190/a Jobs for village maintenance ranger**

The clerk had asked the maintenance worker to cut the top hedge at the rec. He will invoice when it is done.

There are currently no other jobs outstanding.

**24/1190/b Wreath for Remembrance Sunday**

The Parish Council agreed to pay for the Remembrance wreath for the war memorial for Remembrance Sunday.

Clerk to get Chair Cllr. Denley to order.

**Action: Chair Cllr. Denley**

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously

**24/1190/c Clerk's report**

The Clerk gave a report on recent discussions with other clerks from surrounding parish councils. She reported that many Parish clerks and Councils are unhappy with the CLTs, the lack of support, how little they are achieving and how much that is discussed that is irrelevant to our area. They are also extremely wary about the proposed costs that Kier has announced for Highways related issues and many smaller parishes just wouldn't be able to afford to contract them for more than one day a year due to their precepts being so small. The clerk spoke about how the response to a suggestion that we form our own clerks' group as an alternative to the CLT was met with a unanimous 'yes please' and at the last count there were approx. 15 clerks who'd expressed an interest. An initial meeting between 3 clerks and a Town and Parish Councillor happened on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. This was to discuss the Terms of Reference of the group and what we would like to achieve. It was agreed that the purpose of the group was to form an active Clerks group between local parishes, where information/contacts and cost of services could be shared, to enable greater efficiency at better costs and to give us greater buying powers. It was hoped that forming a group would give parishes a stronger voice on local matters, including planning and highways as it was felt that lone Parishes are often ignored, and all the focus seemed to be on Town Councils. It was hoped that a group of like-minded Parishes may have more chance of influencing the Local Plan Review and housing quotas etc. especially on shared knowledge on planning applications.

It was agreed that one of the clerks would be writing an email to Sara Skirton, Service Director for Partnerships and Localities informing her of our plans.

Dog and Litter Bin update. The clerk has gone back to Services at SC and informed them that out of the 6 litter bins that were situated in the village, as from April 25 the PC would be cutting it back to 3. With regards to the 4 dog bins in the village, 2 fall on Highways land so therefore are not on PC land and therefore not our responsibility. From April 2025, The PC would only be charged for 3 litter bins and 2 dog bins. The clerk had received a confirmation email from SC regarding this.

**24/1190/d Railings around the war memorial**

Cllr Masters will talk to Cllr Denley who was getting quotes for painting the railings.

**Action: Cllr Masters/Cllr Denley**

**24/1191 PLANNING:**

**24/1191/a Matters for report:**

Planning breaches: Nothing to report

**24/1191/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1191/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report.

**24/1192 FINANCE:**

**24/1192/a Matters for report**

Monthly finance update - The clerk provided a monthly expenditure report

End of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of accounts for 24-25 (up to the end of Sept)

Unity Trust Bank Current account £ 38,475.15

Total as cash book £ 38,475.15

The accounts are now ready to go to the internal auditor. Clerk to speak to Cllr Maidment.

**24/1192/b Matters for Resolution**

Nothing to report

**24/1192/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

**OCTOBER PAYMENTS MADE – 08.08.24**

Louise Brooks	Democratic services – September 2024	£690.18
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – September 24	£7.20
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – September 2024 - Gov set	£26.00
Louise Brooks	September Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£15.40
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of recreation field – September 24 – 2 cuts	£280.00
Max Von Tyszka	Churchyard maintenance -September 24 - 1 cut	£120.00
PATA Payroll Services	Payroll services – July/August/September 24 @ £13.15 per month	£39.45
Squiggle Graphics	Annual hosting of parish website	£240.00

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1193 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk reported that all correspondence received had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors.

**24/1194 FOOTPATHS:**

Clerk reported that any footpath issues to be reported straight to SCC Rights of Way Officer.

**24/1195 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Nothing to report

**4/1196 Items for next Agenda:**

Railings

Maintenance jobs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**