

A Meeting of Hartington Nether Quarter Parish Council was held on Monday 2nd December 2024 at 7.30pm, in Biggin Village Hall.

Present: J Coles, S Lovatt, W Andrews, M Heathcote, S Fletcher and the clerk, S Hampson. There were 2 members of the public in attendance for part of the meeting.

Part 1 non-confidential information

24.12.1 Apologies and attendance register

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from D Currington.

24.12.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting had been displayed on the noticeboard and forwarded to the members and the parish council's website, in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: To accept the minutes as a true record of proceedings. These were duly signed by Mrs Coles.

24.12.3 Matters arising and pre-meeting

The clerk had contacted the website provider to place items into PDF format for ease of viewers. The Remembrance Day proceedings were very well attended by over 50 people. Refreshments were also very good and appreciated. Broadband had been successfully installed in the village hall.

Resolved: The clerk to send a letter of thanks to both Mrs Lacey and Rev. McNally for the provision of the church service and service at the War Memorial.

24.12.4 Public Speaking Procedures Document

The document was available in the meeting and the members of the public familiar with its content.

24.12.5 Public speaking

There were two members of the public in attendance. One was thanked for the arrangements for the village Christmas tree and the success of the lights switch on event from the previous evening. The parish council is very grateful to the suppliers of the tree and those who assisted in erecting the tree. He also provided some input on the enforcement enquiry related to Sycamore House and an extension to the garage and external timber on the house. He also updated members on the successful installation of broadband at the village hall.

The other member of the public provided a key to the church noticeboard and the location of a second copy. She had discovered that the War Memorial is not a listed monument with Historic England and would like to proceed with the registration.

Resolved: To grant permission for the member of the public to pursue the registration of the War Memorial as a listed monument. Mrs Lovatt to retain the church noticeboard key.

24.12.6 District Councillor

The clerk had contacted the District Councillor for an update on the impact of the new conditions being imposed on the trade green waste bins but he was not in attendance.

24.12.7 Update on affordable homes

Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) is now in possession of planning details for the affordable houses and is pursuing investigations, as the properties are not registered for council tax. However, in DDDC's view, they look effectively complete and certainly more complete than another small development of properties elsewhere that have been registered for council tax but are actually less complete than the Biggin properties. DDDC wants to get the Council Tax listing sorted first so that the owner is paying council tax for the empty properties. DDDC also asked how long the properties have been in this complete condition and whether there is any evidence of this. Land Registry enquiries have also taken place. The parish council would like these properties to be occupied by local people on an affordable basis, not at open market prices and as soon as possible

24.12.8 Heathcote Mere seats.

Mr Heathcote had not been able to liaise with the resident who had offered replacement tops for those stolen from the bench seating at Heathcote Mere. The mowing contractor had been able to negotiate an improved cost for replacement slab tops for those stolen from the seats. Unfortunately, new sizes are not quite as big as the originals but would be satisfactory.

Resolved: To proceed with an order for the replacement slab tops with an invoice to be sent to the clerk.

24.12.9 Village tree surgery work

The clerk had made contact with two local tree surgeons with a request for a quote to attend to two trees on Drury Lane which are becoming quite large and also overshadowing a cherry tree planted in the vicinity of the Pinfold. One response had been received from a reputable tree surgeon who had previously worked in the village. His quote was £200 with no VAT. Mrs Coles reported another tree, near Stoneacre, which requires attention

Resolved: to proceed with the quote as it was less than the figure required by the parish council's standing orders for additional quotes.

Resolved: the clerk to make further contact with the tree surgeon to provide a cost to attend to the additional identified tree.

24.12.10 Planning applications, planning sub-committee, appeals and enforcement

Members discussed application NP/DDD/1124/1265 for a front porch at Cherry Trees, Drury Lane.

Resolved: to support the above application as there are a number of properties also with porches on the front but to comment that there are no pictures or associated documents accessible on the Peak District National Park Authority's planning portal for this proposal.

24.12.11 Items of account, administration, salaries and HMRC, mowing contract, new laptop, purchase of grit

Cq 1532	HMRC	Quarter 3 income tax	£269.80
Cq 1533	Long rake	Spar Pink rock salt	£199.68 (VAT £33.28)
Cq 1534	S Hampson	Reimb. of expenses & ink	£13.55
Cq 1535	S Hampson	Jan & Feb internet provision	£34.00
Cq 1536	S Hampson	January clerk's salary	£340.04

A letter had been received regarding provision for a new First Responders group covering the parish. Wetton and Alstonefield First Responders will no longer be able to continue checking the parish's defibrillators. Members considered the possibility of donating to the new group and for them to continue with the checking services. The defibrillators will need to be registered on the Circuit to the ambulance service.

Another letter had also been received regarding the ongoing donation to the production costs of News and Views.

Resolved: to donate, in the next financial year, to both of the above services.

Resolved: the clerk to contact the school to ascertain if the new machine is already registered.

24.12.12 Budget and precept for 2025-2026

Subsequent to initial discussions at the December meeting, members further considered the budget costs for 2025-26 which are estimated to exceed £15,000. The parish council has continued to precept for less than identified budget items each year due to the receipt of burial income from the cemetery, administered by the clerk. The provision of the parish council cemetery is of vital benefit to the parishioners.

In addition to increasing essential administration costs, the parish council continues to donate to the insurance for the village playground, broadband provision at the village hall, village tree surgery work, mowing in the parish and the cemetery along with costs of trade waste bins in the cemetery, maintenance of the church clock, maintaining new batteries and pads and checking of parish defibrillators, refilling grit bins, bus shelters cleaning service, shared production costs of the News and Views, the parish council website and village maintenance.

Resolved: to increase the parish council's precept for 2025-2026 from £9,000 to £11,000 plus a claim of £500 by way of reimbursable expenditure to offset some of the mowing costs in the cemetery. This represents approximately 22% increase from the previous year.

24.12.13 Flower boxes

Mrs Lovatt brought the receipts for expenditure associated with the construction of 2 new flower boxes in the sum of £189.10 from the £250 budget. The planters will be placed on Main Street near the bus shelter and near the seat on Drury Lane. Members discussed suitable wild flower plants/seeds which will be attractive. Mrs Lovatt advised that the planters will be very securely fastened in place.

Resolved: Mr Fletcher will kindly provide soil, free of charge, to stock the planters.

Resolved: to construct and place a tiered herb box near the telephone box and to purchase seeds/plants using remaining funds.

24.12.14 Highways, street lighting, flytipping, grit bin monitoring

A pallet of salt, in 20kg bags, had been ordered this year through Long Rake Spa rather than Derbyshire County Council (DCC) due to cost and somewhat slow delivery time. Mr Fletcher had kindly collected the grit ready for distribution. Members were grateful to Mr Fletcher and Mr Heathcote for filling all the parish grit bins. It was somewhat disappointing, however, that the grit bin at Greenhead Crescent seems to be being used as a rubbish bin. Mr Fletcher will also store the remaining grit for use throughout the season.

24.12.15 Articles for News and Views

There was no information to submit from this meeting.

24.12.16 Correspondence, electronic communication and Biggin Community facebook

This had been forwarded to members in advance and in addition to items already covered by agenda items included: DALC newsletters, DCC News, Christmas waste collections (posted to the website).

24.12.17 Items for the next agenda

Flower boxes, grit bin monitoring, new council laptop, tree surgery work, affordable houses, Heathcote Mere seats, defibrillators. Additional items to be compiled by the clerk.

24.12.18 Date of the next meeting

Monday, 3rd February 2025

Part 2 Confidential information

There were no confidential items to discuss.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.35 pm with an exchange of seasonal greetings.

Mrs S Hampson
Clerk
03 December 2024