

Annual Parish Meeting

Draft minutes Hognaston Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.00pm in Hognaston Village Hall.

These minutes are a draft until agreed as a true record at the next Hognaston Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors present: Cllrs, Dawn Lewis (Chair), George Peach (Vice-Chair), John Thornley and Annie Webster.

In attendance: Colin Swindell (Clerk), Cllr Adrian Hunter (DCC), Cllr Dermot Murphy (DDDC), PCSO Elaine Porter and 21 members of the public.

Item	
APM25/1 Welcome by the Chair of the Council	The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Dawn Lewis, welcomed everybody to the meeting and outlined the business for the evening.
APM25/3 Confirmation of minutes	The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024 were circulated to the members of the public. The minutes were confirmed as a true record.
APM25/4 Chair's report	The Chair of Hognaston Parish Council, Cllr Dawn Lewis, reported the following: - The 'big project' of the year has been the creation of an information board for the village. The graphics and texts are completed and later in the meeting, parishioners will be asked for their views on the design of the frame. Cllr Lewis proposed a big thank you to Cllr Alan Cribbens for all the work he has put into the project on behalf of the Parish Council and community. - Over the last year the Parish Council has carried out repairs to the play equipment, with the purchase of new cradle swings, made possible thanks to funds donated by the Hognaston Play Association. - The Council has carried out a tender exercise for the grounds maintenance contract at the play area. The Council agreed to pay a little bit more for a better service. It is hoped that parishioners can see the improvements. - A diseased ash tree has been felled and removed from the Village Green and a dead elm removed from the boundary of the play area. Councillors are planning to plant a replacement tree on the Village Green. - The Council continues to lobby Derbyshire County Council to address ongoing highways issues within the Parish, including: • Inconsiderate and dangerous parking through the village • Exploration of Quiet Lanes • Resurfacing of Mill Lane • Requesting an extension of the 30MPH speed limit around the village • Replacing the public rights of way fingerposts - The Parish Council is open to the idea of restarting Community Speed Watch, but volunteers are needed. - The Parish Council continues to maintain the defibrillators and Cllr Dawn Lewis carries out the monthly inspections. - A regular newsletter is delivered to every house in Hognaston and thanks are expressed to Cllr Alan Cribbens for producing this. - The Clerk is attempting to set-up a community meeting with John Whitby MP.

	- Cllr Lewis paid thanks to all Parish Councillors for their work on behalf of the community and to PCSO Elaine Porter and Cllr Dermot Murphy (DDDC Ward Member) for all they do to support the Parish Council. The Chair's report was noted.
APM25/4 Clerk's financial report	The Clerk reported the following on the Parish Council's finances over 2024/25: - The Parish Council's income and expenditure for 2024/25 financial year was as follows: Income: £ 8,703.31 (up £3,287.99 on 2023/24) Expenditure: £ 8,879.73 (up £2,418.05 on 2023/24) This resulted in an annual loss of £176.42. - The Clerk explained that income was up mainly because of the 40% increase in the precept, but also due to grant receipts of £1,500. Expenditure was up due to tree works and increased expenditure on the play area. - Following a sharp increase in the precept of 40% for 2024/25, the Parish Council's finances are now on a more sustainable footing. The increase in the precept for 2025/26, therefore, was much reduced at just 8%. - The Clerk told the meeting that the Parish Council's accounts, invoices and financial records are open for inspection at any time. The financial figures were noted.
APM25/5 District & County Councillors reports	- Cllr Adrian Hunter, recently elected County Councillor, introduced himself to the meeting. Cllr Hunter, who lives in the Parish, said he was new to local government but would address local concerns and issues to the best of his ability. - Cllr Dermot Murphy, District Councillor, talked about local concerns related to planning, housing and the Local Plan.
APM25/6 Village groups reports	Tony Clarke was unable to attend the meeting, but gave the following written report on behalf of the Village Hall trustees: - Following the useful fitting of the electric doors last year, this year we can confirm that we now have WiFi in the hall. This is quite expensive to have, so we are charging an extra fee for lets which ask for it. Our thanks to the Events team for funding the initial costs. - I am pleased to say that the recently formed events group have organised several events in the hall, ie Christmas and Easter afternoons for families, successful musical evenings and a Parish breakfast, with more in the pipeline. - The hall has hosted several private functions, from a memorial afternoon for Jackie, a former resident, to a meeting organised by Reform! - We have a regular number of groups using the hall. The Hulland Ward gardening club meets monthly. The bowls group meets weekly for eight months of the year, the choir rehearses weekly, again for about eight months of the year. - The Village Hall also hosts the Church coffee mornings during the colder months. We have also hosted a Deanery Synod meeting. - A new event for us was organised by Nick and Hayley Dunn, showing Hayley's range of yarns and some vintage knitting machines. Visitors came from as far away as Lincolnshire and Doncaster. Hopefully this will become a regular event. - The local elections have used our hall for voting. - All these events provide income for the hall, but do not fully cover the cost of licenses, heating, lighting and services. To this end we raised the hire charges last year and may have to do so again in 2025.

APM25/7 Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) report	PCSO Elaine Porter reported the following: - Speeding vehicles and motorbikes along the Dam Road remains a significant concern for local residents. The Speed Enforcement Team has carried out checks on the road, but did not find speeding to be a major issue. - Street meets in the Parish continue to take place, but turnout by residents is low. - Crime in the areas remains very low.
APM25/8 Discussion on Play Area and consultation feedback	A recent Parish Council newsletter sought the opinions of parishioners on the future of the Play Area. The newsletter explains how much the Parish Council spends on maintaining the play areas and asked the question, <i>'Do you want to continue paying for this facility and, if not, what should the Council do with the Play Area site?'</i> Over 30 responses to the consultation were received by letter and email. All communications expressed support for retaining the Play Area, with several expressing dismay that Parish Council was suggesting that it could be dispose of the facility. Cllr Lewis opened the debate by suggesting that the newsletter has created unnecessary confusion and clarified that the Parish Council has no plans to get rid of the Play Area. The newsletter was simply to inform residents of the cost of keeping the facility and to ensure parishioners felt it was value for money. Parishioners suggested that the Parish Council actively searches for grants to help maintain the Play Area and seeks voluntary support from within Hognaston to keep it clean and tidy. Cllr Lewis told the meeting that the Parish Council will adhere to the views of residents and will continue to maintain the Play Area. Councillors will, however, take onboard the idea of setting up a volunteer working party.
APM25/10 Public open forum	- A parishioner raised concerns over speeding cyclists through the village. - Cllr Thornley reported on efforts by the Parish Council to get DCC to change the priority markings at the junction of Turlowfields Lane, Gibfield Lane and Dog Lane. - A parishioner suggested that the Parish Council could save money by reducing the Clerk's hours and the work being picked up by voluntary contributions from within the village.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm