

HEDLEYHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 February 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, East Hedleyhope

Present

Chair: Deb Warde (DW)

Cllrs: Peter Ayling (PA), Martin Hurton (MH)

Officer: Gillian Bell (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None received.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None to declare.

3. **Public Participation**

No members of the public present.

4. **County Councillors' Reports**

No report was received.

5. **PCSO briefing**

A written report was circulated. A farmer had reported gates being stolen but there were no other gate/metal thefts in the area. There were no further local incidents to report.

6. **Minutes and recommendations therein agreed from previous meeting on 30 January 2025**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

7. **Budget update**

Balance as of 20 February 2025:

Income: £30,111.57

Expenditure: £31,032.33

Earmarked project expenditure:

Seat repair and installation: £1000

Exterior painting of village hall: £1260

8. **Appointing a new Internal Auditor**

A new internal auditor needed to be appointed to replace the late Ann Barnshaw. It was agreed that the Clerk would begin the process of finding a replacement by contacting local parish councils to obtain contact details for their internal auditor.

11. **Matters relating to the village hall, village green and nature reserve**

Village hall interior decoration

The curtains had been put up and it was agreed to dispose of the old display boards.

Upgrading the kitchen

SW had created a kitchen plan and estimated that units from DIY Kitchens would cost £2781.95 + VAT, not including the cooker. DW suggested an alternative layout, including a built-in oven and integral induction hob. It was agreed that a quote for this layout was needed, and also for removing the old units and fitting new ones, before funding could be sought.

Village hall WiFi

Costs for a SIM had been obtained. A 4GB data SIM from Vodafone was approximately £15/month on a 12-month contract but Talk Mobile could offer 20GB for £6.95 per month, on a 30-day contract. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase a SIM from Talk Mobile.

Wind Farm Community Fund application

Quotes for the paving for the new bench outside the hall were needed to complete the application and MH agreed to obtain these. Durham County Council had confirmed that the play area repairs would qualify for funding under Section 106 and it was agreed that the Clerk would submit an application.

Cluster flies

The current fly killer was proving inadequate and it was agreed to purchase the wall-hung unit offered by DCC Pest Control. The Clerk would contact DCC to arrange fitting and would also clarify any ongoing costs for annual servicing.

13. **Newsletter**

Tony Reeve had agreed to print the newsletter.

14. **Members' reports**

None to receive.

15. **Clerk's report**

Financial

Payments made in January and February 2025:

G Bell	£ 447.63	January salary & IT costs
Wave	£ 68.42	Village hall water charges
Decorating by Design	£ 2200.00	Village hall interior painting
Octopus Energy	£ 482.47	Village hall electricity charges – January 2025

Total: £ 3198.52

Payments received:

Cotterhill Ltd	£ 440.00	Refund for unused underlay – village hall flooring
Total:	£ 440.00	

Petty cash float: **£5.90**

- Fire-proof box for documents – A4 boxes cost between £80 and £100, with larger sizes costing up to £200. It was agreed to review how many documents would need to be stored in this way and also to consider fire-proof document bags. MH would scan any old photos before the originals were stored.
- Richard Curtis had returned the water heater. It was agreed that the heater would be offered for sale at £80.
- Section 106 funding – DCC had also confirmed that the funding could be used to repair the fencing in the meadow. However, an officer from the County Council needed to give permission for the work to go ahead before an application for funding could be made. The Clerk will contact the county councillors about this.
- Notices regarding use of the village hall during power cuts and hire of the hall are complete and will be put on the noticeboard.
- Nomination forms for the parish council elections have been requested from Electoral Services. All councillors to note that completed forms must be returned to County Hall between Friday 21 March and Wednesday 2 April 2025.

16. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 27 March 2025 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed

Cllr Sarah Woodroffe
Chair
27 March 2025