

Hilton Parish Council

Hilton Village Hall, Peacroft Lane, Hilton.DE65 5GH

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

of Hilton Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Hilton at 7.00 pm

on Wednesday 29 May 2019

Present

Councillors S Campion, C Cuddington (Chairman), M Coney, S Davies, J McDonald, C Nield, R Pollard and S Stanton.

Also Present

Mr A Sharpe (Locum Clerk), Councillors A Billings & J Patten and 21 members of the public.

HPM1/19 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Watson.

HPM2/19 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HPM3/19 Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman's report for year ending 31st March 2019

It has been an interesting year. On the positive side there were some important milestones achieved. The Clock was replaced; the Mease car park was resurfaced and the centenary Remembrance celebrations were a great success. Special mention has to go to former councillor Darlington for her great contribution.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to make progress. Notable achievements in the year were the first survey, the traffic survey, the draft policies survey and a considerable increase in the number of Local Green Spaces nominated with SDDC – we are up to 18 now. The results of the traffic survey also provided support to our County Councillor at a meeting of Main Street Residents concerned about the increasing traffic volumes and speeds.

The council also provided small grants of money to help and support our local organisations:

Hilton Guides	Hilton Scouts	The Writers Block
Hilton Lego Club	Hilton Party on the Park	Hatton United JFC

Some grant applications were deferred and will be considered at the first monthly meeting.

The Council also funded the Sportsmobile Summer Holiday sessions again, run at the Village Hall and were well attended and will be run again this summer.

We also supported Party in the Park again with the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group both taking stalls.

For the second year, the precept was not increased at the household level.

I would also like to thank our County and District Councillor representatives for their help and assistance in the last 12 months.

Finally, I would like to thank our Groundsman and Lengthsmen, for their hard work keeping the village looking tidy.

Unfortunately, there were some negative events in the year which I will not dwell on.

Suffice to say that the Parish Forums at the Coffee Mornings and in the evenings were stopped.

The Assistant Clerk left and the Clerk ceased employment with the council at the end of March. A special thanks has to go to the Locum Clerk for seeing the parish council through this turbulent time.

HPM4/19 Financial Matters

The meeting received a financial report for the year ending 31 March 2019.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

HPM5/19 Matters raised by electors

(a) Chairman's Statement

First of all, thank you to the residents of Hilton for electing the new council with a clear mandate.

We appreciate the trust that you are putting in us and we intend to deliver on the commitments we made in our election material.

In particular, you will notice in the agenda for the first monthly meeting that we will be more open and transparent. We will change the Standing Orders to give the public more of a hearing; we will report the finances monthly so you

can see exactly what we are spending your money on; we will simplify the bureaucracy around the policies and procedures; we will develop a new web site that is both more attractive and informative and of course, we will recruit a clerk.

On taking office, we find there is much to do, but I am pleased to say that the new team is both highly motivated and capable; all of whom are already committed to supporting various village organisations and activities. Indeed, I am honoured to be elected Chairman of this august body!

We will be responsive to residents and will make ourselves available, as will the new clerk.

Having said all this, I know one of the issues that has been the subject of public speculation is the circumstances surrounding the departure of the former clerk.

I have taken independent legal advice, at my own expense, to understand what I or indeed the parish council can say. I can say that the parish council have acted legally and that statutory reporting of accounts will not be affected and will be subject to the usual external audit. Unfortunately, I can say no more and I seek your understanding and indeed, trust, in the position we find ourselves.

We will draw a line under these past events and concentrate on moving forward as promised.

(b) Other comments or matters raised by the electorate

- Several residents congratulated the Members of the Parish Council who had been elected to office at the recent elections held on 2 May 2019.
- Invitation to Councillors to attend the Methodist Church on 4 July (7.30 pm) to view old DVD footage of the Hilton.
- Request approved to release copies of old Hilton Parish Council minutes.
- Thanks expressed to the Parish Council for their recent support relating to a break-in at the Scout Hut.
- Request for the new Parish Council Members to consider the reintroduction of hanging baskets on Main Street.

Meeting closed.