

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HARDEN VILLAGE COUNCIL
HELD ON 12th MAY 2022 AT 7.15PM IN HARDEN MEMORIAL HALL**

Present: Cllr Gerwyn Bryan (Chair)
Cllr Kay Kirkham
Cllr Jools Townsend
Cllr Amy Wood
Cllr Alun Kitsell
Cllr Falak Ahmed
Ken Eastwood (Clerk)

1/05/22 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was proposed that Cllr Bryan be elected as Chair for 2022/23 by Cllr Kirkham, voted unanimously. It was proposed that Cllr Kirkham be elected as Vice Chair for 2022/23 by Cllr Bryan, voted unanimously.

2/05/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Joe McShera. The reason for absence was approved.

3/05/22 Disclosures of Interest

None.

4/05/22 Minutes of Meetings

- a) The minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 14th April, 2022 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Kirkham.
- b) The outstanding issues report was duly noted. There was a discussion about the following items: -
 - Allotments – The Clerk has emailed previous members of the project team. Cllr Bryan to discuss the potential St Ives site with a senior officer at Bradford Council. A meeting of the Project Team to be arranged following that discussion. Cllr Townsend suggested working with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to undertake an ecology assessment. The deadline for spending the Section 106 allocation was noted as being 11th November 2025. A possible alternative project could be to develop a wildflower meadow on the Skipton Properties development.
 - Climate - Harden Moor litter pick held 23rd April. The Harden Green Action Group are due to meet Wednesday, 18th May when Cllr Townsend will discuss the Green Travel Project. The group are planning a 'Himalayan Balsam Bashing' session. Longer term plans include working towards becoming a plastic free community.

5/05/22 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies and Project Teams

Resolved: To make the following appointments: -

- YLCA Branch meeting representatives – Cllr Kirkham
- Parish Council Liaison representative – Cllr Ahmed
- Allotments project team – Cllrs Kitsell and Bryan

6/05/22 Annual Resolutions

Resolved: To renew authorisation for Cllrs Kirkham and Kitsell to inspect any land and/or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect, as lead Councillors for planning issues. The Clerk to order suitable ID cards and related expenditure to be authorised.

7/05/22 Annual Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Policies

Resolved: To note the annual review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Policies and to confirm as satisfactory.

(Existing policies can be viewed via the Council's website at <https://hardenvillagecouncil.gov.uk/documents>).

8/05/22 Public Representation

None.

9/05/22 Planning Matters

22/01872/HOU - Extend existing garage forward of the front elevation and construction of two storey extension (resubmission) at Woodlands, 5 Firbeck, Harden.

Resolved:

Harden Village Council has no objection to this application.

(Planning applications can be viewed via Bradford Council's online system <https://planning.bradford.gov.uk/online-applications>).

10/05/22 Exchange of Information

None.

11/05/22 Wayfinding Signage

Members discussed the purchase and installation of wayfinding signage and a welcome to Harden map, to be located in the village centre. It was agreed that signage should be black with gold lettering. Possible location could be the verge opposite the Post Office, by the bus stop. Cllr Kirkham volunteered to progress the project, with input from the Clerk.

Resolved: To authorise expenditure up to £4,000.

12/05/22 Green Travel Project

Cllr Townsend provided an update on the Green Travel Project. The last stage of the work is to produce an illustrated map for the whole of Bingley Rural. The idea is to inspire and encourage green travel.

The map is currently at the printers and will be distributed across the ward, with Harden including a copy with the next Village Council newsletter.

Other work involves feeding in findings and recommendations and progressing further discussion with partners including Bradford Council's Active Travel Team and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority with regard to bus timetabling and integrations between operators.

The project is likely to complete in July and Cllr Townsend will draft an evaluation report for consideration by the Local Councils involved.

13/05/22 Village Council Projects

Members discussed potential future Village Council projects including: -

- Wildflower meadow project – Skipton Properties development site. Site being Community Energy Project.
- Mill pond environmental improvements.
- World War 2 History.
- Memorial Park improvements e.g. benches, paths and maintenance.

Resolved: That the Harden Green Action Group be asked to make additional suggestions to the Council. All members to give further thought to future projects and bring ideas forward for discussion at the next Council meeting.

14/05/22 Homes for Ukraine

Members discussed a proposal put forward by St Saviour's Church. Council noted that under the UK Homes for Ukraine scheme, individuals wanting to offer a room or home to people fleeing Ukraine can register to become a sponsor. Where a sponsor already knows a Ukrainian national (or immediate family member), they can help them apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

Ukrainians with visas who do not know a sponsor, will be matched with people or organisations who have registered their interest.

Under the scheme, Government will provide £10,500 per refugee to Bradford Council to provide essential services and support. A monthly payment of £350 is also available to sponsors, if required.

The scheme incorporates safeguarding and home safety checks to minimise risks of exploitation and abuse and to ensure the safety of hosts and guests.

Resolved: - That the churches and Village Council work together to encourage Harden residents who are able, to register their interest as a sponsor by visiting: - <https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>.

15/05/22 Newsletter

Cllr Kirkham outlined the timetable for the next Village Council newsletter which will be delivered with copies of the Green Travel Map.

Resolved: Members and the Clerk to provide content to Cllr Kirkham by 19th May. Newsletter delivery to commence week beginning 6th June.

16/05/22 Correspondence

- a) Email from Bradford Council re. responses to enquiries. Noted. The Clerk to respond requesting assistance with progressing the 20mph project.
- b) Email from the National Allotment Society re. details of Yorkshire Branch Meeting. Noted.
- c) Email from Bradford Council re. planning enforcement enquiry at Coytfield, Hill End Lane, Harden. Noted.
- d) Email from Linda Cook re. hedgehogs highway project. Noted.
- e) Email from St Saviour's Church re. housing Ukrainian families. Discussed earlier.

17/05/22 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a) To authorise the following payments: -

Payee	Amount	Description
Bradford Council	£1,813.32	Salary payment
Digital Nomads Ltd	£354.34	Telephone kiosk fit out
Digital Nomads Ltd	£472.80	Website annual charge
Ken Eastwood	£63.50	ALCC membership & mileage
Harden Congregational Church	£20	Room hire
Bradford Council	£378	Payroll SLA 2022/23

- b) Councillors noted the balances and bank reconciliation presented to the meeting.

18/05/22 Minor Items and Items for Next Agenda

The Clerk stated he was chasing a response from Bob Thorpe re. tree planting to mark the jubilee. He updated on a positive discussion with the Parks Manager with regard to filling the vacant lengthsman post and installation of a tool store.

19/05/22 Next Meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Council will be held on 9th June, 2022, at 7.15pm. The Chair closed the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Signed:

9th June 2022

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